

Around The Conference
CCCC Western Pennsylvania Women
Rejoice in God's Grace at Retreat

God's grace was the study topic at the fall retreat of the CCCC Western Pennsylvania Ladies Fellowship September 19–20 at Camp Sequanota Conference Center near Jennerstown.

Twenty-four women from four churches participated in the second annual weekend event. It featured Susan Wimsatt of Maryland, who survived a savage attack in a "crime of opportunity" within her home, telling her story of God's continuing grace in her life.

Mrs. Wimsatt described the assault by a business machine repairman who came to the office from which she and her husband worked at their home. With her husband away checking on a construction job, Sue was alone. The perpetrator, after repairing the machine, entered the home's kitchen through a bathroom and took a knife with which he assaulted her while trying to find money in the house. In addition to stabbing her "in every organ but my heart," he raped her. Believing her to be dying, he went to another room, still looking for money. After asking God to allow her to live to see her children grow to become adults, she summoned the strength to lock herself in a second floor bathroom and called emergency services.



The perpetrator was stopped by police not far from the home while a medical crew prepared her for a flight to a large hospital. She was hospitalized for a month, but complete physical and emotional healing took much longer. Her recovery from the attack, the perpetrator's plea to take a life sentence rather than face her in court, and her eventual support of prison ministries that bring the word of God to those who are incarcerated, are examples of God's continuing grace in her life, she reported.

Mrs. Wimsatt described how the attack affected her children, who were not home at the time and who are now grown. She explained that, horrendous as that event was, it moved her from complacent Christianity to an active Christian life.

The CCCC Western Pennsylvania Regional Fellowship continues to be active. Most importantly, growth is taking place in the hearts of those participating through their willingness to humbly submit to our Lord Jesus Christ. It is our desire to remain within

His embrace and love, and to offer ourselves as instruments of His loving grace.

Rev. Robert E. Steinke, Ph.D.
CCCC Area Representative — Western Pennsylvania

Time to Move Forward!

"You have stayed at this mountain long enough! It is time to break camp and move on.... Look I am giving all this land to you! Go in and occupy it..." (Deuteronomy 1:6–8, NLT)

So God spoke to me over the last two years about reaching the law enforcement culture, and as a result the entire criminal justice system in America — with the Good News of Jesus Christ! As a cop myself for 5 years working patrol, public relations, violent crimes and crime prevention, I know that Jesus works! Then I went into ministry, immediately starting as a Chaplain with the Colorado Springs Police Dept. For 27 years now I have served as a police chaplain in eight police departments around the country, letting both officers and civilians know that Jesus is the answer to all of man's problems! I served for over five years as Executive Chaplain for the Michigan State Police and saw great progress in helping cops see that you could still be a cop and a Christian, too. In fact, Jesus is the originator of "perfect peace" (Isaiah 26:3) and perfect leadership! Suddenly it all stopped because

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From the Conference Minister

How the world needs the good news of Jesus Christ! Since the Church is His chosen means of bringing the gospel to this world, how tragic when Christians fail to effectively do so because their focus is on their conflicts or differences with one another! May our hearts break when this happens!

For Jesus' sake and the advancement of His gospel we must continually and prayerfully aim to keep the main thing the main thing in the Church, not dividing over



*Rev. Dr. Stephen A. Gammon,
CCC Conference Minister*

secondary issues! When we do this the Lord is pleased! But when we allow our differences of opinion over matters of preference or style or differences of interpretation about non-essential matters to divide us, our Lord is displeased and the strength and witness of the Church is weakened.

Paul made a similar plea to several New Testament churches, urging them not to divide over peripheral matters, but to always make every effort for Christian unity, so they might together advance the cause of Jesus Christ: to Rome (Romans 14), to Corinth (1 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 13:11), to Ephesus (Ephesians 4:3), to Philippi (Philippians 1:27).

Jesus knew well that the enemy's tactic would always be to target the Church for division. For this reason in His High Priestly prayer (John 17) Jesus fervently prayed for our protection from such attacks, that the Church would be united in Him. Because Jesus made this a matter of such urgent prayer, shouldn't we do so also?

