



Pieces, Parts, and Adaptation

I am no longer a purest grill master. I have purchased a gas grill. For years I prided myself on only using charcoal to produce premium favored barbequed and grilled delicacies. I have switched to gas because I love to grill but, when grilling for two it does get to be a hassle to light charcoal and wait for everything to be just right for grilling; and then there's the entire cleanup. So for now on it's a gas grill.

But wait, first I have to put this thing together; a big box with pretty good directions, an organized bolt and screw packet, and many other pieces/parts. There's also the new joy of this grill having a self-cleaning button but, the main point is cook meat the way I like it.

At 10:30, the night I was putting the grill together, I was almost done when the wrong screws were provided to install the heat protection plate and grease tray. Without the heat protection plate the propane tank can get too hot. Without the grease tray, drippings accumulate in the base of the grill and could cause a fire.

The right number of screws were provided but, they were the wrong type. I needed sheet metal screws and I had fine threaded screws that need a nut or a threaded attachment to secure them. How do I grill if the grill cannot be assembled correctly? Adaptation! I found some sheet metal screws in my shop that worked just fine.

Now I know there are skeptics that will say I used the wrong screws or bolts earlier in the assembly but, I checked and double checked and the manufacturer supplied the wrong items. So there! "That's my story and I'm sticking to it."

Many times in life I had to adapt farm equipment, tools, furniture, and machinery so the product would actually perform and work as it was advertised to work and perform. Ok, adapted so it would work the way I wanted it to work. I just know that if I can make it work and still look good, I will make the adaptations because then I know the product will perform as I expect it too.

All of this to say, we expect "life" to work with all its pieces and parts but the pieces/parts don't always fit right and sometimes they're broken. Relationships fluctuate and fail, goals change and disappoint, times change and create fear, struggles come and tragedies strike, flat tires delay and burnt toast aggravates. Have you noticed like I have that life does not provide all the accurate pieces and parts needed to feel good, happy, successful, and loved? And, there is no instruction manual!

Praise God we can adapt. 2 Peter 1 verse 3 says that "His divine power has given us everything for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness," (NIV). With God, all the pieces/parts are there because God is the adaptation. We adapt to life by our knowledge of God.

Here's the catch, our purpose needs to be for life and godliness because anything else will bring disappointment. The grill I purchase is not a good meat dehydrator so I will be disappointed if I try to make beef jerky in my grill.

There are two adaptations here, the first is to adapt my outcome and the second is to adapt my knowledge to God. The flesh and this world can produce great disappointment. To strive for the things of this world and the nature of the flesh but expect Godly joy cannot take place. To strive for

Godly joy in the midst of fleshly desires and worldly attractions is possible because God helps us adapt through knowledge of Him.

We are an incomplete package of pieces/parts. We have damaged, excluded, misshaped pieces/parts. And our only course is to adapt with the knowledge of God's love and forgiveness. God calls us to His glory and goodness. So when the pieces/parts of this world let us down, we can adapt because in the knowledge of God we have everything needed for life and godliness.

I may no longer be a pure grill master; in fact, at best I am a mediocre grill master but a perfect medium done steak is not my ultimate purpose. So, if you see me upset that I burned the steaks or over cooked the chicken; if you see me throwing the new gas grill into the street, remind me that my purpose is for living godliness. It may take a moment or two but I'll adapt for God has given me everything I need for life and godliness.

Make it a great day!

Pastor Jay

Notes From Past Bulletins:

60 years ago: 1953

May 3 – The Dorcas Missionary Society will meet on Thurs. evening. The project for the month will be Christmas Bundles.

May 17 – Sermon by J. John J. Miller.
Evening service: IMS Baccalaureate.

May 24 – Pledges are due for the IMS Auditorium Gymnasium.

50 years ago: 1963

May 5 – A special service will be held this evening at Lower Deer Creek honoring J. L. Hershberger's 50 years in ministry.

May 19 – The young marrieds will have a Memorial Day picnic at the Wallace Fisher home. In case of rain it will be held at the Center Community Building.

May 26 – Summer Bible School is near at hand. Our joint Kalona-East Union Bible School will

be held at East Union from June 3-14. We will begin classes at 9:00 each morning and dismiss at 11:30.

