

# Village Voice



May  
2026



"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it."

Matthew 13:44-46 (NIV)



## Treasure by Carolyn Karlstrom



Every year, on the last weekend of February, the American Association of University Women (AAUW) holds a gigantic used book sale in the Marcus Whitman Hotel Ballroom here in Walla Walla. I know many of you are aware of it because I've seen some of you there. I consider it one of the highlights of my year and wouldn't miss it for anything. You shouldn't either if you're a reader.

We're talking approximately 40,000 quality, affordable books all in one place, and so easy to access. What's not to get excited about? There are treasures right and left. The genres include History; Wars; Biographies, Autobiographies, and Memoirs; Fiction; General Non-Fiction; Children's; Collectibles; Classics; Science Fiction; Northwest-Related; Cookbooks; Sports; Humor; Religion and Philosophy; and more.

I had a bit of a shock this year when I approached the Classics tables, expecting to see, as I have in the past, well . . . classics as I've always known them. I cast my eyes over the piles of books thinking to see Tom Sawyer, Little Women, War and Peace, Moby Dick, Tess of the d'Urbervilles, The Last Of the Mohicans, and such like. If they were there I couldn't spot them.



Instead, I was amazed to find that most of them had been written in my lifetime. I remember many of them when they came out new. There was a woman of my general vintage, judging from the color of her hair, which was identical to mine. At my feet, she was rooting through the hundreds more books in boxes under the tables. Quite spry, I have to say.



I said, “Have you noticed that most of these ‘classics’ are younger than we are?” “Yes!” She answered in an astonished tone. “Look! Here’s a whole box of Robin Cook books. I think they’re all here!” Robin Cook’s first novel was published in 1972.

Well, be that as it may, I was successful in finding several treasures in my chosen genres and not a classic in the bunch. And my experience got me thinking about true treasure. As much enjoyment as I get out of the hunt and, of course, the actual having and reading, there’s a far greater treasure to be seeking. And that is the treasure of Jesus and salvation. If my primary aim is not to attain that treasure, I am missing the boat.

That is a treasure that turns pale all other treasures. They do not matter at all. The stories told, in Matthew 13, of the man who, in one case, sold all he had to buy a field in which he knew a treasure was buried; and, in the other, sold all he had to buy a pearl of inestimable value, are instructive. All. They. Had. All is a very high price to pay, but gaining the treasure, they believed, was worth it.



Books are wonderful. A book bargain is fantastic. But a relationship with Jesus and eternity with Him is of far greater value. I struggle to keep my priorities in order and am often wildly unsuccessful. However, Jesus tells us, in Matthew 6:33, that we should “ . . . seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well.” Though the context of the verse suggests His provision for our physical needs, we can be certain that He provides for our other needs as well. We’ve seen it.



A reader will be very grateful indeed for the great gift of a good book. I sure am. I'll be in line to get into the Marcus Whitman again next February for a crack at old authors and new, books I'm familiar with and books that are an exciting surprise to me. Yes!

**Carolyn K.**



May I be first in line, though, for the greatest gift of all—Jesus and life eternal with Him. And may you be right beside me.



The oracle of the prophet Habakkuk was given to him in response to his distress about the spiritual and moral decline of his country, Judah, and the people of Jerusalem. In May, Pastor Steve will bring the oracle of Habakkuk into the 21st century with a three-part sermon series entitled “The Oracle.” Many parallels can be found between God’s people at the end of the seventh century and His people now. Habakkuk’s warning, encouragement, and hope still speak volumes today.

**Join Pastor Steve at Village Church for  
“The Oracle,” May 16-30**



## CHOICE Diabetes Freedom Seminar

by Nancy Teale

In recent years, while sharing health insurance with people in the area, I noticed that many struggled with diabetes. I began wondering what could be done to guide them toward helpful solutions. In the back of my mind I recalled a time when we lived



**Lucia Tiffany**

near the coast in Grays Harbor and 3ABN first started airing programming on a 40" dish. My husband, being the engineer, decided to purchase one. Soon we had access to a lot of Christian programming which included some cooking classes by Lucia Tiffany. Throughout the years, I have continued watching her programs, some of which have included ideas on how to deal with diabetes. So, I thought perhaps there was a way to share her ideas with our community.