Throughout our first 60 years the CCC has remained committed to Honoring Jesus Christ Together, keeping the main thing the main thing. This has been our strength! We join together around the core essentials of shared Biblical faith, respecting and loving each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. We are glad to work together, even if we disagree about various secondary issues, because our commitment to Honor Jesus Christ Together and advance His Kingdom is of highest importance to Christ and to us!

Our world faces many challenges these days, but the ultimate answer to the challenges is not found in government or Wall Street or the media. The gospel of Jesus Christ is what the world most needs! This is our time to be the Church, living

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and proclaiming in our various communities the good news of Jesus Christ, who alone can save! Toward that end, please keep the main thing the main thing, never dishonoring the Lord by allowing differences over secondary issues to divide you from your brothers or sisters in Christ! Let us be ever praying and aiming for Biblical unity in our churches!



CCCC 61st Annual Family Conference July 20–23, 2009

Ramada Hotel and Convention Center, Waterloo, Iowa

Cooperating for Christ — “The whole body, joined and held together... built up in love”

*From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament grows
and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. (Ephesians 4:16)*

Morning Bible Hour speaker — Stuart Briscoe

Women's Luncheon speaker — Jill Briscoe

From the Northeast Regional Minister

Rev. Terry H. Shanahan, Northeast Regional Minister

Biblical Conflict Resolution

“What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don’t get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight...” James 4:1–2a

The work in the Northeast continues to be exciting, visiting churches, attending area fellowship events, installations, ordinations, anniversaries and retreats. What has consumed a good deal of my time these last few months is dealing with churches in conflict.

To better assist the churches I serve, I have been attending pastor forums, workshops and training sessions on the Biblical approach to peacemaking. Indeed I would recommend that all churches look into the teachings and materials available through Peacemakers (peacemakerministries.org). All church leaders should at least be familiar with Ken Sande’s book, *The Peacemaker*. And all pastors should read Alfred Poiriers’ book, *The Peacemaking Pastor*. Two other books I recommend by Peter Scazzero are *The Emotionally Healthy Church* and *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*.

Ken Sande says to view each conflict as an opportunity to bring the gospel to bear in any given situation. We have the opportunity to reconcile with one another because of Christ’s atoning sacrifice on the cross.

Conflict is not new in churches. In fact as Dr. John Kimball

has pointed out in previous issues in The FORESEE, ministry is conflict. James 4:1 teaches that conflict arises from wanting something we don’t get. Quarrels and fights break out because of competing desires. Conflict is not always bad. It is most often our response to conflict that makes all the difference.

I am hopeful as I am given opportunities to work with churches and individuals dealing with conflict that they would be reconciled and restored. I pray for individuals and churches to have teachable spirits as they learn Biblical principles for peacemaking. For in the church, when we are out of fellowship with our brothers and sisters, we are out of fellowship with God. 1 John 4:20–21 says, *If anyone says, “I love God,” yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.*

So let us continue to love God, love others and make disciples along the way.

Yours in Christ,
Terry



Park Street Church to Celebrate 200 Years

by Jim Salo, Pastor of Congregational Church in Perry, Michigan

In 2009 one of our most influential churches will celebrate their 200th anniversary. Since its founding in 1809, Park Street Church in Boston has distinguished itself with many firsts:

The Handel and Haydn Society of Boston, America’s first oratorio society, was organized at Park Street in 1815. In 1816, Park Street started one of America’s first Sunday school programs. The first Protestant missionaries to Hawaii (formerly known as the Sandwich Islands) were sent from here in 1819.

On July 4, 1829, the famous abolitionist, William Lloyd Garrison, delivered his first anti-slavery address from the Park Street pulpit.

Lowell Mason, Park Street’s first organist, is considered by many to be the father of American Protestant church music. He composed the music for many common hymns including “Nearer My God to Thee” and “Joy to the World.”

Samuel Francis Smith’s hymn, “America” (otherwise known as “My Country ‘Tis of Thee”), was first sung on the front

steps of the church by Park Street’s Children’s Choir on July 4, 1831.