40 years ago: 1973

May 6 – Parents and Children involved in the dedication service this morning are:
Keith/Cindy Dickel & Stacey Linn
Lowell/Susan Gingerich & Jeffery Scott
Edward/Bea Knepp & Ryan Mitchell
Gary/Charlene Mullet & Andrew Rae
Dale/Charlene Rhodes & Mitchell Wayne
Eric/Doris Thirtle & Joyce Elaine
Donald/Verna Zook & LeAnne Marie.

May 13 – Church Council Note: Motion was made and accepted to purchase Holy Spirit Festival Songbooks with the Library and MYF to contribute towards the costs of the books.

After a discussion of recent Sunday morning services we as a Church Council recommend restrictions to be placed on amplified musical instruments in our worship services.

May 27 – Morning service included a Commissions service for Greg Yutzy and Baptismal service for Larry Detweiler.

Lonnie Yoder will be speaker all this week on daily devotions heard three times daily on KCII (1380 AM).

30 years ago: 1983

May 1 – Church Council Notes: A motion was made to send Bible Memory students to camp with paying expenses according to past procedures.

It was agreed to order 1000 disposable communion cups.

May 8 – Memorial services were held for Mary Pearl Miller on Saturday. She passed away on May 4.

May 15 – MYF will meet at Gerald Yoder's on Sat. afternoon to paint a garage. Bring a paint brush; a credit towards Bethlehem '83 will be given to those who help.

May 29 – Another focal concerns meeting will be held Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm. The meeting is open to anyone concerned about how we as individuals can respond to and cope with the stresses of our economy.



EAST UNION WEB SITE:

www.eastunionmennonite.org

Phone Numbers:

Pastor: Jay Miiller – 656-5297 - home

Elders:

Phil Yoder – 358-9648

Paulette Hershberger – 656-3208

Larry Detweiler – 319-828-4461

Lauralee Kauffman – 354-3304

Secretary:

Joyce Schrock – 656-2590 – church
656-2172 – home

Jay: jaymiiller@hotmail.com

Joyce: joyceschrock@hotmail.com

East Union: eucares@kctc.net

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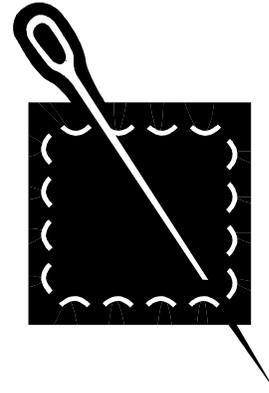
It is time to get Penny Power off the ground and ready for the Relief Sale. Your coin change is like a mustard seed. It may seem small but when planted it grows to be the greatest of all garden plants. Let's put our coins, dollar bills and checks to work to raise money

for those people who need clean water, something all of us take for granted.



Ladies, the baking pans will soon be available for the baked goodies for the bake sale at the MCC Sale.

Baked items are a favorite at the sale.



Mennonite Women:

Our East Union ladies are invited to be guests at Kalona Mennonite on Wednesday, May 8, 2013. Let us all have a good time fellowshiping with their Mennonite Women.



From Jim Hochstetler:

Have you ever noticed that the straight and narrow path gets the hardest wear along the edges?



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!! YOU ARE INVITED!!!

WHAT: Camp East Union!!! Vacation Bible School

WHO: Children ages 3 through Grade 6

WHERE: East Union Mennonite Church

WHY: To Learn How to Build Our Lives Upon the Rock . . . JESUS!

WHEN:

- June 28th 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. with Registration starting at 12:30
- June 29th 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (note: supper provided on 28th, lunch on 29th)
- June 30th Program during the Church Service with Potluck following

The VBS Curriculum: “SonRock Kids Camp, Where Kids Build Their Lives on the Rock, Jesus!”, invites children to come to learn of the power that living for Jesus can have.

As SonRock campers, your children will learn how their lives can be transformed by God’s great love for them: “How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!” (1 John 3:1).

Campers will build bonds of friendship with each other as they discover that their true identities are not formed by where they go, what they do or what others think. Like the apostle Peter, they’ll explore who they are in Jesus Christ - the most

important relationship of all. Because of His love for us, He is the rock upon which we can build our lives!

Please invite a friend and RSVP by JUNE 15th to: eunionvbs@gmail.com with the NAME and GRADE completed of the campers wanting to attend (or mail a letter to East Union Mennonite Church Attn: VBS, PO Box 760, Kalona IA 52247). Please also consider signing up to help! The VBS Committee has posted the list of volunteers needed in the Church Foyer and would love your support!

We look forward to seeing your children, friends, and family at Camp East Union! It will be a mountaintop experience you’ll never forget!