

President's Note for May 2018

And so May is upon us,
May the Giants not swoon.
I hate when that happens,
For the tradition is June.

Yes, May has arrived. Yes, I am a Giants fan. And yes, this short, simple bit of verse is of my own creation, blame no others. I know a number of our members, friends and even pastors are baseball fans so may the season be filled with excitement, good natured rivalry and at least a few moments of triumph if not a pennant or World Series ring. What inspired this unusual opening to my monthly newsletter article you ask? Well, I suppose both the time of year and a kind note from friends who attend with us on occasion who took interest in some of the quotes I've employed from a variety of poets and philosophers that ultimately led to inquiring if I ever wrote any poetry of my own. The answer is....not often, but a bit, and mostly for my own mental catharsis, amusement and reflection, sometimes whimsical, sometimes serious. I come from a family that enjoys reading and in the sixth grade I had a gruff, tough, ex-seaman instructor, Mr. Derby, aka "Derby Dog" to some students, I've mentioned him before ...turned out to be one of my best teachers, an outwardly tough guy who would sometimes bark at students when they got out of line, but who started every day by reading a poem to the class....generally not simple, silly grade-school stuff either....(unlike mine) He'd recite Kipling, Keats, Frost, Dickinson, Poe, Shakespeare, Yeats and such.

Alright, enough about poetry for now. What's going on at St. Paul's? The new HVAC system for Saunders Hall is almost complete and should make the hall much more comfortable this summer. Our friends from Grace Sacramento Presbyterian Church just had a cleanup day and accomplished a great deal. I know they'll appreciate the new a/c. Much of the grounds and buildings got a good pressure

washing, the bathrooms and hall a good scrubbing and the parking lot curb stops received a fresh coat of paint. Looks good. Thank you!

Mother's Day is fast approaching and I hear rumor we may have chili, cornbread and cake after our worship service that Sunday, May 13th. Sounds delicious. Hot on the heels of Mother's Day we will celebrate Pentecost on May 20th this year. We commemorate and relive the gift of the Holy Spirit which came to the first disciples on this day. I recently attended Mass at the invitation of friends where their teenage son was confirmed. It was uplifting to see a packed house with many young people and families. Bishop Emeritus Weigand presented the homily and spoke to the confirmands about praying to or sending out an SOS to the Holy Spirit. One example he gave them was saying a quick prayer before a test to ask for the ability to focus and recall what they had studied. Similarly, I have a friend who tells me he often asks the Holy Spirit to guide him and help him understand what he is about to study when he reads scripture. God is ever present and it is appropriate to give thanks, offer prayer and ask for spiritual guidance throughout the day. It is also good to read and study scripture. If you're up for some verse, read the psalms.

As always a big thank you to all of you who do so much to keep our ministry alive and active. We are working to be more outwardly visible to the community. You'll be seeing some new signs on our corner and we'll be working on having more functions that take place outdoors on our lawn or in the parking lot where our neighbors can see us and perhaps join us. I pray the summer of 2018 will be filled with blessings for each of you, our campus and our ministry.

"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come." John 16:13 NRSV

Chuck Prewett

Council President