

FROM THE PASTOR

Feeling a little Thirsty?

In the next few weeks before Ash Wednesday (the start of Lent), we will begin distributing copies of John Ed Mathison's book *"Treasures of the Transformed Life."* The book is a forty-day study that shows us what we're really thirsty for—and how to satisfy that thirst. My hope is that you are ready to dive in.

You could go about this study in one of several ways. First, you could ignore it. You could allow it to gather dust on your nightstand table, and figure that you'll get the main points from hearing the sermon series and listening to the discussions in your small group.

You could read the entire week's lessons in one sitting, maybe even on a Saturday afternoon or early Sunday morning. That way, you figure, you can catch up and still know what everybody is talking about.

Or you could set aside a little bit of time each day during Lent, going over the daily readings and prayerfully considering the answers to the probing questions. You could allow God to speak to both your heart and mind. You could openly discuss what you're learning in your small group, and you could gain from the insights of others as you find yourself sharing in humility, as well.

Really, the choice is yours. This isn't school, after all, with someone looking over your shoulder and grading you on your level of participation. No, this is between you and God.

You could look at this study as simply one more thing to do in your already-busy schedule, or you could see it as the chance of a lifetime to press in and know God as you have never known him before.

E. Stanley Jones once said that, "Life in our hands is life on our hands—a problem. Life in the hands of Jesus is no longer a problem; it is a possibility."

And with this new bible study, the possibilities are endless. Are you ready to dive in—even if it feels like you're in over your head—and allow God to help you swim?

I'm ever hopeful that 100% of Conley's friends and

family will sign up to receive a book and truly experience the *"Treasures of a Transformed Life."*

Much Love,

Pastor Mike

PRAYER POINTS



THE ROSEBUD

"It is only a tiny rosebud,
A flower of God's design;
But I cannot unfold the petals
With these clumsy hands of mine."

"The secret of unfolding flowers
Is not known to such as I.
God opens this flower so easily,
But in my hands they die."

"If I cannot unfold a rosebud,
This flower of God's design,
Then how can I have the wisdom
To unfold this life of mine?"

"So I'll trust in God for leading
Each moment of my day.
I will look to God for guidance
In each step of the way."

"The path that lies before me,
Only my Lord knows.
I'll trust God to unfold the moments,
Just as he unfolds the rose."

Prayer Focus for February

I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart. I will tell of your wonders.

HEALTHY CHURCH INITIATIVES

March Healthy Church Initiatives for the Dover District will be held at Whatcoat UMC on Tuesday, March 13. 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM. Two classes are offered. 1. How to successfully lead a change process. 2. Creating New, Unique Places for Ministry. Pre-registration is required. Contact Cheryl Wood or Wendy Schmitt if you are interested.