This year, when I joined the Health & Wellness Committee here at the Village Church, I mentioned the idea of possibly having Lucia Tiffany share her CHOICE Diabetes Freedom Seminar at our church. They thought it was a good idea and gave the go ahead. Lucia was contacted, and when we learned she was both available and willing, arrangements started happening quickly. I want to especially thank Jody Johnson, our Office Administrator, for all of her efficient help! Lucia Tiffany sent links for posters, flyers and bulletins, and Jody would adjust them as needed and print them off so quickly! We sent information to all of the area churches, and even ran an announcement in the Union Bulletin. We put up about 20 posters here, there, and everywhere!

The week or two before the program started, the basics were in place but not the volunteers. Dianasti Potes, who has been so helpful to me and many others wherever needed in the past, agreed to help recruit volunteers. Dianasti said, “Only two had signed up to help by Sunday night before the seminar. I took the directory and started down the list, calling people. Sometimes the person would say they couldn’t do anything, and I would reply, ‘Oh, yes you can! You can pray!’” “I’m a witness,” she said, “That if God wants something to happen, it’s going to happen.”



**Dianasti, Betty, & Patty welcome guests**

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After starting to call people, Dianasti kept saying to me, “It’s a God thing. People are saying ‘yes!’” So thank you to all of you who helped greet, direct, run the elevator, help prepare the samples and clean the kitchen, set up chairs, run the PA system. Also many thanks to the people who picked up our presenter from

the airport in the middle of the night, those who gave her a place to stay, and others who provided meals for her!



**Ladies preparing samples in the kitchen**

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Each night the attendees were given a ticket for the chance to win a copy of Lucia’s cook-

book. As the program progressed, the drawings became even more fun. People had a chance to win leftover samples and, the last night, Lucia added some larger books such as “How Not to Die.” Pastor Steve also gave free tickets for those who would like to go to our local Adventist Book Center and pick up a copy of “Ministry of Healing.”



Lucia presented “Big Ideas” each night as summarized below:  
Night 1: Willpower alone is not the answer. Small, repeatable systems create change.

Night 2: You do not need a perfect diet. You need a repeatable plate and meal rhythm that support steadier blood sugar.

Night 3: Exercise is not a gym identity; it is a glucose tool. Sleep is metabolic recovery.

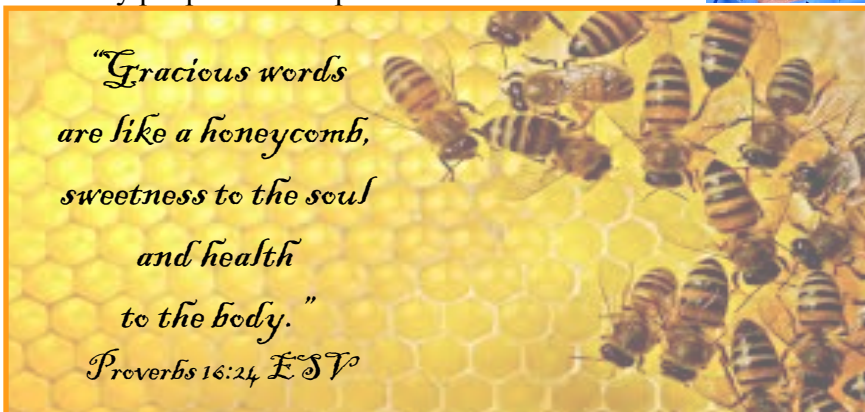
Night 4: Dysregulated stress responses can overpower good intentions and sabotage the other pillars. Stress hormones can raise blood sugar and worsen insulin sensitivity.

Night 5: Big ideas include optimizers such as hydration, movement, inner balance, supplements and essential oils.

Nancy Teale



We prayed for 100 or even 200 (Pray Big) and around 90 people signed in! Thank you again to all the many people who helped make this a success.



At a recent church board meeting we discussed the state of our church's parking lot. Resurfacing the asphalt of the parking lot is recommended to be done every five years. As best as could be recalled, the last resurfacing was done in 2011, so we are about a decade overdue and it shows! To seal the cracks, resurface, and repaint the lines on our parking lot will cost approximately \$48,000. We have enough money for this project in our maintenance reserves, but it will significantly deplete those reserves, so we are inviting our generous church family to participate in our "Pave It Forward" fundraising campaign to help pay for the sealing and repainting. We plan on completing this project over the summer. Please make note that your donations are for the Maintenance Reserve, or mark "Pave It Forward" on your donations.



