



# Church in the Forest

at Erdman Chapel, Stevenson School  
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Monday morning, January 14, 2013

Dear Members and Friends,

This coming Sunday, our text from the beginning of John's gospel takes us to the first miracle that Jesus performed. I'm not sure that was the best way to explain miracles, but there have been times when I've wanted to explain things that way. I could talk about miracles in general and how over the past century of enlightenment we've tried to explain miracles in a rational manner.

For example, rather than believing that Jesus actually fed 5,000 with two small barley loaves and five small fish, we explain it away by explaining that everyone gathered that day was so moved by that little boy's generosity, that they all shared everything they had brought with them. Basically, that says, Jesus blessed what the boy brought and everyone shared in a huge potluck luncheon. But who knows...? I'm not sure which would be the greater miracle, multiplying the bread and fish or getting 5000 people to share their lunch.

There's an old story about a skeptic who continually harassed the local pastor. His one delight in life seemed to be making the pastor appear inadequate intellectually. The pastor bore those challenges to his theology and faith with great restraint.

One day the skeptic was heckling the pastor about his views on miracles. "Give me one concrete example of a miracle," the skeptic taunted. "One concrete example!" This pastor hauled off and kicked the skeptic in the shin as hard as he could.

The skeptic couldn't believe it! "What did you do that for?"

The pastor asked, "Did you feel that?"

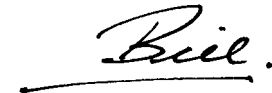
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"Yes," the man said as he nursed his sore leg.

"Well, if you hadn't," said the pastor, "it would have been a miracle!"

Let's keep our minds and hearts open to the real possibility of miracles, and you know something, we might then experience some.

See you in church,



William B. Rolland

## Calendar

**Sunday, January 20, 2013**

**8:30 AM** Bible Study with the Rev. Charles Anker. 2 Peter 3: 1-18  
The final Chapter of 2 Peter.

**9:15 AM Music Prelude**

**9:30 AM Morning Prayer**

**Passages** Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; Psalm 36:5-10; John 2:1-11

**Lector** Dennis Riley

**Crucifer** Judy Fletcher

**Flowers** Dennis & Marie Riley

**Cookies** Ruth Gleisner

**Altar Care** Martha Jordan

**Ushers** Jan & Joe Stine

**Sermon** The Rev. Dr. William B. Rolland

**Title** "Timing is Everything"

**Sunday, January 27, 2013 after the service.** Meeting of the Congregation to approve the budget.