

# Tidings



Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy... (Luke 2:10)

Dear Burke UMC Friend,

My older brother Brian asked me on Thursday what I was going to preach on when Sunday came. I'm writing a sermon called "The Virtues of Uselessness", I replied.

"That's great", Brian said. "I can't think of anyone better qualified".

This Sunday we'll ponder the roles of Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42). We Marthas value productivity and hard work. We know that achievements don't just happen. People who sit down when there's work to be done miss out on a lot. If you snooze, you lose. And besides, doesn't the Bible explicitly say "Be doers of the word, and not hearers only"? So let's hear it for Martha!

And yet Jesus commends Mary for her quiet listening. He doesn't praise Martha for her activity at all; he names her anxious spirit and unsettled heart and blesses her sister for doing the very opposite of what Martha's about. Ouch. Every time Jesus gives us a glimpse of the Kingdom of God, there seems to be some basic injustice going on. Martha's fixing Jesus dinner, for crying out loud. If he can't give Martha some praise, maybe Jesus could just go without.

There's basic wisdom in the fact that women's groups in churches often call themselves a "Mary-Martha Circle". BUMC has had such a group in the past. Men and women alike, we all need this balance. Come join us in worship this weekend and hear how Jesus puts our priorities in a new perspective; how he praises what we tend to disparage; and how Jesus offers what we need and can't get from anyone else.

Jesus is the heart of our message. There is no one better qualified.

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COMING UP ...

LifeSign Worship  
Sunday Worship

Saturday, 5:30 pm, Rev. Morgan Guyton preaching  
Sunday, 9:00 & 10:30 am, Rev. Larry Buxton preaching

Camp Rising Hope  
Vacation Bible School

Monday - Thursday, July 26-29  
Monday - Friday, August 2-6

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All for now. More up-to-date information about Burke UMC news can always be found on our website - [www.burkeumc.org](http://www.burkeumc.org) . May God bless you richly today.

***Larry***

**Our Mission**

To make disciples of Jesus Christ  
for the transformation of the world

**Our Vision**

We welcome everyone to learn, celebrate and share  
Christ's life-changing love.

**Our Values**

Radical Hospitality  
Passionate Worship  
Intentional Faith Development  
Risk-Taking Mission and Service  
Extravagant Generosity