

A Word from the Pastor

Dear Teaching Saints,

Tuesday of the first full week of May has been designated as National Teacher's Day. The first full week is National Teacher Appreciation Week. National leaders, both educational and political began discussing designating a day for teachers in 1944. It was not until 1953 that Eleanor Roosevelt convinced Congress to proclaim a national day for teachers. In 1980, Congress designated March 7th, or the first Tuesday in March as National Teacher Day. The National Education Association (NEA) recognized this day until 1985 when the National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) established the first week in May as Teacher Appreciation Week. The NEA then made Tuesday of that week National Teacher Day.

I hope that all of you will find a way to thank a teacher for all of their hard work on their special day or during the first full week of May. In truth, however we are all teachers, or at least proclaimers of the Word as commanded by Jesus. Paul does reference gifts of the spirit, of which teaching is one. Despite some being gifted with this ability, everyone is called to teach others about the love of God. Remembering that, however, does not deflate the importance of remembering those who take on the mantle of teaching, both in our secular society and within the congregation of our church.

In James 3:1 we read, "Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness." The following verses point out the importance of bridling the tongue when speaking and the damage that can be done by false teaching and improper words. This was a cautionary note for the readers of James' letter and for us today to pay heed to what we say. Each of us has the ability to speak or to transmit thoughts in some manner to others. Jesus commanded us to go and tell, teach, if you will, so that the Good News would be passed on. So, I challenge each of you to remember on National Teacher's Day that all of us are teachers to a certain degree. And, in remembering we may recognize the tremendous responsibility that comes with teaching. Teaching requires one to set an example; otherwise one's words will be regarded as nothing more than hypocrisy. Indeed, the gift of teaching is to be held up by the congregation as important to be nurtured so that the message of Christ will continue.

It is unfortunate that National Apple Day is in October; otherwise we could combine a long tradition with the recognition of teachers. Despite this, all of us can thank those who take on the tremendous responsibility of passing on knowledge, whether it is the Gospel or something needed for the continuation and betterment of our society. Just remember, in thanking teachers for their gift, we all have a trace of this gift within and therefore are prepared to do as Christ commanded

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Dennis