

Learning to be content

About 2,000 years ago, Paul the Apostle had some sensible words about how to cope with life no matter what comes.

"For I have learned in whatever state I am therewith to be content."

Those words are as relevant today in our modern world as it was then.

What Paul was saying is that it's not the quantity of things around you that determines the level of satisfaction you enjoy. It is not even the quality of the things around you that determine the level of satisfaction you experience.

Paul says it is not about things, whether few or many, but it is about you the person. He says I have learned in whatever state I am therewith to be content.

This statement tells me that contentment is something we learn. At the least, to be content in various situations can be learned. It doesn't just come natural. We are not born with an automatic response to be content in whatever situation we are in. It is something we learn.

The flesh likes to be pam-

pered. It likes comfort. Whether it is getting adjusted to a training routine as a professional athlete or as a rising Olympic star, or doing without some of the things we normally enjoy or we even need, it all takes getting accustomed to some degree.

It was this getting accustomed to that irked Israel in the wilderness and caused them to complain about the manna God gave them. They were accustomed to the leeks and garlic of Egypt and found the taste of manna unsavory. So it is with us today.

We find a lot of things unsavory, distasteful, unappetizing and even uncomfortable. We too grumble and complain. We do not like hardships or inconvenience or discomfort. We find it difficult to deal with and we take it personal as if God or life is short changing us.

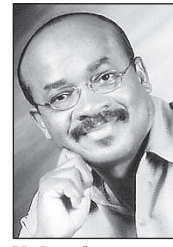
Instead of learning like Paul to be content we develop the habit of complaining or an attitude of restless dissatisfaction because we are not getting what we want. But satisfaction despite not having the things you desire around you is a learned thing. We who have grown up in the West have an attitude of entitlement and doing without is difficult for us.

Contentment and satisfaction go with having things for us. But the thing is, the more stuff we get the more stuff we need to be satisfied.

Someone once likened the desire for stuff and money to drinking sea water. They said the more you drink the thirstier you get.

It would be worth the effort for us to try and live as Paul lived. Here are two benefits. First we would not be held hostage to material possessions. In other words we would not be dependent on things to keep us satisfied or contented. We would learn that it's not what is around us that determine our level of satisfaction but the person we are on the inside.

Wise Words



Valentine Williams

Legislative Happenings

BY REP. DAVID UMPHLETT
Special to The Independent

The South Carolina House has passed an election reform measure. It will make it more difficult on candidates who avoid an election law that requires the reporting of campaign contributions. There is a 20-day period that the public may not be aware of but politicians know it well, as the time between the filing of the last required election report a few weeks before an election and the election itself.

Contributions made during that period won't show up until the report filed after the election.

The Senate continued its debate over the reform of the Employment Security Commission while the House of Representatives quickly passed a bill to reform the commission. The House bill would move the commission under the governor's control, eliminating the oversight role of the commissioners and give the governor authority to fire the agency's director at will as the renamed Department of Workforce becomes part of his cabinet. A panel of three Senators, three House members and three of the governor's appointees will regularly review the new cabinet agency's operations. That group will nominate an executive director that the governor can choose whether or not to keep.

Both the House and Senate have advanced bills limiting how drivers use their cell phones behind the wheel. The House measure would ban both text messaging and talking on a hand-held phone, while the Senate version would bar only texting and e-mailing.

A bill that passed out of my Agriculture Wildlife Subcommittee outlines that in the inshore waters and territorial sea from June 1 through Sept. 30, it is unlawful to possess any striped bass (rockfish).

Any striped bass taken must be returned immediately to the waters from where it came. The bill outlines that from Oct. 1 through May 31 in the inshore waters and the territorial sea it is unlawful to take or possess more than three striped bass per day; take any striped bass less than 26 inches in length or land any striped bass without the head and tail fin intact.

Please feel free to contact me at my home address, 1145 Highway 402, Moncks Corner, SC 29455, (843) 899-1744, or at my legislative office in Columbia, PO Box 11867, Columbia, SC 29211, (803) 734-2946, or at david.umpnett@scstatehouse.gov.



Obituaries

Keith J. Harris

Keith James "Bobby" Harris, 75, of St. Stephen, a retired professional truck driver for Albany International, died Monday, Feb. 8, 2010. He was 75.

Surviving are his wife, Rose Thomas Harris; a daughter, Margie H. Marion and her husband, Bobby, of Charleston; two sons, J. Wayne Harris and his wife, Kim, of Charleston, and

Randy R. Harris and his wife, Pam, of Summerville; two sisters, Bulah Bonnette and Barbara Schipmann, both of St. Stephen; a brother, Radford Harris of St. Stephen; five grandchildren, Michael W. Harris, Caroline Marion, Crystal Ledbetter, Jason Franciscus and Josh Campbell; and four great-grandchildren.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.dial-murrayfuneral-home.com.

Margie O'Berry of Tybee Beach, GA, and Mary Lou Chandler of Texas; a brother, John L. Summerlin of Jacksonville, FL; 10 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.dial-murrayfuneral-home.com.

