The eNewsletter of Sligo Church  February 27, 2014

Dear Lexie,

"If Sligo's Walls could talk..."

What would they have to say? You can be sure that virtually every nook and cranny would have something to say about ministry in God's house, even the janitor's closet, reminding us that cleanliness is next to Godliness! I can just imagine that if the marble wall in the atrium could talk it would tell us about the wedding reception that took place recently, or the funeral repast, and I'm sure the walls would comment about the children putting their coins in the Wishing Well and watching with delight as the coins twirl around until they are finally sucked up! Yes, I almost forgot about all the music that takes place in the Atrium-piano recitals, choir practice, music concerts and the list could go on and on...
**This Sabbath:**
March 1, 2014

**Speaker:**
Charles A Tapp,  
"A Means of Grace"

**Special Musical Guests:**
Sligo Sanctuary Choir,  
Jon Gilbertson,  
Director  
Vocal Trio,  
Joya Follette,  
Lori Bryan,  
Desmond Pierre-Louis

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**Tennis Night!**
Saturday evening, March 1

Tennis Anyone? Whether you are pro, a beginner or would just "LOVE" to learn the game of tennis, you are invited to join your Sligo family for a night of indoor tennis on Saturday evening...

**Adventist HealthCare President to Leave After 14 Years of Service**

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**An Education in Transcendence**
A thought by Barry Casey

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Sermon Audio Archive:
If Sligo’s Walls could talk. . .

What would they have to say? You can be sure that virtually every nook and cranny would have something to say about ministry in God’s house, even the janitor’s closet, reminding us that cleanliness is next to Godliness! I can just imagine that if the marble wall in the atrium could talk it would tell us about the wedding reception that took place recently, or the funeral repast, and I’m sure the walls would comment about the children putting their coins in the Wishing Well and watching with delight as the coins twirl around until they are finally sucked up! Yes, I almost forgot about all the music that takes place in the Atrium—piano recitals, choir practice, music concerts and the list could go on and on. Then if we open the walls into the Fellowship rooms, those walls might talk about the wonderful Sabbath School class with Gideon Amir or the hospitality meals where so many generously provide food, welcoming our guests!

It’s Sabbath morning. Let’s walk downstairs—oh my, there are so many children coming to Sabbath School! The walls resound with the singing of children’s songs and recitation of memory verses. And now it’s 11:15 a.m. and here come the youth to their Underground Service—it’s never quiet down here on Sabbaths! Well, it is quiet from about 10 p.m. on Saturday night until—5 a.m. What is going on at 5 a.m. on Sunday morning? Prayer at 5 a.m.? Yes, it surely is. How many of us would be willing to get up that early to join the Ethiopians in prayer?

During the week the walls all over the church could also witness when the church choir comes to rehearse or when the faithful come to pray in the House of Prayer, or the University students come to chapel services on Wednesday mornings, or on Friday nights when the Telugu come to worship. Then there are those special celebrations such as Vacation Bible School, when night after night hundreds of children and adults come to learn, worship and praise God.

Our Sanctuary walls would have so much to say about the joy of a new life when our children are dedicated to God, or when there is a new spiritual birth as a baptism takes place, or when the sanctuary is packed to witness a graduation—a milestone in the lives of our young people. Then, there are those times when a couple repeats their vows of love to each other, “’till death do us part”, and the celebration of a life well-lived, as death holds sway—briefly—until the “trumpet sounds.” The walls could join in wonder as the seats fill on Sabbath mornings to the groups sharing the Word of God together in Sabbath School classes learning how to become disciples, and then as more worshippers, from children to those older, join to worship in singing, praying, and listening in anticipation to the Spoken Word! The walls must quake when the organ peals forth in accompaniment to congregational singing—especially at the end of a Communion service as hands are held across aisles singing, “When We All Get to Heaven.”

Those who choose to separate themselves from corporate worship could never experience community in the way that’s possible within the walls at Sligo. If Sligo’s walls could speak, I can imagine that they would say that surely God’s Presence is in this place.
Tennis night!

