

Pk's Perspectives... Season of Changes

2018 is shaping up to be a season of challenges and changes for Cochran FBC. Now don't let that introductory sentence get you discombobulated! Every year bears the potential for challenges and changes...life itself is a journey of challenges and changes. The unexpected things we encounter tend to give us the most anxiety; we usually process them better when we know of challenges and/or changes ahead of time. Socrates once said, "The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new."

So let's consider some of the challenges and changes we know are approaching in the coming months. Conversations will soon begin related to a multi-faceted recommendation from our Master Plan Ministry Team. This recommendation will address the need to upgrade some areas of our ministry infrastructure and expand other areas. The big challenges here, if the church approves the Master Plan recommendation, will be related to financing these upgrades and expansion along with investing a measure of sweat equity. Though I believe our church is more than able to meet the challenges of the Master Plan recommendation, it will be fun praying through this process to see if God affirms the Master Plan recommendation in the hearts of His people here @ FBC.

In 2017, we faced the challenge and change of replacing two people on our ministry team: Robert Jarrell retired after 42 years of serving the church as Sexton and Ramona Giles retired after serving the church for 27 years as Administrative Assistant. There are inevitable growing pains and adjustments that come when going through the addition/subtraction process of staffing. As you already know, Ken Brooks will be retiring at some point during this calendar year and bring to an end his 30 years of service in several different roles at FBC. So once again, we will be faced with the challenge of looking ahead to future ministry needs and considering the best way to configure our staff to meet those needs. Ken, however, is not the only ministerial staff member that will be leaving FBC in 2018.

Joshua Rustin, who has served our church as Student Pastor for the past three years, has given notice that he will be resigning his position effective February 4th. Joshua shared his intention to resign with the students at their regular Wednesday Bible Study event; word of his resignation may have already reached your ears. Joshua and I have been talking/praying about this decision for several months; though Joshua is not certain what "next" will look like or where "next" will be, he is confident that God's season for him at FBC is coming to an end. We've also made plans to enlist a team of current student workers to shepherd the Student Ministry until our next Student Pastor is called. I've already begun looking at resumes and have spoken by phone with two individuals to determine their interest/willingness to consider joining the ministry team here at FBC...now that the matter of Joshua's resignation has been made public, the Personnel Committee will join the process.

When we arrive at January of 2019 – and we will get there – there will be much that is new. Our ministry staff will have a different look and feel. With new ministerial staff comes new ideas for ministry... we're seeing it in our Children's Ministry even now. Who knows, we might be taking big strides to complete the challenges our Master Plan Ministry Team places before us. Challenges and changes...signs of progress, evidence of moving from where we are to where we're going next! Hang on!! Cya in Sunday School and Worship, Pk.