The Prison Discipline Society (America’s first prison ministry), the American Temperance Society, the Animal Rescue League (America’s first animal humane society), and the Boston Chapter of the N.A.A.C.P. all began here. America’s oldest radio ministry began at Park Street Church in 1923.

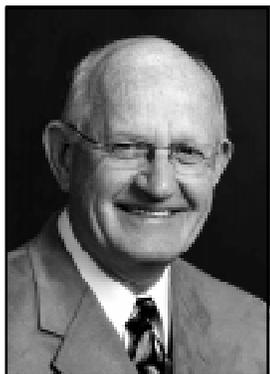
Dr. Harold J. Ockenga, Park Street’s minister from 1936 to 1969, was co-founder and first president of the National Association of Evangelicals, Fuller Theological Seminary, and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

In celebration of the 200th anniversary, this month’s Eminent Congregational Christians profile on page 5 is on its first pastor, Edward D. Griffin. Upcoming articles in the series will profile other of Park Street Church’s pastors.

“Park Street Church has distinguished itself with many firsts.”

We are Sent With a Purpose...

The Great Commission is expressed in different ways in the New Testament. The simplest and most straightforward expression is found in John 20 when Jesus meets his disciples after the resurrection and says, “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” (John 20:21) Another expression is found in Luke’s gospel which reads, “repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.” (Luke 24:47) But certainly the most familiar expression comes from Matthew 28, where Jesus says,



Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18–20)

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18–20)

This teaching of Jesus has most often been applied to cross-

Dr. Ron Hamilton, CCCC Director of Church Multiplication cultural missions in all parts of the world. Many have responded to the call to “go into all the world...” However, this teaching also applies to starting new churches, here and around the world. In his book, *Planting Missional Churches*, Ed Stetzer says,

“The earliest churches obeyed the Great Commission by planting new congregations to carry out the assignments of discipling, baptizing, and teaching that would begin the multiplication process of planting more and more churches.”

This truth has revolutionized our approach to church planting. Church planters who work with the CCCC are taught that the essence of starting a new church is this, “as you go... make disciples.” Our clear purpose is to create disciple-making communities.

Historic church planting models have been centered on attracting a crowd and helping as many as possible to grow in their faith. We now encourage church planters that a worship service where believers gather is the natural outcome of a disciple-making ministry that touches and changes the lives of many.

We are sent... we are sent with a message... we are sent with a purpose.

Caring for Those Who Care

Dr. John Kimball, CCCC Director of Conference Care and Church Redevelopment

It’s an unfortunate reality of the world in which we live. Pastors, who are often overworked and overextended, sometimes find themselves in crisis. It may be self-inflicted — making bad decisions that cost the pastor his reputation, his respect and sometimes his ministry. Or it may be from an outside source — beaten emotionally by merciless personalities, health issues, or difficult family situations. When a pastor’s physical, emotional and spiritual reservoirs are at or near “empty,” who does he look to for help? How does one stand steadfast when his world appears to be crumbling? I’ve heard many pastors’ stories over the years and I keep coming to the same conclusion: few pastors have a pastor of their own. Several pastors may regularly gather together for prayer and fellowship, but precious few allow themselves to even entertain the thought of a loving mentor to whom they will willingly remain accountable. In so many cases, even their families cannot reason with them. And so, God (who loves them dearly) will often get their attention through unavoidable circumstances.

Pastors, let me speak to you frankly: I have been where you are. I served in the pastoral ministry for nearly 20 years myself before taking this position. I am a driven individual (one of my secretaries once said that working for me was like laying track in front of a speeding freight train!). I have faced

incredibly difficult circumstances — and I can tell you that it was only by God’s grace and the loving (but firm) relationships established in my life that I even survived to tell about it! You need this!

Just as you can not serve good ol’ Southern sweet tea from an empty pitcher, you cannot fulfill your calling as a minister of Christ’s gospel if you are running on empty. Your physical well being, emotional stability, stress management and *personal* devotional life (i.e., not *anything* you do in sermon or Bible study prep!) are very much a part of your calling. Who is walking with you through these things? To whom have you given the right and privilege to burrow into these private parts of your life? Who is discipling you?



