

Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church (USA)



Changing Lives and
Growing In God's Love

www.Holy411.org

Rev. Dr. Daris S. Bultena, Pastor
Minister of Word and Sacrament

July 26, 2009

Stones and Seeds

Dear Readers,

As you approach the front of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church things physically look quite different. The shrubbery that had become rather overgrown has been removed and in the place where they once were is now a waterfall garden. It is the Ralph Shear Memorial Prayer Garden.

A key feature of the waterfall is the use of large rocks—they are almost mini-boulders. There was some care taken in the placement of those large stones. They selected them from the large pile and positioned them in ways that they made the water fall in deliberate ways. Once the waterfall itself was complete the landscaping around the waterfall began. More large stones were used. I watched these men pick those stones up and tote them around as if they were made of paper.

In watching the placement of the stones, I soon grew so accustomed to the ease with which they moved the stones that I made the assumption that they could not be as heavy as I thought they were. I had imagined that they were surely so heavy I would barely be able to roll one. Yet, I watched them handle them with such ease that I just knew they could not be all that heavy. I went over to move one.

When I went to pick up that big stone there was a reality check. That stone was so heavy that I could tell I do not handle them every day. Did I pick it up? Yes. Will I probably feel it for the next few days? Yes to that as well! After all that, it was just as heavy as I had originally imagined. I know why those men were able to pick the stones up with such ease. They do that kind of work each and every day and they have acquired a kind of strength that I do not have. I'm no weakling, but I'm not that strong either. Were I to handle such stones every day it would become so much easier for me to handle. I'm sure I would toss them around with ease as well.





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I cannot help but think how the same is true of our prayer life, reading scripture, and spiritual practices. The frequency with which we practice them is directly related to the ease with which we discern the spirit, exercise true spiritual strength, and live authentically into the discipleship to which we have been called, appointed, and baptized.

Perhaps that is what Jesus meant when he said that if we had faith the size of a mustard seed we could say to the mountain "move" and it would be moved.

Blessings,
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