

SUCCEEDING AT LIFE

It's said there are three ways to get to the top of a tree: climb it, sit on an acorn or make friends with a big bird. But without too much imagination I can think of a couple of other ways – like one that involves a parachute and a poor landing.

However, the point is still well taken: getting to the top of that organization or reaching a new height requires effort. And it is taken for granted that reaching the top is exactly what everyone wants to do. After all, isn't that what "success" is all about? More power? More money? Reaching the top?

But what about success at living – trying to get it right this go around?

Success at this thing we call living has always been important to me. And climbing to the top of a tree has never been a good metaphor for it. I like to think more about the word "priorities." Getting some basic priorities in order is key. And I know that if one's life can be organized around solid priorities, then a full and worthwhile life will be the result.

It is always risky to use sports illustrations; they just don't speak to everyone. But let me forge ahead with an oft-quoted statement by American football coaching legend Vince Lombardi. He is remembered for saying, "Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing." And Lombardi's dream was certainly to coach winning teams, but it's a mistake to think that climbing to the top of football's ladder of success was his greatest goal. He believed it was more important to succeed at life than at his career or anything else.

Actually, winning football games was not "the only thing" to Lombardi. He once actually listed his life priorities in this order: God, his family and his career.

He knew what was important. And he knew that keeping his priorities straight could bring him joy, peace and, ultimately, success at life. Which is probably the only thing that truly



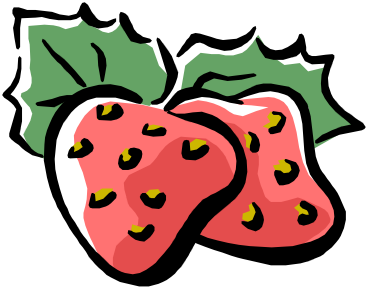
WHAT: A Church Summer Day Camp

Where: Stittsville United Church

**When; Mon. July 19 – Fri. July 23, 2010
10:00 am to 3:00 pm daily**

Children from ages 4 to 12 will embark on noble quests back through medieval times, to discover how God's love really lasts the ages. Dragons, knights, royalty and adventure will accompany our devout pilgrims as they experience a week they soon won't forget.

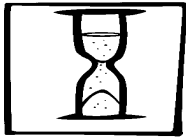
Information and registration forms are available from the church, the church website suchurch@primus.ca or by calling 613-836-4962



It's almost that time again! Our Annual Strawberry Church Supper will be held this year on Thursday, June 24 and preparations are now under way. As in previous years there will be seatings at 4, 5, 6 and 7 p.m. And, as usual, we will be looking

for lots of help in preparation, serving and cleaning. Someone will be calling soon to round up our very willing volunteers. Further details to follow.

*Do not ask the Lord to guide your footsteps.
if you are not willing to move your feet.*



Time



Talent



Treasure

Thank you to all who contributed to last night's Auction

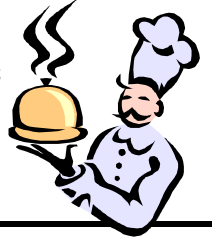
- the organizing by the C.A.R.E. team (with help from those experienced – Anita, Beth & Heather) ,
- the baking of all the pies (organized by Sophie),
- the generosity in donating of so many wonderful "Treasures"
- and most of all to those who did the buying.

- . Special thanks to the McKeowns, Heather for the tremendous job of canvassing the community and Colin, of course for the exceptional job of Auctioneering.



Well done, all.

The P.C.W. and Ladies Evening Fellowship groups are winding down for the summer and are planning a Joint get together to be held at SCORE'S Restaurant in Kanata on Wednesday, June 16th at 6:30 pm. All ladies of the church are invited to 'attend and are asked to sign the sheet at the back of the Sanctuary if you are interested in going. Deadline for signing up is Sunday June 13th.



SHORT PRAYERS FOR LONG DAYS

Dear God

- let me learn that I am blessed with fatness in a world cursed by starvation
- help me to tell the truth ... even when it spoils a good story
- kick me when I forget that football is only a game

MJSSJON CAPSULES: June 2010

GRENADA

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* have sent Jim and Ann Young to serve The Presbyterian Church in Grenada. Jim is minister at Belair Presbyterian Church. Ann is teaching English and math at MacDonald College, a secondary school of the Presbyterian Church in Grenada and working at Belair Primary School as part of a literacy test program. Jim writes, "Belair Presbyterian Church is a source of delight, challenge and community to us. We are part of a happy, healthy worshipping community. God is good." As Jim and Ann work with this worshipping community to reach out to the broader community on the island, they find a growing source of encouragement, care and understanding. They ask us to pray for God's abundance to continue to

HOW TO HAVE A LIFE OF JOY

Do you know how to have a life of joy?

A businessman on his deathbed called his friend and said, "Bill, I want you to promise me that when I die you will have my remains cremated." "And what," his friend asked, "do you want me to do with your ashes?" The businessman said, "Just put them in an envelope and mail them as taxes to the government and write on the envelope, **NOW YOU HAVE EVERYTHING!**"

Paying taxes is not usually a joy. But GIVING can be joyful. We pay the taxes because we have to. But when we choose to give time or money, then giving can add to our overall happiness.

Mother Teresa teaches us an important lesson about happiness. She was one of those people who emanated joy. Born in 1910 in Skopje, Macedonia, she felt called as a teenager to move to Calcutta, India. Some months later she saw a sight that completely revolutionized her life.

Shortly after moving to Calcutta she spotted a homeless, dying woman lying in the gutter, being eaten by rats. After seeing that, compassion compelled her to beg an abandoned Hindu temple from the government and convert it into a crude, make-shift hospital for the dying. "Nobody should die alone" she would later say. Mother Teresa went on to establish homes for the destitute dying in numerous cities. But in spite of devoting her life to people in such dire straits, she radiated joy and happiness.

This incredible woman was once interviewed by Malcolm Muggeridge from the BBC News. He asked her an unusual question: "Mother Teresa, the thing I noticed about you and the hundreds of sisters who now form your team is that you all look so happy. Is that a put-on?"

There was a woman who had none of the things we like to think of as bringing happiness: a home, a family, prosperity. Rather, she lived in near-poverty and spent her time wiping dirt and various body fluids from half-dead cancer and leprosy victims -- and appeared to be blissfully happy. "Is that a put-on" she was asked?

She replied, "Oh no, not at all. Nothing makes you happier than when you really reach out in mercy to someone who is badly hurt."

She would agree that happiness does not come from acquiring, but is a by-product of giving: time, money, love. Do you want a life of joy?

Start by giving.

-- Steve Goodier