

Christ Community Church

Orlando, Florida

*February
2012*

LOOKING UP

Someone sent this to me. It is one that is worth passing on.

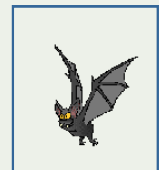
THE BUZZARD:



If you put a buzzard in a pen that is 6 feet by 8 feet and is entirely open at the top, the bird, in spite of its ability to fly, will be an absolute prisoner. The reason is that a buzzard always begins a flight from the ground with a Run of 10 to 12 feet. Without space to run, as is its habit, It will not even attempt to fly, but will remain a prisoner for life in a small jail with no top.

THE BAT:

The ordinary bat that flies around at night, a remarkable nimble creature in the air, cannot take off from a level place. If it is placed on the floor or flat ground, all it can do is shuffle about helplessly and, no doubt, painfully, until it reaches some slight elevation from which it can throw itself into the air. Then, at once, it takes off like a flash.

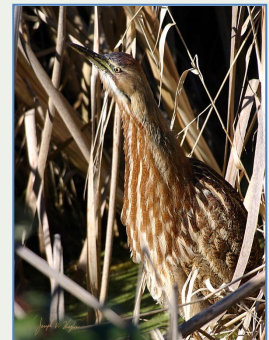


THE BUMBLEBEE:



A bumblebee, if dropped into an open tumbler, will be there until it dies, unless it is taken out. It never sees the means of escape at the top, but persists in trying to find some way out through the sides near the bottom. It will seek a way where none exists, until it completely destroys itself.

Many years ago my pastor told me about a very remarkable bird. This was the Bittern. There are a number of species of bittern. In the UK it is the Great Bittern. There is also an American Bittern which is slightly smaller. The bittern belongs to the heron family, though in recent years some American ornithologists have suggested they should be regarded as belonging to the pelican family. The bittern is a shy bird, living in marshland among reeds where its plumage gives it a wonderful camouflage. The male bird makes a deep roaring sound, causing it to be known as the "booming bittern". But there is something very important we need to know about this bird. When it is threatened, it stands perfectly still and LOOKS UP. Its long beak and brown speckled feathers make it almost impossible to see.



The moral of the story: when in danger, the bittern knows it is only safe by looking up.

Continued from Page 1

We look up by praying and reading the Bible. Whatever physical posture we adopt for prayer we are looking up to God, bringing him our worries, our concerns – family, friends, every life-situation. It is remarkable how often we find Jesus praying. He prayed at the beginning of the day. He prayed when he had a particular task to do, such as healing. Jesus prayed in the garden as he faced the cross.

Luke 22:42 - 43 “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” ⁴³And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.

And then on the cross, Jesus prayed. He asked for forgiveness for those who were crucifying him. He asked his Father to receive him.

If Jesus needed to pray, how much more do we. Look up, look to God, talk to him.

When we read the Bible we discover what God is saying to us. We are looking up to him and learning his will for our lives.

2 Tim 3:16 - 17 ¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

Looking upward every day,
Sunshine on our faces;
Pressing onward every day
Toward the heavenly places;

Growing every day in awe,
For Thy Name is holy;
Learning every day to love
With a love more lowly. (Mary Butler)