**PAVE IT**

**FORWARD!**

*OUR PARKING LOT IS A DECADE PAST DUE FOR A SEALING COAT AND LINE REPAINTING. HELP US PROTECT THE PAVEMENT FOR YEARS TO COME.*

**FUNDRAISING GOAL**

**\$48,000**



Editor's note: Pattie first presented this as a Sabbath School program on February 14. She kindly consented to have it reprinted in Village Voice. Some elements of the oral presentation have been retained.

## Marry Someone You Can Suffer With

by Pattie Reasor

Many of my peers' children are now in their early twenties. There is an old saying: "In the spring, a young man's fancy turns to love." Last March, one of my goddaughters was married, and this summer her sister will be getting married. Another close friend's son is getting married in September.



Many of you hearing this are already married—some of you for much longer than I have been. So you may be wondering why I'm talking about marriage to a group of people who are already married. My answer is simple: evangelism.

Marriage is vital for evangelism because a healthy, Christ-centered marriage serves as a picture of the Gospel's transforming love. It reflects God's relationship with His people. It attracts those seeking hope and answers. It models selfless love and forgiveness, and it helps build strong families that strengthen both the church and the community. Marriage becomes a living parable of Christ's union with the Church, making spiritual truths tangible.



In today's society, people are drawn to those who have strong marriages. Matthew 5:16 says, "Let your light shine before others."

Each week, countless couples walk into our churches. Many of them appear to have everything together, but behind the smiles, a different reality may lie. Many marriages are hurting. Satan has opened his book of tricks and is doing his best to destroy marriage.

It is our responsibility, as followers of Christ and ministers of the gospel, to lift the value of Christ-centered marriage. We must

teach our members, young and old, how to build marriages the way God intends. If people don't get answers about marriage at church, they will get them from society—and what society teaches about marriage today is often frightening and not aligned with God's Word.



So here is my advice to people of any age who are contemplating marriage:

### **1. Marry someone you can suffer with.**

It is easy to be in love during the early days—snuggled on the sofa under a blanket, binge-watching your favorite TV show. But what happens when there is a job loss, a miscarriage, or a serious illness? Ecclesiastes 4:9-19 summarized says, “Two are better than one... If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.”

A 2022 report noted that after job loss, divorce rates increased dramatically. What matters most is how both partners respond when turmoil hits—because turmoil will come.



### **2. Be equally yoked.**

2 Corinthians 6:14 tells us this. Both partners should challenge and encourage each other to grow in Christ. Years ago I ran into a high school friend who looked happy. She was married, had two children, and both she and her husband were successful in their careers. But when we talked about church, she shared that she had married a non-Adventist. She attended church and took the children, but her husband never went.



As she spoke, her eyes filled with tears. On the outside, everything looked wonderful—but inside, being unequally yoked was causing real pain and stress. Make Christ the center of your marriage by praying together, reading the Bible together, and attending church together.

### **3. Marriage is not 50–50. It is 100–100.**

There will be days when you only have 20% to give. On those days, your spouse may need to carry the load. If both partners live with a 50–50 mindset, it leads to scorekeeping, resentment, and stress. But when both give 100%, you function as one unit.

Ephesians 4:2 tells us to be completely humble and gentle, bearing with one another in love.

And if you would allow me, I'd like to give some reminders to those who are already married.

#### **4. Speak well of your spouse in public.**

When I was in college, I taught an aquasize class at the pool. Afterward, a group of ladies would gather in the sauna. Two women often steered the conversation toward complaining about their husbands. One day, after they left, another woman said how much she loved her husband and how sad it made her to hear others tear theirs down.



When we gossip about our spouses, it often says more about our own character than about theirs. This is not the same as seeking help from a pastor, counselor, or mental health professional when you need support. That is healthy and wise. But public criticism damages both your spouse and your witnessing.

Ephesians 4:29 says, “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths...” Those who have been married 50 years or more have lived through many seasons. They are often some of the best people to learn from. Their faithfulness is a testimony. When you are tempted to criticize your spouse, try praying for them instead.

