

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of November 29, 2015

When Relationships are Strained

The current series of Touch Points is taken from “Time Out in Tough Times,” from the editors of Guide-posts (MIF Books, 2009). The reflections come from a variety of writers.

With the holidays fully upon us, the family gatherings that many look forward to can be very stressful and unhappy for others . . . something to think about at what should be a joyful time of year. While the reflection is written from the perspective of parent, you can read into it a particular situation you may be experiencing or know of.

READ: This I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment.

Philippians 1:9

REFLECT: Our daughter was living at home again after two years of college and in some ways it was hard on all of us. She was straining for independence, and we seemed to go from one crisis to another, with her dad and me often feeling bewildered. Each day I’ve prayed for patience, but it hadn’t come.

Then one day I heard our minister say something that hit home. He was discussing difficult family relationships. “Don’t pray for more patience,” he said, “pray for more love.”

That very day I began praying not for my kind of love, but for God’s love to flow through me to this child of ours.

I really think things are better now. Why? Because our own love is somehow so limited, so judging, so demanding, so fearful. But when God’s love is given, through us, to another, there are no such boundaries.

May Sheridan Gold

PRAY: *Forgive me, Father, for my limited, judging, demanding love. Please give me more of Your love for others.*

DO: Ask God to show you when your love has been limited, judging and/or demanding.

ADDITIONAL PRAYER PROMPTS

- Use the Pause to Pray as a guide to focus on other concerns through the week. *The full version is on the table in the lobby and on the website (see Archives), an abbreviated version appears in the bulletin, also online.*
- Reflect on this Thanksgiving weekend worship service, the music, Scriptures and Joel Jupp’s sermon* “The In-Between.” Pray that the Lord will lead you to ways to apply the lessons learned in your own walk with Christ, as you connect with different people this week.
- Continue to pray for opportunities to invite people to our services, and to become engaged in spiritual discovery with the people of Evangel in other ways as well. Ask the Lord to open doors of conversation, connection or compassion with others to enable that engagement this week.

** A podcast of the sermon and other materials will be posted on the website by Monday.*

Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday, posted on the website (www.evbapt.org), with printed copies available in the lobby. To be included in the weekly e-mail, use the Contact Us form on the website and request “add me to the Prayer Vigil list.”