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Tennis Anyone? Whether you are pro, a beginner or would just “LOVE” to learn the game of tennis, you are invited to join your Sligo family for a night of indoor tennis on Saturday evening, March 1, from 7:00 – 12:00 p.m. at the Fairland Sports and Aquatic Complex in Laurel, MD. There will be lots of good food and tons of fun for all ages. There is no cost for admission, although food will be sold by the Sligo Pathfinders to help raise money for their upcoming trip to Oskosh in August. So bring a racket and your enthusiasm for a night you will never forget.

Don’t forget to Bring a Friend!

Directions: Fairland Sports and Aquatics Complex
Adventist HealthCare President to Leave After 14 Years of Service

After serving as president and CEO of Adventist HealthCare for 14 years, William G. “Bill” Robertson announced Monday he will be leaving the Gaithersburg, Md.-based, organization April 4. Robertson will become the president and CEO of MultiCare Health System, a not-for-profit based in Washington state.

“It has been an honor to work with the executives, employees and physicians across Adventist HealthCare who each day demonstrate our mission with their compassionate and high-quality care,” Robertson said. “The organization has a very bright future and is well-positioned to be a leader in the state as more of an emphasis is placed on preventive health and wellness.”

Robertson, 54, was named president and CEO of Adventist HealthCare in April 2000. During his tenure, Adventist HealthCare grew to become the largest provider of healthcare in Montgomery County and one of the largest private employers in the state, with more than 6,200 employees.—

Courtesy of Columbia Union’s Visitor Magazine.

Full story here
Adventist HealthCare President to Leave After 14 Years of Service

February 24, 2014 · by Taashi Rowe · in Adventist HealthCare, Columbia Union News, Health Systems

Story by Tom Grant

After serving as president and CEO of Adventist HealthCare for 14 years, William G. “Bill” Robertson announced today he will be leaving the Gaithersburg, Md.-based, organization in April. Robertson will become the president and CEO of MultiCare Health System, a not-for-profit based in Washington state. His last day at Adventist HealthCare will be April 4.

“It has been an honor to work with the executives, employees and physicians across Adventist HealthCare who each day demonstrate our mission with their compassionate and high-quality care,” Robertson said. “The organization has a very bright future and is well-positioned to be a leader in the state as more of an emphasis is placed on preventive health and wellness.”

Dave Weigley, president of the Columbia Union Conference and chairman of the Adventist HealthCare Board of Trustees, announced Robertson’s decision to the organization today.

“I want to thank Bill for his years of service to Adventist HealthCare and the community,” Weigley said. “I take great comfort in knowing that Bill built an excellent team of executives and leaders who will help me with the selection process for a new president and CEO. More importantly, I know that Adventist HealthCare has a wonderfully talented and committed group of employees and physicians who help the organization fulfill its mission to demonstrate God’s care by improving the health of people and communities through a ministry of physical, mental and spiritual healing.”

Robertson, 54, was named president and CEO of Adventist HealthCare in April 2000. During his tenure, Adventist HealthCare grew to become the largest provider of healthcare in Montgomery County and one of the largest private employers in the state, with more than 6,200 employees.

Since 2000, the organization has added Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital of Maryland, Adventist Behavioral Health, the Reginald S. Lourie Center for Infants and Young Children, Adventist Medical Group and the Shady Grove Adventist Aquilino Cancer Center. In addition, it has created a number of programs and partnered with community groups to provide services to those most in need in the community. Adventist HealthCare is the largest provider of charity and uncompensated care in the county.

In 2013, its three largest hospitals, Shady Grove Adventist, Washington Adventist and Hackettstown Regional Medical Center, were named Top Performers on Key Quality Measures® by The Joint Commission.

