



**DAILY DEVOTIONAL**  
**SUSTAINING OUR HOLY GROUND**  
**CAPITOL CAMPAIGN 2011**  
**MAY 22<sup>ND</sup> – JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup>**

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***“Everything comes from you; and we have given only what comes from your hand.”***

***1 Corinthians 29:14***

Dear Euclid Family,

Today we kick off our Capitol Campaign, “Sustaining Our Holy Ground”. You are invited to a daily journey of prayer and reflection about stewardship in your own life.

This resource is meant to guide each of us in the congregation in spending time in prayer as we consider how we will share our gifts throughout the coming weeks.

Perhaps you will want to keep this at your breakfast table or at your bedside and incorporate it into your daily routine. It will provide words of inspiration and challenge during the campaign. There is also some space for you to write your own prayers, observations and reflections throughout the book.

*Blessings to you on this journey from your  
Capitol Campaign Committee*

***Sunday, May 22 – A Testimony from Jean Maloney***

Generosity, Giving. Probably the first image that I have when thinking of those words are the “big givers”, those millionaires/billionaires who make the evening news with large donations to build hospitals, help in disaster relief, give away most of their wealth to good causes. Due to our media/instant news world, those are the folks one hears about. It is a bit harder to look at those words and apply them to one’s life, to ask oneself “am I a generous, giving person? What do those words mean to me?”

Growing up in the Catholic faith, it didn’t take long to realize that everything wasn’t going to revolve around me. It was going to be more about the other person. Grade school meant saving pennies for the “Missions”. High school became about “Serviam”, “I Will Serve”. College brought Newman, the Catholic group on campus, working to end the Vietnam War and supporting the United Farmworkers. Those college years would be my last “organized religion” experience for some 33 years. Here I am now at Euclid. I have said before that it didn’t take long after coming here to realize that this was not going to be a church where one came on Sunday, enjoyed the service and then didn’t come back until the next Sunday. It was a bit unnerving at first, but I knew that there was something different about this place and I was willing to keep coming back to see what it was. Here at Euclid I try to be involved in as many of the Adult Forum classes as possible. I

am a slow learner and I need to hear things over and over again before they stick with me. I need to hear over and over again who Jesus was while here on earth and what His message and teachings mean for me in my everyday living.

There are a lot of ways to be generous and giving in life, probably as many ways as there are stars in the sky. Some ways are easy, some a bit more frightening. Helping someone out, helping organizing an event, giving someone a ride home, being on a committee, those are fairly easy ways to give of oneself at a place where one feels at home. I believe in the people of Euclid, in this community. The people here are involved in areas I want to be involved in. I believe in what we do here, both with each other and what we do outside the walls of our Church. I believe that we are involved in God’s issues when we work for justice and the caring of others. I believe that what we do here helps bring about the Kingdom of God here on earth. I love the idea that the Kingdom of God is and will always be here on earth. As I get older I love living on this planet, more and more. I want this planet to be around for a long time, to be around for that Kingdom here on earth. I spent a lot of years in my life being afraid of dying. I would wake up in the middle of the night just terrified of the thought that I was going to die some day. After holding the hands of two dear folks as they passed away, that fear ended for me. They weren’t afraid, they had great faith. When I do pass away, I’ll be sad, but I won’t be afraid.

I have both seen and heard the faith of many people here at Euclid. Years spent fighting for what is right and just. Heartfelt prayers of members as they open meetings. The caring & joking that goes on among friends, so similar to what is experienced in my own family, experienced here too at Euclid with my extended family. The generosity and giving of the people here happens every day, in many ways.

So, the giving that is a bit more frightening, the giving away of one's hard earned cash is a bit more unsettling. We live in unsettling times. What if I give some away and I need it down the road? What will happen to me then? Well, I guess that is where Faith comes in. If I want other people some day to become part of this great community of Faith here at Euclid, I have to do my part now. If I care for this planet, I need to do what is best for the planet in this situation. As others have cared for this church community in the past, I must do the same.

I came to Euclid five years ago this July. Marti preached at a healing service and later gave the eulogy for my dear friend, Mary Morse. In the midst of that great loss, I was given a very unexpected and great gift. I was not looking for a church, but what I found was a great welcoming community of which I am so grateful.

**Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> - Whole Life Stewardship - Mark 12:42-44**

*“For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”*

Jesus spoke to the question of economics more than any other single social issue. It is a subject that is difficult for us in today’s highly affluent culture. The central point of the Discipline of simplicity, as stated by Richard Foster in his book Celebration of Discipline, is “to seek the kingdom of God and the righteousness of God’s kingdom first – and then everything necessary will come in its proper order.”