#### **5. Practice forgiveness and grace.**

Be quick to forgive. Let go of hurt. Holding onto God's grace allows you to fall forward in love rather than pulling back in anger. No one is a perfect spouse. At some point, both of you will stumble. Marriage requires God's mercy, patience, and grace every single day.

About 15 years ago, we had a brand new house. I had planted an apple tree just next to a basement window. I started a hose to give it a deep watering. My kids were young, and I got distracted helping them. I left that hose running all night. The water poured into the window well. By morning it was half way up the window and working it's way into the house. Fortunately the basement

wasn't finished. Steve went downstairs in the morning and found water pouring into the wall and the insulation. He was able to cut the plastic open, pull out the insulation and dry it thoroughly over the next couple of days.



There were no words of retribution. No angry comments. Gentlemen, if you want your wife to adore you, handle the mistakes with kindness.

Women, if your husband stumbles and falls, it is not our privilege to repeatedly bring it up. As women, we have great memories, but forgiveness means setting the irritations and hurt aside.

Support each other's individual growth while still working toward shared goals. Marriage is not sustained by perfection—it is sustained by grace.

The truth is, no relationship comes with a lifetime guarantee. Even those raised in stable, Christian homes can face serious challenges. As Christians, we know that applying biblical principles gives us a stronger foundation. When struggles or even divorce happen, the most important thing is to continue walking closely with the Lord. We are told in John 16:33 that “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

When you have trouble, Gary Thomas, in his book *Sacred Marriage*, suggests we may be asking the wrong question. Instead of asking, “Why is this so hard?” perhaps we should ask, “How is God using this relationship to draw me closer to Him?” Marriage is not only about you and your spouse—it is also about you and God.

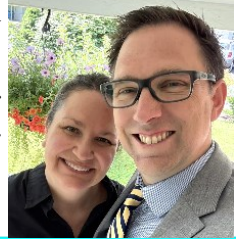
God calls us to carry one another's burdens. If you are blessed to have a spouse, they can help carry those burdens. But if life's circumstances have left you without a partner, the church is called to come alongside you. We were never meant to walk alone. Paul, in 1 Corinthians 7,



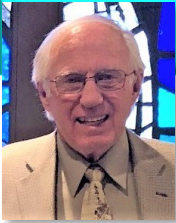
expresses the wish that all could live like him, to God's glory. He advocated for singleness as a gift for undivided devotion. He saw his singleness as a divine present, allowing for freedom from worldly anxieties.

So, as you use your singleness or your marriage to be a witness for God, remember this: your life is a testimony of His love, His faithfulness, and His grace.

**Pattie & Steve R.**



### From the Library—by Marcel Grondahl



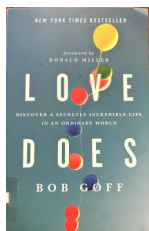
James Nix is the author of our first book this month. He served the church as a historian and curator of archives for the North American Division.

The title is “MEMORABLE DATES From Our Adventist Past.” For example, you know the date 1844 as the Great Disappointment but do you know when the light on the correct understanding of the Sanctuary was actually published by O. R. L. Crosier? Or do you know who and when first advocated the Sabbath in print? What year did Ellen White receive her first vision on the Great Controversy? Did you know that long-time Review Editor Uriah Smith was also the first Adventist to use illustrations in our papers? This book is a fascinating read for those interested in our Adventist Heritage.



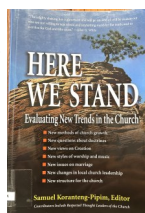
In 1959 my wife, Bonnie, was dreaming of becoming a nurse as were many other young Adventist girls. That year Pearle Peden wrote a book titled “Whispering Halls.” The book convinced many young ladies to prepare to train for the honorable profession of nursing. Included in the saga is the story of how Joy felt she had lost the essence of her name when she finally decided she could not continue her relationship with her Lutheran boyfriend. ‘This too shall pass’ and it did, and joy returned to Joy’s life. An entertaining read.