Over the next three issues of the *FORESEE*, we’re going to dig more into this critical topic. Some of what you read may make you uncomfortable – and that’s good. God desires you to be all that he designed you to be. What are you already sensing the Spirit saying to you about your life?

Edward D. Griffin

2009 is the bicentennial of one of the most historic churches in our Conference, Park Street Church in Boston. In honor of the occasion, I am profiling the first pastor of Park Street Church, Edward Dorr Griffin. He had a notable career as a pastor, revival preacher, and college president.

Edward Griffin came to Park Street Church in the middle of his career. He was born in East Haddam, Connecticut in 1770, and graduated with honors from Yale. He was preparing for a career as a lawyer when a serious illness interrupted his plans. Soul searching during his period of recovery led to the assurance of his salvation and a call to the ministry. He studied theology with Jonathan Edwards, Jr. While still a candidate for ministry, numerous conversions were already seen in response to his preaching.

Griffin's first pastorate was the small country parish of New Hartford in Litchfield County, Connecticut. His ministry there coincided with the beginning of the Second Great Awakening. Later in life he wrote, "I saw a continued succession of heavenly sprinklings... until, in 1799, I could stand at my door in New Hartford, and number fifty or sixty contiguous [adjoining] congregations laid down in one field of divine wonders." He does not take any credit for this, but contemporary records show that his preaching sparked revival in many of these communities.

A move to New Jersey for the sake of his wife's health led to a call to Newark First Presbyterian Church. It was reported that 372 were converted under his preaching there, 97 of whom joined the church one Sunday in 1807.

He came to Massachusetts in 1809 not to be a pastor but a professor. He was called to the newly created Bartlett Chair of Sacred Pulpit Rhetoric at Andover Seminary. Meanwhile the pulpit of the recently formed Park Street Church in Boston was empty. The church had been formed by ardent Evangelicals to be a bulwark of Biblical faith in a city where

most of the historic churches had become essentially Unitarian. Park Street had difficulty in calling a resident pastor, so they finally prevailed upon Griffin to preach there in addition to his duties at the seminary. This dual responsibility proved to be too heavy, and Griffin resigned from Andover in 1811 to become full-time pastor of Park Street.

His Boston pastorate proved to be a difficult one. Hostility to the faith of the infant church was intense. He wrote to a friend, "You have no conception of the falsehoods which are propagated, and the pains which are taken, to prevent people from coming to our church. But the more they try to prevent, the more the people will not mind them." He was able to get the church established on a strong Evangelical base, but progress was slow. Financial strains resulting from the War of 1812 and internal divisions in the church led him to resign the Park Street pastorate in 1815 and return to Newark to serve a Presbyterian church there.

He returned to Massachusetts in 1821 to become the president of Williams College. The reputation Williams already had as the seedbed of missionary zeal was a factor that drew him there. He came to Williams at a time when its future was in doubt. Amherst College had recently been established nearby, and there was an expectation that it would draw students to such an extent that Williams could not continue. He was able to revitalize the college through fundraising, hiring of new professors, and new buildings. The college was also strengthened by the spiritual revival seen among the students in response to his preaching.

In failing health, he resigned the presidency of Williams in 1836, and returned to Newark, where he died at his daughter's home in 1837.

The *Life and Sermons of Edward D. Griffin* have been republished by Banner of Truth.

Time to Move Forward! (continued from page 1)

some people decided we weren't "politically correct." I was devastated! I wanted so bad to see cops come to Christ ever since my early days as a police officer. This is what I know after over 30 years in law enforcement — Jesus still works!

