

TEDDY TALK WITH MARTIN UMC FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Look forward not backward

But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14 NLV

Laundromats were something I held a grudge against while growing up in Kingsmill. Laundry days meant that the Junior High aged me was responsible for loading and unloading the car, the washing machine, and the dryer. Fortunately, folding was not a skill that earned high marks from my mom, Bertie Faye. Boredom set in quickly at the folding tables and there was little concern about the towels having only three folds at precise points to make them stack perfectly. Bertie repeated instructions with a reminder that one day I would be married, and helping with laundry would be a benefit to my bride. I thought... “No Way!” Bertie and Sandy won.

Fully engaging in laundry duties at our home is something I cherish. Here’s the way it works. I have fifteen movies on DVD that are my all-time favorites. Sandy enjoyed them when we saw them in a movie theater, but she has little interest in watching them again...and again...and again.... I, on the other hand, could watch the entire movie collection fifteen days and start over. Folding clothes after washing and drying is when movies I consider uplifting and positive hold my attention. Yes, we still have a TV with a built in DVD player in our bedroom, and yes, fifteen minutes each viewing takes over one year to completely watch every scene in all the movies.

The bed is not folding table high, but bending a bit is worth it. I only watch until the clothes are folded, and the stop button has been pushed. This morning a favorite scene from *Secretariat* inspired me to write this Talk. A brother and sister argument over selling the “Horse of the Year” as a 2-year-old colt to pay off debt on the farm ensued. When Penny said “No” to her brother, Hollis, he pointed out that if the horse didn’t win the Triple Crown, his value would drop to half his current value (\$7,000,000). Hollis said, “If that happens, we can’t go back.” Penny’s response inspires me every time I hear it, *“This is not about going back.”*

Instead of identifying what’s wrong with the past, we can say what’s right with this day and move forward with confidence. We remember that going back is not the solution, it is the race ahead that makes us whole again. So, I leave you with one more opportunity to read Penny Chenery’s words...*“This is not about going back. This is about life being ahead of you and you run at it!”*

Words in this Talk are written to say that we can be proud of ourselves and our church. We have faced and survived issues in our denomination. I believe we have succeeded because we think forward and do not dwell in the past. As Paul suggested 2000 years ago, forget the past and look forward to what lies ahead. You, the people who are Martin United Methodist Church are the forward thinkers that focused us to be the *Diverse, Mission Driven, Family, Committed to Christ* people we are.

Peace Always,
Ted