The “simple life” does not mean we are to do without, but we are to hold three inner attitudes. By holding them, we allow ourselves to be open to a life free from worry:

- ✚ What we have we received as a gift-  
rather than believing we have earned it ourselves
- ✚ What we have is to be cared for by God-  
rather than something we must hold onto
- ✚ What we have is available to others-  
rather than something only available to ourselves

In addition to the inner attitudes, there must also be outward actions. We need to ask ourselves why we can buy certain items. We need to develop a habit of giving things away. We

need to manage our money and spend it wisely. We need to simplify.

We must pray for guidance in our monetary plans and decisions, both as individuals and as a community. Leading a simplified life is not something we can accomplish on our own.

PRAYER: Lord, may we be simple stewards, aware of the needs around us. Be with our church family as we put our resources to use where your needs will be met.

Amen.

*(Resource Courtesy of Solid Ground Stewardship Services)*

**Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> - Stewardship: Taking care of...**

**Genesis 1:1-4; 24-26**

“In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

This creation story gives tribute to God as the maker of all that can be known. The creation story also gives birth to the origins of stewardship. “Let us make human kind in our image...and let them have dominion.” The gift of dominion is a gift of control; meaning that we can choose how to use all that is in and of the earth. And, that is what we humans have done throughout history.

For the people of faith, that gift of dominion also carries a responsibility; the charge to be good stewards....to take care of this earth and all that is upon it and all that is within it. “All that is within it” encompasses a lot of things: people, animals,

birds, soil, water, air... There are so many people and things, places and issues, all within our dominion and all, from our view of faith, things that we are supposed to take care of as people of God.

Let’s think about it this way: Take a breath and let it out...That breath is the gift of life. What we do with that gift of life, from the physical to the mental, from the body to the soul, is our response to the gift of creation that God has given. How we take care of ourselves is the response to God for the gift. How we help take care of others is our response to God. How we help take care of the church, the community, and the whole world is our response to God’s gift of life.

PRAYER: “Our God, Creator of all that is and ever will be, we give you thanks for your presence in our world, our community and our personal lives. Because you love us and provide for us we have learned to love and share. We ask for your continued presence in our church community as we consider the work of stewardship to take care of your world. And we ask for your continued guidance in our personal lives as we give of our time, talents and money for your glory. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

*(Resource courtesy of Solid Ground Stewardship Services)*

**Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> – Sacred Ground, Holy Ground**

**Exodus 3: 1-6**

*“Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, “I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.” When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then God said, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” He said further, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face for he was afraid to look at God.”*

In the story from Exodus, Moses is told to take off his shoes, for he is standing on sacred ground. Sacred Ground is THE place of meeting God face to face. Moses was scared at the prospect of this spectacular meeting and hid his face. God was insistent and demanded that Moses look up for there was a job to do. Sacred ground, holy ground, is not just a place to meet God, but to base some action. Dramatic action in Moses’ case; calling Moses to lead God’s people from a place of misery to a land of milk and honey.

The Church Building is God’s holy ground. It is a sacred place where God calls to us, though not often in burning bushes (probably due to modern fire codes). But God speaks in ways that call us to seriously move and keep us out of the same lands of human misery and toward the realm of God which flows with milk and honey.

Our sacred place calls us “not as the world calls us”-- not with the same values and goals, and stress and speed...but as a place to be honest with our lives. We are called to a safe place to grieve, to celebrate, to explore our souls and not worry about being at the top of the heap, not worry about the competition. We are called here to celebrate in a safe place of compassion.

Our place of worship and ministry is the land of milk and honey. A special place, a sacred place, a safe place, a place like no other place. It has been ordained sacred by God and made safe by humans who have built the building and programs and the tradition. We are invited in our campaign process to contemplate our own response to join in the tradition of keeping this a sacred and safe space.

**PRAYER: God of all that we know, we thank you for this holy place we call our church. Thanks be to you for this place and these people.**

*(Resource courtesy of Solid Ground Stewardship Services)*

*Thursday, May 26th*

***Little Summer Poem Touching the Subject of Faith***

~ **Mary Oliver** ~

Every summer  
I listen and look  
under the sun's brass and even  
into the moonlight, but I can't hear

anything, I can't see anything --  
not the pale roots digging down, nor the green stalks  
muscling up,  
nor the leaves  
deepening their damp pleats,

nor the tassels making,  
nor the shucks, nor the cobs.

