

# Bright Eyes



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[www.crumbaugh.org](http://www.crumbaugh.org)

## J.T. & E.J. Crumbaugh Memorial Spiritualist Church

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## It's All In How You Tell It

by Reverend Sharon Bianchi

Stephen Schwartz wrote, "A man's called a traitor—or a liberator; A rich man's a thief—or a philanthropist. Is one a crusader—or a ruthless invader? It 's all in which label is able to persist."

This quote by Schwartz tells us that perspective is the key when you are telling your story. Everything you do, every action you take in your entire earthly life tells your story.

When a reporter tells a story, it is usually based on the perception of that reporter. Another reporter might chose to tell the story in a totally different way.

- How is your story being presented to your readers?
- Do you see opportunity rather than challenge?
- Do you offer compassion rather than pity or judgment?
- Are you understanding rather than confrontational?
- Are you a person of acceptance rather than one of hatred?



How well we tell our stories reveal much about us. When we read a few chapters of our story are we proud of who we are or do we cringe become red-faced at some of the things we have recorded?

### Is your story worth reading?

*Life is to short to wake up in the morning with regrets.  
So love the people who treat you right and say a little prayer for  
those who don't. Believe that everything happens for a reason.  
If you get a chance, take it. If it changes your life, let it.  
Nobody said it would be easy, they just promised it would be worth it.*

## COMMITTEE NEWS

The Newsletter Committee would like to remind members that if you have an article or story you would like to see published in our monthly newsletter, please pass it along to Chairperson, Sharon Bianchi. We welcome and encourage your input. Many thanks to Madonna Courtright for her hard work in formatting our newsletter each month.



## THE SIDEBAR

### FUNNY STORY

The teacher was telling her students that it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though the whale is a very large mammal, it has a very small throat.

A little girl raised her hand and stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human, it was physically impossible.

The little girl said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah."

The irritated teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?"

The little girl replied, "Then you ask him."

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Thanks to Christopher Huffman 12-24-1998

HOW ABOUT IF INSTEAD OF GIVING YOU EVERYTHING THAT YOU THINK YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS I GIVE YOU WHAT YOU NEED?

**"It is a funny thing about life; if you refuse to accept anything but the best, you very often get it."** by Somerset Maugham

**"Once you make a decision, the universe conspires to make it happen."** by Ralph Waldo Emerson

**"Faith dares the soul to go farther than it can see."** by William Clarke



## AND NOW A WORD... from our Pastor HARD WORK PAYS OFF

Recently two of our student ministers, **Bonnie Crosier** and **Janie Stratton**, returned from the two week Pastoral Skills course at Lily Dale, New York. Pastoral Skills is an intensive two week program where those studying to become Spiritualist ministers train in various areas. From early in the morning, and often past dinner time, students are in class learning about counseling, platform work, writing and presenting sermons, weddings, funerals and more. Once the class day is done, they go back to their rooms and do assignments given to them by their instructor that will be presented the next day. This makes for a very long day. Students will visit funeral homes, hospitals and other church services, taking part in healing services as well as demonstrating their mediumship to the membership.

One of the most intriguing aspects of the two week session is role playing.

This is where the students are given a particular scenario and, acting as either the church member or the Pastor, they demonstrate how they would interact with the member, what they would do, how they might re-act to a particular circumstance. For example, as Pastor you may have a teen ager who comes to you and accuses a parent of abuse. You are being trained as a minister to know how you should handle the situation as well as having a clear understanding that you must be familiar with all aspects of the law and knowing your own limitations as a minister. Having taken Pastoral Skills, I can say that this training is invaluable and helps all students understand that being a minister or pastor of a church is not about glory, or the title, or the fun of marrying people. It is about serving others and that is exactly how it should be. Congratulations to Bonnie and Janie for completing this course. They are well on their way to becoming our newest Spiritualist ministers.

## RUMBLINGS from the President

by Butch Tull,  
Board President

A friend of mine sent this to me the other day and it got me thinking.

God's answers to your prayers in one of three ways:

- (a) YES
- (b) NOT YET
- (c) I HAVE SOMETHING BETTER IN MIND.

How often do you pray? Are your prayers being heard and answered? Of course they are.

I prayed a lot when I was younger. It didn't seem to do me much good or so I thought. It just seemed like none of my



prayers were ever answered. I think everyone has experienced this feeling.

Have you ever heard the song by Garth Brooks, "Sometimes I thank God for unanswered prayers?" Well as I have gotten older that song makes a lot of sense to me. You are in life where you are supposed to be whether its vacationing on some beach drinking Mojitos or stuck here reading this article. (Sorry a little humor.)

You may not like where you are at in life but rest assured its all part of the plan. It defines who you are. Life is good. Bikers have a saying. Its not about the destination its all about the ride. My ride has gotten a lot better since I have met all of you.

**Keep Smiling!  
It makes everyone wonder.**

God bless you all and with the heat of the summer be sure to check on your elderly neighbors and don't forget your pets. If your hot they are even hotter.

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