February Sermons

February 5

PEACE WITH GOD Romans 5:1-2

February 12

WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS Romans 5:8

February 19

OUR HOPE IS NOT IN VAIN Romans 8:18

February 26

TRANSFORMING POWER Romans 12:2

Council News

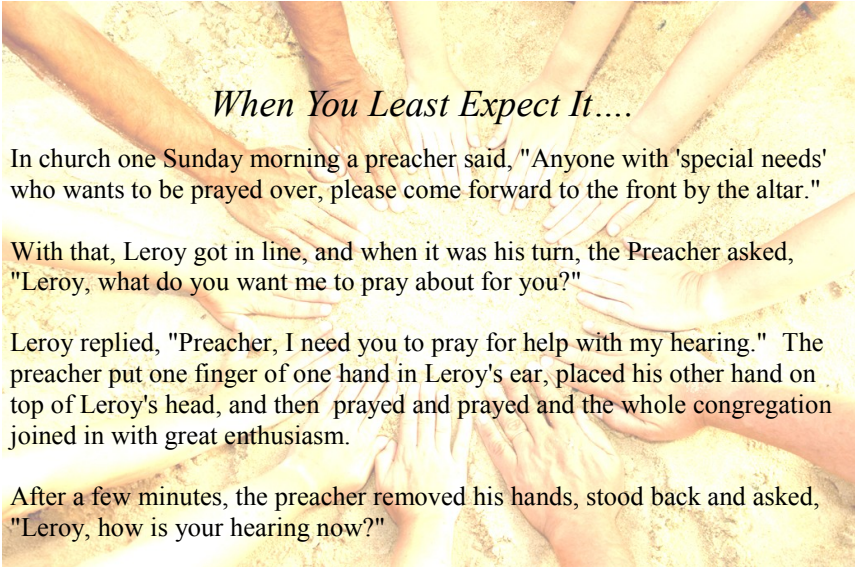
In January, the Council voted to paint the nursery and put down new flooring to match our classroom. The Seventh~Day Adventist congregation, who rent our building on Saturdays, had previously asked about updating this room and offered to donate the labor to complete the work. If you haven't seen either room lately, stop by and take a look!

Charlie Steele has now transitioned the responsibilities of Church Treasurer to Richard Reaves. The Council would like to thank Charlie for his years of dedication and service to our church. Charlie, you have been a great blessing to us! Richard, thank you for stepping up to handle this responsibility ~ we look forward to working with you.

In March, we have an open position on the Council. We are excited for Mary Wallace as she begins a new adventure with her transfer to the Tampa area, but we will greatly miss her and Clayton! If you are interested in serving on the Council, please speak with one of the Council members. The person filling this position will serve through August 2014.

Lastly, if you are interested in contributing to our Pastor Immigration Fund, please see the information on the back of this newsletter.

Diane Reaves
Church Council Chairperson



When You Least Expect It....

In church one Sunday morning a preacher said, "Anyone with 'special needs' who wants to be prayed over, please come forward to the front by the altar."

With that, Leroy got in line, and when it was his turn, the Preacher asked, "Leroy, what do you want me to pray about for you?"

Leroy replied, "Preacher, I need you to pray for help with my hearing." The preacher put one finger of one hand in Leroy's ear, placed his other hand on top of Leroy's head, and then prayed and prayed and the whole congregation joined in with great enthusiasm.

After a few minutes, the preacher removed his hands, stood back and asked, "Leroy, how is your hearing now?"



Church Council Meeting ~ Monday, February 13, 6:30 pm
All are welcome to attend

February 2012 Newsletter

VISIT US ON THE WEB www.orlandoccc.org

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Richard Reaves, Church Treasurer
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Debbie Pinto, Director of Music
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Sundays

10:00 a.m. Sunday School, 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Wednesdays

6:00 p.m. Pot Luck Dinner, 7:00 p.m. Bible Study
8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal on Feb. 15th

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

A new year is upon us,
Chock full of brand new days.
What changes are we making?
Do we need to mend our ways?

You've put on a little weight
Which you would like to lose.
Next time you're offered dessert,
You must politely refuse.

Are you getting enough sleep?
Does nightlife keep you awake?
Then for a healthy New Year,
Please pare down for your sake.

Do you want to make friends?
Then it's really up to you.
Put your best foot forward
And you'll have more than a few.

Do you miss Heaven's blessings?
Have you strayed from your church?
Kind souls are there to help you
So you're not left in the lurch.

Now you have a fresh new chance
To turn your life around.
There are things you can do,
Start listing them, they abound.
~Thomas C. Blow

Our Pastor Fund

John's R-1 visa expires in September, 2012.
He and Beryl have begun the renewal process by contacting
UNO IMMIGRATION MINISTRY in Tampa for assistance.
There is a cost involved with this service
in addition to standard filing fees.

The Church Council has passed a
motion to begin a *Pastor Fund* in order to offset
some of the costs of this endeavor.
Our goal is to raise just \$1200 by April 2012.

Please prayerfully reflect on your support of this cause.
Any little bit will help toward our goal.

~*~*~

When giving, simply indicate *Pastor Fund*
on the offering envelopes.
Thank you so much for your support!

Your Church Council