“Love Does” by Bob Goff. This book became a New York Times Bestseller. Here is why. As a college student, he spent 16 days in the Pacific Ocean with five guys and a crate of canned meat. As a father, he took his kids on a world tour to eat ice cream with heads of state. He made friends in Uganda, and they liked him so much he became the Ugandan consul. He pursued his wife for three years before she agreed to date him. His grades were not good enough to get into law school, so he sat on a bench outside the dean’s office for 7 days until they finally let him enroll. The title is the explanation of the rationale for his story. Read and be inspired.

Time for some serious end-time theology in our fourth book, “Here We Stand” compiled by Samuel Koranteng-Pipim and published in 2005 by Adventists Affirm. This book is a deep dive into what we as Adventists believe and actually practice. It addresses the changes our church has undergone in our views of creation, marriage, worship styles, even our basic doctrines. Not an easy read here but a necessary one. If you are willing to spend some hours reading the contributions of respected thought leaders in the Adventist church as to the direction our church is heading, it will be time well spent.



## Class of 2026

Village Church graduates, kindergarten through university, your church family would like to acknowledge your milestone and congratulate you!

Names received by noon on May 14 will be listed in the June Village Voice. Later submissions will be listed in the July issue. Contact the church office at 509 525 0882 to share the graduate's name, graduation level, and school.

Thank you!

## Always Remember . . .

by Larry Sharon



There's nothing like going home. To be back in the countryside where you grew up and spent many a happy day. To know that it's a mile from Grandpa's house to Uncle Don's house. I knew every inch of Grandpa's farm; where to catch tadpoles in Carter Creek and the tree where Grandpa's horses like to stand; where the hens laid their eggs and where the best persimmon tree was. There's an old Hickory Tree that we cousins used to sit under and talk of all the important things in our lives. When I go there, for our family reunion, all these thoughts and many more come rushing into my mind.



My aunts cooked wonderful food for everyone and my cousin Mike always made a rhubarb pie. We cousins would get together and someone would say, "Do you remember when Jimmy jumped out of the haymow window onto the bull's back?" From that day forward, Jimmy became a legend in our family. Someone else would remember how you couldn't walk past Grandma without getting a pat or hug and did we remember how Grandpa walked with his hands behind his back humming a song?

At Oakridge Methodist Church, no one sits in the pew where Grandma and Grandpa sat. There is a stained glass window with their names on it to remember them by and to honor them. One time, on one of our visits there, I sat down in a pew only to be told by my sweet Aunt Lois that I was sitting in her place.

We remember those we love and all the things that make up the world that we were and are a part of. My Uncle Don sometimes ends his email to me by saying, "always remember that I love you." How could I forget? Love forges bonds that cannot be broken by separation, miles, or time.

The first time Uncle Don wrote those words, "Always remember I love you," reminded me of Jesus who, at the last supper said, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; this do, as often as ye drink it in remembrance of Me. . ." Remember how

much I love you. Remember what I did for you. He didn't want to be forgotten. Jesus loved those around Him; friends that had become His family, friends that became believers in Him.

Always remember that I love you.



## Family Matters—by Bev Donahey

### The Polite Family

Teaching manners is not a hard class to teach. In fact, you hardly need to talk about it. You mainly just do it! You use good manners in your everyday life. You say to a 2 year old, “Hi Lovey, How are you this afternoon?” If they don’t know how to answer, you say, “Are you fine? Do you feel good? Are you thirsty?” Sometimes they’ll ask you how you are. You answer, “I’m fine, thank you for asking!” They’ll hear adults talking to each other. Sometime they’ll hear someone say, “I’m tired.” Or “My head aches.” Then they learn to be empathetic and say, “I’m sorry. Can I help you?” Or maybe they’ll say, “If you want to lie down, I’ll be quiet.”



Good manners are a sign of respectfulness. When you respect people, you want to be kind to them. If children hear you criticize people, they won’t feel like being polite to those people. Good manners include looking for the good in others, caring how others feel, and speaking kindly about people (not just to people). As Paul wrote in Colossians, “Let your speech always be with grace.” This works for all ages, 2, 10, 15, 95...

If you grew up around people who were often angry and rude, it may be a challenge to relate to others politely. Pray about it often (the Holy Spirit waits by to help us form new behaviors), and it may help to find a friend who will be a support person for you as you develop the new habit. And remember how nice it feels when someone is kind to you.