And still,  
every day, the leafy fields  
grow taller and thicker --  
green gowns lofting up in the night,  
showered with silk.

And so, every summer,  
I fail as a witness, seeing nothing --  
I am deaf too  
to the tick of the leaves,  
the tapping of downwardness from the banyan feet --  
all of it  
happening  
beyond any seeable proof, or hearable hum.

And, therefore, let the immeasurable come.  
Let the unknowable touch the buckle of my spine.

Let the wind turn in the trees,  
and the mystery hidden in the dirt

swing through the air.  
How could I look at anything in this world  
and tremble, and grip my hands over my heart?  
What should I fear?

One morning  
in the leafy green ocean  
the honeycomb of the corn's beautiful body  
is sure to be there.

**Friday, May 27th - The Rich Ruler**

**Luke 18:18-30**

*“A certain ruler asked him, “Good teacher what must I do to inherit eternal life?” “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good, except God alone. You know the commandments; Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother. All of these I have kept since I was a boy,” he said.*

*When Jesus heard this, he said to him. “You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”*

Read this scripture a few times, slowly and prayerfully.

- How are you challenged by Jesus’ words?
- How are you like the rich ruler?

***“They had first given themselves unreservedly to God and to us. The other giving simply flowed out of the purposes of God working in their lives***

**2 Corinthians 8:5b, The Message**

**Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
Amen

***Sunday, May 29th – A Testimony from Doug Dixon***

I feel a great joy for abundant blessings. I live at a great time in a provident creation. I have come to believe in the abundance of creation, that there is more than enough to meet all of our needs. I am becoming more sensitive that my excess and waste prevent that resource from going where it needs to be and I feel called to be better there.

One of my blessings is participation in the community at Euclid, where I discover and expand my faith. And I understand how I show up in the world makes a difference. I have changed many habits in pursuit of a more sustainable life. We are fanatical recyclers, reduce energy use around the house and are much more conscious about wasted anything. A couple of years ago, I implemented a Euclid-inspired 'simplification' practice. I have been materially blessed to have all the 'stuff' I need and most of what I want. I still wanted more.

So I adopted a practice where if I bought something, a CD, a pair of shoes, a new suit; a similar item had to go. For a couple of months, not much changed. Get a new shirt, donate that old one; order a new CD, take a less favorite one back, etc. After a while, that got harder. So I'd go 'shopping' and see a new tie that I 'needed'. I have to ask myself, "So, which tie are you going to get rid of?", and put the tie back on the rack un-bought. I've been practicing this simplicity exercise for the past couple of years now and feel better about my consumerist impulse spending.

It was in this context that I began to consider what I could do to support Euclid in our capital campaign. Zero household budget slack, economy in still sideways, business results are soft, kid away at college with no financial aid. What could I do? I felt like I had been going to church here for over ten years, kinda using up the resources left to us by those who came before. Now it's my turn, and all I have is excuses?

As a Trustee and campaign co-Chair, I have known this call was coming for some months. I had to ask for an answer and this is what I got. "Something's gotta go". I didn't like where the answer was leading but had an idea where I needed to go. My simplification exercise covered durable stuff, not consumables. I seemed to excuse any cigars, wine or spirits I wanted to add to my collection. I had the ethical loophole to beat any on Wall Street. Since I'd have a drink or a smoke any day, it's replacement, right?

I now think not. It's waste, it's excess, not to mention unhealthy habits anyway. So here's the idea; a cigar here, that oh so single malt there, a couple bottles of that bomb Pinot we liked and pretty soon were talking real money. If I can take the cash I would have spent on stuff I shouldn't buy anyway and use that to fund a pledge to the capital campaign – that can make a difference towards something that makes a difference.

Thanks for being with me on my Christian walk and planting spiritual seeds that just keep on growing.

**Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup> -The Parable of the Rich Fool**

**Luke 12:16-21**

*“And he told them this parable “the ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, “what shall I do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I’ll say to myself. “You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy: eat drink and be merry”.*

*But God said to him, “You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?” This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.”*

A challenge for us as modern Christians is to live according to the scriptures rather than the pressures of our affluent culture. We are bombarded by constant marketing influences telling us to consume consume consume; to acquire for ourselves more more more. This parable stands in direct conflict with such marketing forces. It calls us to stop and evaluate what we are storing up. Wayne Mueller, in his book Sabbath, suggests the following Sabbath practice as an antidote to overconsumption.