But God wasn't done with me yet. A year and a half ago, a fellow pastor and police chaplain had lunch with me and said "you can't quit what God has done in and through you. You have too much experience in police chaplaincy to not serve police all over the nation with the good news of Christ." Thus began the search for what God had for my life in the years ahead — even into retirement. (I don't plan on retiring since I haven't read about it in God's Word!) At a spiritual retreat in March, 2007, God spoke to me with plans that would be bigger than me. He has been revealing them to me

for the past 18 months. Then about the time I was ready to really get started, I had a stroke, followed by a heart attack and then a five-bypass heart surgery. What was God doing? I could be here all day telling you what He was doing during that time, but it is nothing short of marvelous the way He has been answering my prayers, and actually has accelerated the mission forward. Then when the doctors gave me the "all-clear," the very next week God gave me the verse quoted above! It's time to move forward. It's time to get off this mountain where you have carried a burden for cops. It's time to possess the land of law enforcement culture and the American criminal justice system with the gospel of Christ. It's time to change the way we do things in police work!

Thus the American Police Chaplains Association was born of God! We now have a nonprofit nationwide ministry started

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CCCC 60th Annual Family Conference Report

Thanks to a Scholarship

by Lenn Zeller, Pastor of St. Paul's Church, Stowe, Pennsylvania

Thanks to a scholarship from the CCCC Missions Committee, Janeen and I were able to take six members of St. Paul's Church of Stowe, Pennsylvania, to the Children's Haven International orphanage in Reynosa, Mexico, for a one-week missions trip. We accompanied a crew from another CCCC congregation, Christ Reformed Church in Telford, Pennsylvania, for a work camp at the orphanage, that included painting their schoolhouse, renovating one of



the existing family style homes, building another new home, sorting clothes for distribution to the poor, and ministry to and with the children of the orphanage.

It was the first short-term mission abroad for all of us from St.

Paul's, and was an exciting and sobering experience. All came away feeling as if we had received so much more than we were able to give, and with the realization that the needs are great in the wider body of Christ. We worked hard, but wish we could have done more. The staff at Children's Haven are committed, dedicated people who carry on an effective ministry with relatively few resources. We were humbled by their sacrifices and devotion.

Though much of our time was spent on the above-mentioned work projects, the highlights of the trip were certainly more people-oriented:

the times our youth were able to interact with the children of the orphanage, having dinner in the homes with the house-parents and children, our youth playing soccer in the quad with the children of the orphanage, worshiping together, and even the fellowship between the two groups from St. Paul's and Christ Reformed. The language barrier proved difficult at times, but was overcome with lots of laughter and patience. Janeen and I sat in the quad one evening playing cards, and were soon joined by several young



boys who wanted to learn the game. Without being able to speak their language, we nevertheless managed to show them how to play the game and were soon involved in a lively competition, with much laughter and joy.

Another highlight, if you can call it that, was a trip to the "Colonia," a shanty town just across the US border, where poor people gather to eke out a living in a place of deep poverty. We were all moved, some to tears, to see the conditions under which so many live, all within sight of the United States. We were able to hand out a few simple items — some toiletries, some cheap toys, Gospel brochures — but they were very grateful for the gesture and made us feel quite welcome.



We all came home committed to finding other ways to support the ministry of Children's Haven, and wishing many more of our members would have been able to go. Every American believer ought to go on at least one short-term missions trip to another country, to see how people in another culture live, worship and minister to their people. We get

so insulated and isolated in the US, thinking this is how it is for everyone. In reality, we are the minority, and life is so different for most others around the world. Every American believer ought to see the conditions others live in on a daily basis, and the struggles they go through to survive and to share their faith. It would make us all realize how much we have, and what a great responsibility we have to use our abundant resources well in support of those fellow Christians around the world. Our abundance could — and should — supply their need.

Our thanks to the Missions Committee of the CCCC for helping to make this trip possible for Janeen and me. Your scholarship helped to make it possible for us to make this trip and take this small group on what proved to be a profoundly beneficial learning experience. And a deeper bond now exists between the two CCCC congregations who shared in this work together, an added bonus to the trip!

with a Board of Directors that includes cops, police chiefs, retirees, and pastors and laymen who want to see this ministry go forward. We now have a website www.americanpolicechaplain.org, that will be our primary means of ministering to street cops throughout the USA, The biggest goal is to get a copy of “The Peacemakers” police New Testament into all 850,000 police officers’ patrol bags in America in seven years! I worked with the International Bible Society to develop it along with cops all over the nation who helped me write police helps in it for everyday patrol. The website will be where they can go for a FREE New Testament, online Bible studies, marriage and family life helps, ordering gifts for their families, retreats for officers, their wives and families, recommended book reading of the month, counseling, a 24/hr crisis help line, prayer cells of cops praying for cops, and Christian leadership training offered free to any police department in America that wants it. Every day I dream what God can do, but He keeps expanding it! I cannot do it alone!