Jimmy C. Stone

Jimmy Cornelius Stone of Moncks Corner, a retired employee of the Moncks Corner Piggly Wiggly Grocery Store, died Saturday, Feb. 13, 2010. He was 72.

Surviving are a sister, Susan White of Dublin, GA; two brothers, Douglas "Joe" Stone and his wife, Laverne, of Moncks Corner, and Samuel Stone of Rock Hill; and many nieces and nephews.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.dial-murrayfuneral-home.com.

Carl Wilkerson Sr.

Carl Robert "Sonny" Wilkerson Sr. of Moncks Corner, a retired supervisor for Santee Cooper, died Sunday, Feb. 14, 2010. He was 80.

Surviving are his wife, Sara Louise Flowers Wilkerson; three sons, Carl R. "Bobby" Wilkerson Jr., and his wife, Susan, of Greenville, and Michael G. Wilkerson Sr., and his wife, Linda, and Barry L. Wilkerson and his wife, Laurie, all of Moncks Corner; a sister, Patricia "Patty" Drake of North Charleston; a brother, Johnny A. Wilkerson of Moncks Corner; eight grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews that loved him dearly; and his loving dog, Sampson.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.dial-murrayfuneral-home.com.

Dorothy Ann Smith

Dorothy Ann Summerlin Smith of Goose Creek, a retired beautician, died Thursday, Feb. 4, 2010. She was 81.

Surviving are a daughter, Kimberly S. Morse of Goose Creek; three sons, Robert S. Lingo of Denver, CO, and Brian K. Smith and Mark H. Smith, both of Goose Creek; three sisters, Patricia Summerlin of Savannah, GA,

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Thank you

A sincere heartfelt thank you for all your support, prayers, cards, flowers, donations, visits and all acts of kindness shown us during our recent bereavement. Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered. May God bless each of you.

*The Family of Orvie (Mac) Mahoney
Barbara Mahoney, Charlie Cannington and Family*

*In Loving Memory of
Isaac C. Driggers, Sr.
Who Departed This Life 12 Years Ago
February 18, 1998 - 2010*

If we could have a life time wish a dream that could come true we'd pray to God with all our hearts for yesterday and you a thousand words can't bring you back we know because we tried, neither will a thousand tears, we know because we've cried you left behind our broken hearts and happy memories too, but we never wanted memories we only wanted you

"Gone But Not Forgotten"
WE LOVE AND MISS YOU
Wife Edith Driggers
Daughter Clara Clark
Granddaughters
Annette D. Smith and
Rhonda E. Clark

**In Loving Memory of
Mrs. Inetha Rembert Paulin**

Sunrise Sunset
Sept. 9, 1909 Feb. 24, 2009

Too well loved to ever be forgotten.

Your loving children

KRIS MARION

The parents and family of the late Kristin (Kris) Romero Marion acknowledges with grateful appreciation all expressions of loving concern shown to us during the passing of our beloved. In return, we say "Thank You". May God's blessing be upon each of you.

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GOP breakfast to hear from Sheriff, Coroner candidates

The Berkeley Republican Breakfast has invited Berkeley County Sheriff and Berkeley County Coroner to speak at its March 6 breakfast.

Sheriff Wayne DeWitt and candidates for coroner Johnny Hill, Bill Salisbury and Sharon Shuler have all confirmed their attendance. Each candidate will be given five minutes to speak and questions will be

taken from the floor. The Berkeley Republican Breakfast is held the first Saturday of each month at American Legion Post 166, 116 Howe Hall Road in Goose Creek. Breakfast (\$5) is served at 9 a.m. The public is always invited and no membership is required.

For more information contact Charles Schuster at 509-6027 or Nancy Corbin at 688-4975.

Bonneau resident inducted into computer science honor society

Ryan Douglas Cooke of Bonneau, a junior majoring in computer science at Clemson University, has been inducted into Upsilon Pi Epsilon, the national computer science honor society.

Upsilon Pi Epsilon recognizes outstanding scholastic and professional achievements in the computing and

information disciplines. The Clemson chapter inducts students twice a year, and membership is by invitation only. Inductees must rank in the upper 35 percent of their classes and must have a 3.0 grade-point average in computer science courses and at least a B average overall. Upsilon Pi Epsilon is recognized worldwide as an indication of excellence in computing. Upsilon Pi Epsilon tries to encourage a sense of unity and camaraderie in the school of computing through different activities.

Members may volunteer to assist with weekly tutoring sessions for undergraduate students in freshman- and sophomore-level computer science classes.

You are invited to attend
COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES
12:30 - 1:00 PM
Each Wednesday
February 24 to March 31,
Lunch will be served at
Noon and 1:00 PM
Lunch \$3.00

Moncks Corner United Methodist Church
200 North Live Oak Drive
Moncks Corner, SC

For additional information call: 843-761-8547
monckscornerumc.org

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