“Sabbath is a time to stop, to refrain from being seduced by our desires. To stop working, stop making money, stop spending money. See what you have. Look around. Listen to

your life. Do you really need more than this? Spend a day with your family. Instead of buying the new coffee maker, make coffee in the old one ...spend a day napping and eating what is left over in the refrigerator; play a game with your children, take a walk, have a cup of tea, make love, do nothing of any consequence or importance. Then, at the end of the day, where is the desperate yearning to consume, to shop, to buy what we do not need? It dissolves. Little by little, it falls away.”

**Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> –Acts 20:35**

*“In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, “it is more blessed to give than receive.”*

Think of times in your life when you experienced the blessing pure and unconditional generosity? Maybe from your parents, grandparents, a friend, an employer, a neighbor, a pastor or church friend?

- Remember your feeling of surprise and gratitude that came with such an experience?
- How have you ‘paid it forward’ by sharing of yourself with someone else?

**Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>**

**1 Corinthians 13:3 + Matthew 22:37-40**

*“If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.”*

Paul’s words remind us that our love is the greatest thing we can give. It is by God’s grace that we are saved so that no one may boast. It is only through loving that we keep the greatest commandments.

*Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it; Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments.”*

- How are you loving?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Who or what are you loving the most these days?

**Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> – Consider the Lilies**

**Luke 12:27-31**

*“Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will God clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagans run after all such things and your God knows you need them. But seek God’s kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.”*

It seems that when we are asked to give, part of our nature wonders if we give too much, will we have enough? We sometimes worry on top of our own worry. Jesus reminds us that God has it all covered. “Don’t worry,” he tells us. Seek God’s kingdom and God will take care of us.

***The Lord is my light and my salvation –***

***whom shall I fear?***

***The Lord is the stronghold of my life –***

***of whom shall I be afraid?***

***Psalm 27:1***

*(Resource courtesy of Solid Ground Stewardship Services)*

**Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> - Acts 20:28**

*“Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock which the Holy Spirit has placed in your care. Be shepherds of the church of God.”*

We are being called to respond to the needs of our church building by offering an additional pledge. This is a challenge for all of us but particularly for those affected by our poor economy.

During a Stewardship Sunday last fall Pastor Marti told the story of a woman from one of her former congregations who lived on a very poor and fixed basic income. Yet every month when she received her check, she would first deliver ten percent of her earnings to the church before worrying about her other expenses. Though she was not a financial wealthy woman, she was truly a shepherd watching over her congregation.

- Let us consider the inspiring witness of this woman as we consider our own giving.

**Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>**

*“God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.” -Reinhold Niebuhr*

We might not be able to end world hunger, but we can give to our local food pantry and help a family in financial crisis.

We may not be able to end drug addiction or alcohol abuse, but we might help one person overcome their addiction.

We may never see an end to malaria, but we can help purchase nets to stop it from spreading.

We may never stop hatred, but we can love.

*“Do not store up treasures for yourselves on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” **Matthew 6:19-21***

*(Resource courtesy of Solid Ground Stewardship Services)*

## **Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> – A Testimony from Dick Alton**

I am fairly new to the Euclid family. I think it was about 5 years ago that Sally (my very significant other) invited me to join Euclid. People were great in welcoming me and allowing me to be part of events and activities.

Before I knew it, I was in the Church and World Concerns Committee involved in HIV/AIDS and South Sudan. I have always appreciated our pastor's great style of saying yes to all the possibilities before us.

Actually, because of the diversity of Euclid, I have been involved in all aspects of what it means to be a community that embraces all. I have been involved in Youth and Elementary Sunday School, Greening the Congregation, PADS, showing movies, potlucks, administrative council as well as presently working on the Evangelism and Hospitality Committee. Probably more important than these events I have socialized with an amazing group of people who I would categorize as my friends.

Euclid has nurtured my spirit life and given me rootage in my faith. I have loved our Adult Forum, Taize Service and the Labyrinth walks.

You can see that Euclid has filled up my life. I feel Euclid has given my life a community and faith-- two things without which I would not be who I am or do what I do. GO Euclid!

*Monday, June 6th*

*The Journey*

*By Mary Oliver*

One day you finally knew  
what you had to do, and began,  
though the voices around you  
kept shouting  
their bad advice - - -  
though the whole house  
began to tremble  
and you felt the old tug  
at your ankles.  
'Mend my life!'  
each voice cried.  
But you didn't stop.

You knew what you had to do,  
though the wind pried  
with its stiff fingers  
at the very foundations - - -  
though their melancholy  
was terrible. It was already late  
enough, and a wild night,  
and the road full of fallen  
branches and stones.