Now I need your help. Most of all I need your prayers. Second, I need individuals, churches and organizations to help reach the police officers and criminal justice system of America for Christ! Maybe churches would consider us under their local missions programs. We are nonprofit, and contributions are tax deductible. You can email me: ampolicechaplain@comcast.net or call (810) 564-9648 for more information, or write: American Police Chaplains Association, P.O. Box 900, Mt. Morris, MI. 48458.

My closing question for you is this: What is God doing in your life? Have you given Him all of you to do with as He pleases for His Kingdom? Are you surrendered and ready to build His Kingdom where you are? You’ve been on this mountain long enough — it’s time to move forward!

Chaplain Jim Salo, Executive Director
American Police Chaplains Association

John Robert “Bob” Topping, 87, of Williamsburg, Virginia, went to be with the Lord on August 3, 2008. He was a retired CCCC minister, and had, in addition to serving as a pastor, a radio ministry and founded a seminary in the Washington DC area. He participated in a number of mission trips sharing the gospel of Jesus to places like India, Russia and Scandinavia. In his later years, he had a very strong prayer ministry. Throughout his life he was an avid reader and Bible scholar.

Grace Irwin left this life September 23, 2008 at the age of 101. She was the oldest member of the CCCC. She was a past member of the CCCC Board of Directors. She had written seven novels, pastored two churches, and was awarded the Doctor of Sacred Letters by Victoria University. She lived in Toronto.

Changes and Opportunities

Pastoral Changes:

Cannon Falls, MN	First Congregational Church	Barbara Martin
Boulder City, NV	Grace Community Church	David Graham*

Pastoral Openings:

Longmont, CO	Christ Congregational Church *
Wethersfield, CT	First Church of Christ
Garner, IA	Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church *
Parkersburg, IA	First Congregational Church * (Associate Pastor)
Kellogg, ID	United Church of Kellogg *
Rockland, ID	Rockland Congregational Church (Part-time) *
Winchester, IN	Winchester Congregational Christian Church
Billerica, MA	Community Congregational Church *
South Grafton, MA	Union Congregational Church * (Part-time)
Brewer, ME	Second Congregational Church *
Lebanon, ME	First Parish Congregational Church * (Part-time)
Shorewood, MN	Minnewashta Church *
Kulm, ND	First Congregational Church *
Candia, NH	Candia Congregational Church
Center Ossipee, NH	First Congregational Church of Ossipee
Kennedy, NY	Clarks Corners Community Church
Loysburg, PA	St. John’s Reformed Church *
Beloit, WI	Shopiere Congregational Church

* = Conference member

Health Tips

Sizing Things up

A “serving” of food is the unit of measure used to describe the amount of food recommended from each food group. A “portion” is the amount of food we choose to eat at a meal or for a snack. Over the last 20 years the portion sizes served at restaurants have increased. Twenty years ago a 1.5 oz blueberry muffin had 210 calories, today the 5 oz muffin has 500 calories; a 1.5 inch chocolate chip cookie had 55 calories, today the same larger cookie has 275 calories.

By watching your serving size you will decrease your calorie intake, lose weight and help prevent other health problems. A 3 oz serving of meat is about the size of a deck of cards, 1 small baked potato is the size of a computer mouse, 1 muffin is the size of a large egg, 2 tablespoons of butter equals the size of a golf ball. These are all items you are familiar with to help you keep your serving size from being too large. Tips to help you control your portions include taking food home for a later meal, sharing your meal and stop eating when you begin to feel full. You will help yourself in the long run.

Source: National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute and OCHD

Betty Mitchell, RN, Parish Nurse
Emmanuel Bethel Church
Royal Oak, MI

THE FORESEE

January 2009 Volume 41, No. 1

Discover a New Way to Healthy Living

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33

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