

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of April 3, 2016

When You Question God’s Guidance

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.

READ: Now I know in part; then I shall know fully. . . . *1 Corinthians 13:12*

REFLECT: Working on the needlepoint, I was perplexed. There, in the midst of the pale pink and rosy reds, it called for three big stitches of a dark brownish green. *That doesn’t make sense*, I thought. *It will spoil the whole effect.* I started to cover the green spot with red instead, but reluctantly went ahead and did as directed.

When it was completed, I had to smile. The lovely lines of that bit of green formed a graceful stem, as if seen beyond and below the ruffled flower. It was far prettier that it would have been without the stem.

In just such a way the texture of our lives is woven. How often I question the directions God seems to give. But if I have the faith to follow His guidance, I can look back and see the wisdom of those “dark green stitches” in life.

May Sheridan Gold

PRAY: *Thank You, Father, for the tapestry You’re making of my life.*

DO: Encourage a friend who is struggling with God’s guidance by sharing this story (or a similar one from your own experience).

ADDITIONAL PRAYER PROMPTS

- Use the Pause to Pray as a guide to focus on other concerns through the week. Copies can be found in the lobby and in the Archive section on the website (evbapt.org/archive). The full Pause to Pray is used in our Wednesday prayer time. An abbreviated version appears in the Sunday bulletin.
- Reflect on this week’s worship service—the music, Scripture, Pastor Dave’s message*—that all will help as you go through this week; for your own walk with Christ, and that you may be a blessing and witness to people you have contact with during the 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 and compassion with others to enable that engagement this week.
- Pray that God will bless our succession planning efforts (Pastor Dave and Jennie anticipate retirement, tentatively late spring 2017). Pray that God will clearly reveal the directions spoken of in this week’s reflection. Pray particularly this week as we elect the Search Team for the Renew option, as well as upcoming discussions related to the Realign option. For more information, pick up a copy of the Evangel Profile (one per household). The profile is also available on our [website](http://www.evangel.org), with additional updates and information to help you better understand our succession planning process.

* 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.evangel.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.”