Bev Donahey has degrees in psychology and Applied Behavioral Science and shares tips she picks up from her experiences, friends and research.

## The Village Pantry—hosted by Pattie Reasor

With the days getting longer and warmer, it is wonderful to have a salad for a meal. This Thai inspired salad is a complete meal with its assorted rainbow of veggies and lots of protein and fiber. It is topped with a flavorful peanut sauce and tempeh.



### Thai Tempeh Salad

#### Salad:

- 6 ounces of vermicelli noodles
- 2 medium size carrots, julienned
- 2 stalks of green onions
- 1/4 cup chopped cilantro
- 2-3 Tbsp. of chopped mint
- 1 cup spinach
- 1 medium red bell pepper
- 1/4 English cucumber, sliced



#### Dressing:

- 1/3 cup peanut butter
- 3 Tbsp. tamari (may substitute soy sauce)
- 3 Tbsp. maple syrup
- 1 tsp chili garlic sauce or 1 small chili pepper (adjust to taste)
- 1 lime, juiced
- 1/4 cup of water to thin the sauce

#### Other ingredients:

- 1 pkg. of tempeh, crumbled into bite size pieces
- 1/4 cup of peanuts



### Instructions:

Cook the noodles according to the package and then rinse and set aside to cool. In a large serving bowl, combine the cooled noodles, carrots, green onions, cilantro, mint, spinach, and bell pepper.

Make the dressing by adding all of the dressing ingredients into a blender and blending. Add water to thin the dressing to your liking.

In a non-stick pan, brown the tempeh and then add the dressing. If I have time, I like to marinate the tempeh in the sauce for at least 30 minutes prior to browning it.

Pour the sauce and tempeh on top of the salad just before serving, and sprinkle with a few peanuts. If making this salad ahead of time, wait to add the dressing until you are ready to eat it.



### Nutrition Notes



Tempeh is the less-known cousin of tofu. While it isn't eaten as often, this fermented soybean product provides a lot of nutrients and is considered a super food (according to Science Direct <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666833524000364>).

High in protein: Tempeh is a complete protein source, providing all essential amino acids.

Rich in fiber: It supports digestive health and helps maintain a healthy weight.

Contains probiotics: Fermentation enhances gut health by introducing beneficial bacteria.

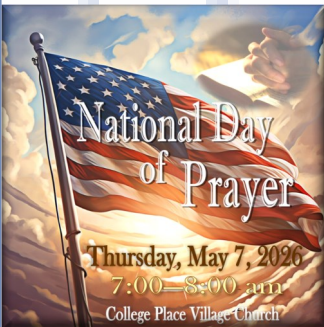
Packed with vitamins and minerals: Tempeh is a good source of B vitamins, iron, and calcium.

HAPPY  
*Mother's Day*

"Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her." Proverbs 31:23 NIV



"IF MY PEOPLE  
WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME  
WILL HUMBLE THEMSELVES,  
AND PRAY AND SEEK MY FACE,  
AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS,  
THEN I WILL HEAR FROM HEAVEN,  
AND WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN  
AND HEAL THEIR LAND."  
—2 CHRONICLES 7:14



You are warmly invited to Village Church, Thursday, May 7, 7-8 a.m., for a time of corporate prayer for our nation's pastors, teachers, care providers, emergency service providers, government leaders, and more.

Dear Village Voice readers,

I faced a tough decision between two equally poor options and prayed that the Lord would show me a third. Nothing.

That night, as I fell into a troubled sleep, the words of Jeremiah 18:6 came to my mind: “Can I not do with you as this potter?” says the LORD. ‘Look, as the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are you in My hand.’”

The gray, slimy lump of clay in my imagination held an indescribably unpleasant expression that shockingly and accurately reflected my inner attitude.

I remembered having previously prayed to learn to trust God as expressed in Job 13:15, “Though He *slay* me, yet will I trust in Him.” The call to surrender. The call to trust. The call to let go and let God.

It was enough. He *can* be trusted. The third option, I now realized, was to climb willingly onto the Potter’s wheel and let Him form and shape me into a vessel that honors her Creator.

**Karen Ekkens**



Daily in many ways He invites us all to this difficult and glorious place.

Will you go?

God bless you!

*Karen Ekkens, editor*

## *Village Voice*

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