

# The Pastor's Report

Well, if you haven't heard, old Rev. Mike had to take a "Mental Health Day" this past Sunday (of a sort). I had written a sermon entitled "The Fruits of Our Faith" which was mailed out to everyone and posted on the website per usual. However, when I arrived at church that Sunday morning, I was in no kind of mood to deliver it. Instead I went "off the cuff" (though, believe me when I tell you, I have been thinking hard for many months about these things).

Long story short, I shared with those in attendance and on the live-stream that of late I've been getting "up-tight" and am not having the kind of fun in my role that I would like. To quickly "land the plane" here, everything is fine and there were/are no big surprises or bad news. Really, what it comes down to is the increasing onus I feel to get our church to a certain "place" ahead of the inevitable transition in ministers. I'll be 60 in November, and have been here doing this here for 25 years now (30 overall) so "the math" is fairly easily done.

It is a "good news/bad news" kind of thing. First, the good news: we *have* time. The bad news? What I think needs to happen is going to *take* time. Herein lies the tale. At some future point there *will* be a different minister here on the Park. I would very much like to see the new/next minister assume the responsibility of a vital, growing and healthy congregation (which we already have and enjoy, and I only see these things increasing) *along with* buildings and grounds in the best possible condition befitting such a congregation.

In the short term (within the year) this means getting the Selleck Room

completed and the nursery painted and refurbished. We have an AWESOME group of kids currently at our church (and, I would submit, more on the way) who are greatly deserving of a "cool" space(s) of their own to grow, explore and expand in body, mind, and spirit. To accomplish this, we are going to need some *serious* help from every corner of the church; but the *men* in particular. We need to get things moved, demolished, built, painted and furnished.

In the long term (3 to 5 years) the manse needs to get spruced up, inside and out, so as to attract the next new minister and her/his family such that they walk up to, and into the building and say to themselves, "YES! *This* is the place we are want to call our home." The manse has good "bones" and is a fine house, but is in need of some TLC. This means the landscaping all around the yard (work has already begun but much more to do), trimming back the pines in front, possibly repairing the back porch, washing the siding, painting the trim, as well as painting the upstairs bedrooms and back stairwell, installing new carpeting, giving serious consideration to remodeling the upstairs bathroom, completing the pantry area (and a small area in the kitchen). To name a just few items for the "To Do" list.

What I'd like to ask of all of you is this: are these ideas or expectations I have for our church reasonable and, *more to the point*, are they shared by all *you* who comprise the congregation? Or is this all in my head and heart and I need to endeavor to let some things go?

Think about it. Pray about it, Let's see where God leads us. - Rev. Mike

"For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether they have enough to complete it?" - Luke 14:28