

Pk's Perspectives ... Randomness

Following are three statements from last Sunday's first message in our Rethinking the Church series:

- **"My spiritual condition affects the vitality of my church"**
- **"The greatest thing I can do for my church is give myself fully to Christ"**
- **"A church is strong when the individual parts of the church are strong"**

I hope you received one of the wooden blocks at the end of the service and have been using it this week as a reminder to spend some time reflecting on your personal walk with Jesus. As you reflect on your importance to the Body of Christ, ask yourself this question: "If my life was the sample someone used to estimate the vitality of my church, what conclusion would be reached?" Just to remind you - please bring your block when you come to church this Sunday morning!!

I want to highlight an accomplishment that is fairly rare in Southern Baptist circles: this month is the 30-year anniversary of Ken's ministry at First Baptist Church. 30 years of ministry in one community is amazing. Allow me to give you some perspective on the significance of Ken's anniversary: did you know the average tenure of a Southern Baptist pastor is about 3.5 years – give or take - depending on which statistical survey you digest? Sad, but true, is the reality that vocational ministry is often approached with a secular mentality and by that I mean that many ministers consider their current place of ministry a stepping stone to a bigger place of ministry. Ken chose to take the long view of ministry and has invested his life in this church and community for 30 years. Congratulations, Ken, on a significant milestone!

I want to highlight another significant milestone. Robert Jarrell retired after serving as our church Sexton for 44 years. Some of you were not even aware we had a Sexton on our payroll...much less one who served for 44 years! If you look it up, you'll find "sexton" defined as "church caretaker." Allow me to flesh it out a bit more. For 44 years, Robert has unlocked the doors of our church facilities and set all the thermostats in preparation for services and events; for 44 years Robert has returned to the church after services and events to lock all the doors and reset all the thermostats in the various wings of our church facilities. When you walked into a warm Sunday School class during the winter or cool Sunday School class during the summer, you were benefiting from Robert's ministry; when the little used side door was always unlocked when you needed access, you were benefiting from Robert's ministry. You would have to be on site early in the morning or late at night to witness Robert @ work. Thank you, Robert, for 44 years of faithful service to the community of believers at First Baptist Church.

Finally, I want to shine a spotlight on one of our own who took an incredible leap of faith and is serving the Kingdom in Uganda. Keep Sheila Buffy Buff near the top of your daily prayer list; follow through if God puts it in your heart to help her financially. Contact the church office/check out the Missions Center in the foyer if you want to know of specific needs Buffy may have. *I hope your New Year is off to a great start! Cya in Sunday School & Worship, Pk.*