In addition to his work in healthcare, Robertson has been honored for his community and business work and has served on a wide range of community, county and state organizations including: the Governor’s Workforce Investment Board, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce Board and the Strathmore Hall Foundation Board.
An Education in Transcendence

Barry Casey

“An education in transcendence prepares us to see beyond appearances into the hidden realities of life—beyond facts into truth, beyond self-interest into compassion, beyond our flagging energies and nagging despairs into the love required to renew the community of creation.” — Parker Palmer, To Know As We Are Known

That we are alone in this world is a fact which is confirmed by movies, reality shows, advertising, and economic self-help theories. That this is, in fact, false is something we must learn.

I don’t mean alone in merely a physical or social sense. I once had a colleague, a recent arrival from China, who went to a public gathering on the 4th of July in Baltimore and felt a sense of panic because she was in a crowd numbering only a few thousand. It’s all in what you’re used to apparently.

This kind of aloneness is not that of the weary commuter on the train gazing without seeing as the stations blur past. Not even Philip Seymour Hoffman, dying on the floor of his bathroom, a needle stuck in his arm, was alone in the way we are told is the norm.

This kind of aloneness is deeply American, although other cultures are sensing its allure. It’s a strand of ideological DNA which causes moral palsy in some: the hand outstretched to help twitches, the cup of cold water crashes to the floor.

We are taught to be unique at an early age. Ralph Waldo Emerson, in an essay entitled “Self-Reliance,” drummed the message in with eloquence and fervor: “Whoso would be a man, must be a nonconformist.” And, “Nothing is at last sacred but the integrity of your own mind.” And again: “What I must do is all that concerns me, not what the people think.”

There is something thrilling in these lines, and in many others that Emerson writes. He hated the mob, the unthinking crowd so easily swayed by demagogues and charlatans. He wanted people to think for themselves, to see themselves as individuals.

What the nation needed in 1841, he thought, was a sense of the present, not the past. Europe was the past: for all its intellectual glories it could not be the template for America. The country needed to build itself from the ground up and the way to do it was to boldly go where no nation had gone before. A nation of individuals, each one pursuing his or her course with a sturdy vigor, was the ideal.

But somewhere along the way that centrifugal honesty snapped its line and arced away. What we see now is not Emerson’s neighborly self-reliance, but what Parker Palmer calls an endless power struggle between the self and the world. Each self is convinced it is in a battle for survival, with dominance over the world the only possible goal.

Palmer has been a teacher for decades, a Quaker by choice, and a thoughtful critic of an educational system that trains people for arrogance rather than service.

He suggests that our hunger for knowledge arises from two sources: curiosity and control. Curiosity for its own sake is amoral, a need to know that shrugs off any restraint. Control “is simply another word for power.” Together, curiosity and control can generate knowledge that leads us toward death, not life.

But there is another kind of knowledge that contains just as many facts and theories as the knowledge we now possess, but that springs from something other than mere curiosity and control. “A knowledge born of compassion aims not at exploiting and manipulating creation but at reconciling the world to itself (To Know as We Are Known 8).”

This is not a sentimental warm fuzzy kind of love, he notes, but a tough love—“the connective tissue of reality”—and we find it most often in community.
Palmer talks about “community” a great deal, a word that splays out in so many directions these days that it’s hard to grasp what it means. I can sense that it’s a good thing, though, and as spiritual qualities go, it tops any wish list I could draw up. I’m just not sure how it comes about.

Palmer ties it to transcendence, a word often misunderstood. We need to think of transcendence as not being drawn up and out of life to an eternal realm, but as a sideways impulse, a breaking in of the Spirit which breathes hope and trust into us. That’s the kind of transcendence which happens in community, a practical notion of love with its feet on the ground and its heart aflame with Jesus incarnate—God among us.

I get a much clearer sense of what ‘community’ can mean when Palmer speaks of a “discipline of mutual encouragement and mutual testing, keeping me both hopeful and honest about the love that seeks me, the love I seek to be (To Know as We Are Known 18).”

At Sligo I have found community in the study group I belong to, Believers and Doubters. For years we have prayed together, argued together, studied the Bible and books about it together, laughed and suffered together, and suffered the loss of members together. I would not trade it for anything. It has been an “education in transcendence.”