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One of my spiritual disciplines is to spend time in scripture and prayer each morning. As I read and pray, there are times in which I experience God speaking to me and there are times in which I do not hear much of a word from God. But it is this simple practice of being in God's presence intentionally each and every day, that helps me pay attention to God's will and leading. This morning I was reading from Numbers 20-22.



This morning's reading ended with the strange story of God, Balaam, and Balaam's donkey. Balaam is faithful in listening for God's direction as he is being asked to help the King of Moab. Even though he hears from God that it is okay to meet the king with very specific instructions, his donkey veers from the path three times. He is frustrated with the donkey each time! But then realizes that God is continuing to speak through the donkey.

He almost got out in front of God, but by paying attention to God through God's activity in his own life, he enters his mission with clarity. I hope that your Lenten practices are helping you to pay attention to God's specific call on your lives and ministries. I continue to realize my need for each of you. As I travel to be with church leaders in places like Greenville, South Carolina and Salisbury, North Carolina, I see God at work in your commitment to follow Jesus into the fullest

life possible. Thanks for sharing the Lenten journey with me. I pray that the things you find in this letter will help you more clearly hear God's call upon your lives.

Grace,
Ray Jones



Old Bergen Church making most of [New Beginnings](#). Neighborhood prayer walks help historic congregation [experience new life](#).



Early-bird registration ends soon, March 15 for Go Disciple Live 'Be The Light' Conference, Aug. 8-11 in St. Pete Beach. Learn more about our incredible lineup of featured speakers by clicking on plenary speakers tab at pcusa.org/bethelight.



At the Go Disciple Live 'Be the Light' Conference Aug. 8-11, Ralph Watkins will help church leaders fully grasp how digital/social media has [revolutionized our social order](#). "I shop when I want to now, I watch shows when I want to, yet the church still says meet me at 11 am on Sunday."



Registration for 2016 Presbyterian Youth Triennium is now open. So far Church and Presbytery Delegations have registered more than 600 participants for the 2016 Presbyterian Youth Triennium. You must be registered with a delegation to



Young Adults to meet for theological reflection and action on climate change: In Seattle for the Eco-Stewards 2016 Program June 13-18. At the current nexus of energy debates and hopes for a sustainable tomorrow, 20 to 30 year old's

attend this event. If you're not sure how, talk to someone in your church/presbytery. The 2016 PYT, July 19-23 has a registration cap of 6,000. Find registration instruction, and more at presbyterianyouthtriennium.org.

will consider how local faith based communities are responding to challenges of energy in creative and inspiring ways. [MORE.](#)



Reclaiming holistic Lenten practices: embracing season's observance Arkansas PC(USA) congregation [experiences transformative opportunities.](#)

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