But little by little,  
as you left their voices behind,  
the stars began to burn

through the sheets of clouds,  
and there was a new voice,  
which you slowly  
recognized as your own,  
that kept you company  
as you strode deeper and deeper  
into the world,  
determined to do  
the only thing you could do - - - determined to save  
the only life you could save.

***Tuesday, June 7th***

***Read John 1:29-42***

During the time of Jesus, people followed teachers around to learn from them and experience their wisdom. They even followed them into the wilderness as in this case. This is very different than how we learn today.

Today, we don't even have to leave our homes to learn about many things. We can learn a lot just by grabbing our Blackberry and perusing the web or checking out a stack of books on a particular subject at the library. Some of us come to Euclid to learn from the wisdom of our pastor, from one another, and from the tradition of our sacred rituals and words.

Regardless of our method, in order to really learn and grow, this story invites us into a wilderness of sorts. It calls us out of our comfort zones.

- Into what wilderness are you called with relation to your life's work, your service to others, your care of the earth, or your relationships?

***Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> - Read: Nehemiah 1:1-11***

***Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition***

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee,

Exalted for thee or brought low for thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine.

So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.

Amen.

*(Resource courtesy of Solid Ground Stewardship Services)*

**Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup> - "Ordinary Miracle"**

*A song by Sarah McGlaughlin –if you have a chance, rent the movie **Charlotte's Web** where this is sung. It touches on themes of community and generosity... or just check out the song on YouTube...*

It's not that unusual  
When everything is beautiful  
It's just another  
Ordinary miracle today

The sky knows when it's time to snow  
Don't need to teach a seed to grow  
Life is like a gift, they say  
Wrapped up for you everyday  
Open up, and find a way  
To give some of your own

Isn't it remarkable?  
Like every time a raindrop falls  
The birds in winter have their fling  
And always make it home by spring

When you wake up every day  
Please don't throw your dreams away  
Hold them close to your heart  
'Cause we are all a part

Of the ordinary miracle  
Do you want to see a miracle  
It seems so exceptional  
That things work out after all  
The sun comes out and shines so bright  
And disappears again at night  
It's just another ordinary miracle today

- **How have you experienced everyday miracles?**
- **What miracles of healing, forgiveness, and grace have you experienced from your life in the church?**

***Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup> - Live Simply that Others Might Simply Live - Mahatma Gandhi***

Many of us have heard this quotation throughout our lives. We at Euclid are generally a conscientious bunch with respect to caring for the earth and others. 'God is Good. God is Green!' And yet, even in trying to live a green or simple life, we can be overwhelmed by choices can't we?

*"Where should I buy my groceries? -- Trader Joes, Whole Foods, the Farmer's Market, or as cheaply as I can get them elsewhere?"*

*"I went to Green Home Experts, Schauer's Hardware, and Lowe's and I still didn't find what I was looking for."*

*"Should we buy cage-free, farm-raised, all natural or organic eggs?" etc.....*

We can make green consumption a full-time hobby can't we? In our pursuit to find the best, healthiest and most low-impact products, we can use a lot of time and energy. In [Affluenza: The All Consuming Epidemic](#) by Wann, DeGraff and Naylor (2001), we are offered the following guidelines to aid in simplifying:

**Some Simple Tips to Reduce Consumption**

Before you buy...ask yourself these questions:

Do I really need it? Can I afford it?

Could I borrow one from a friend or neighbor?

Do I have one already that could be repaired?

How long will it probably last?

Am I prepared to maintain it for its entire lifetime?

What are all the costs over its lifetime?

How many hours or months will I have to work to pay for it?

Are the resources that go into it renewable?

Is it recyclable?

Is it worth it?

Avoid the mall...Go for a walk; talk to friends. Fact: there are more malls than high schools in America.

Become an advertising critic...Don't be sucked in by efforts to make you feel inadequate so you'll buy more stuff you don't need.

Splurge consciously. A few luxuries can be delightful and they don't have to be expensive.

***Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>***

***Meditate on this closing prayer as you prepare for Pentecost  
and the bringing of your gifts tomorrow...***

**For All That Is New**

For all that is new, tender, and growing in our lives, Amazing Creator, provide nourishment.

Give us courage as we stretch toward that which you are creating new in our lives.

Walk with us as we learn to live in the unexpected places you are preparing for us.

Light in us the fire of your love and help us to answer your call to serve your people.

We pray for all that is new, tender, and growing in the life of Euclid Church.

Send to us all your promised gift of the Holy Spirit.

*(Resource courtesy of LaRue Unglaube, as printed in Sing Out New Visions, 1998, adapted here)*