

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team

For the week of July 24, 2016

When You’re Getting Ready for a Move

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.

This week’s reflection honors Paul and Julie Ashley who will spend their last Sunday at Evangel before moving to North Carolina. We wish the Lord’s best for them in this new chapter of their journey with the Him.

READ: For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also . . . *Matthew 6:21*

REFLECT: I once clipped a newspaper interview with Chicago art dealer Ruth Volid. “I have taken care,” she said, “not to clutter up my space with things that have no meaning in my life.”

I found that clipping when I was knee-deep in boxes of books, clothes and dishes, packing to move from Chicago to Atlanta. I can’t say that it made me immediately toss out everything, but it did give me a new criterion for keeping things. Not merely “Do I need this?” but “Does this have meaning in my life.”

As we’ve settled into a new house, a new routine and new friendships, I find myself asking, “Does this have meaning in my life?” I see that if I don’t clutter my mind with certain books, my time with certain meetings, my daily schedule with certain errands, I have more time to enjoy my family and more time to do the things that really matter.

Patricia Houck Sprinkle

PRAY: *Lord, help me to move on from the unnecessary to the meaningful.*

DO: Make a friend’s move easier by helping to thing out his/her possessions.

ADDITIONAL PRAYER PROMPTS

- In addition to remembering Paul and Julie, 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 “Thankful for Thessalonians” (1 and 2 Thessalonians)—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). See Pause to Pray for specific prayer requests. See the Succession Planning page on our [website](http://www.evbapt.org), with additional updates and information to help you better understand our succession planning process. Pray for the leadership of the church considering the purchase of our property as they commission an appraisal and consider the feasibility of moving forward, a process we expect to take the rest of the summer. {The church name is withheld here, but has been shared with the church family in an email update}.

** A podcast of the sermon and PDF files of other material 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.”