

The Newsletter

Saugatuck United Methodist Church

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Ronald Reagan often told this story. A newspaper reporter for the Los Angeles Times received instructions from his senior editor to get photographs of a brush fire in the foothills of northern California.

The instructions included hurrying to the Santa Monica Airport to board a small plane, taking some photos of the fire, hurrying back by noon with the story. Reporters are always in a hurry to meet their deadlines.

The reporter dressed quickly, rushed to the airport, saw the small plane waiting on the runway, drove his car to the end of the runway, parked and climbed on board.

Off they flew into the clear blue skies. At about 5,000 feet, the reporter took out his camera and said to the man flying the plane, "Bank right and I'll take some pictures of this fire." Then he heard the most frightening question of his life, "Bank right? Why don't you bank right? You're the instructor, aren't you?"

Have you ever felt that way? Someone has said, "Why not resign as General Manager of the universe and let God have control?" The Psalmist prayed, "Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground." (Psalm 143:10)

I remember the advice I got from a good friend many years ago. It was early in my ministry and I was being promoted to a church that was much bigger than any church I had served to that point. I was concerned about all the new responsibilities of leadership that would soon be mine. My friend said, "I would not worry too much. Most churches are well organized with good leaders and you will fit in. With God's help you should not have any problems." You know he was right.

For many years my Dad had this novelty license plate on his car. It said, "God is my Co-Pilot." One day I asked my Dad, "Wouldn't it be better if God was your pilot?" I laugh. That's the real problem. That's sometimes my problem. I forget and think I am the pilot. I have had to learn sometimes the hard way, to seek God's wisdom, do my best and then leave it in God's hands. I do not know how many times when I was fretting about something Mary has said to me, "God is still in control."

Those are simple words with profound wisdom. We all have times when we need to remember and leave it in God's hands.

With appreciation,

Pastor Emmett & Mary