

## *President's Note for August 2020*

*"But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day." 2Peter 3:8 NRSV*

In this odd year that has tested our patience, I'm reminded of these words of St. Peter and on similar words from St. Paul, "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude." 1Cor.13:4 NRSV On the whole we can be an impatient lot. Let's pray for the time and perspective to back off a bit, look at ourselves and the world with new eyes and do so with compassion, forbearance, love and, yes, patience. Pastor Townsend often quotes Scottish poet Bobby Burns' musing, "Oh would some power the gift give us, to see ourselves as others see us." Whether we like it or not we reside on this troubled but magnificent sphere together facing many trials and uncertainties that are weathered better united and at peace than divided and in turmoil. Our Lord is patient with us and loves us. I pray that, with His help, we will be able to at least attempt to emulate Him and show some patience and love towards one another, for that is the path that leads towards reconciliation and salvation.

So, what's new at St. Paul's? We continue with our YouTube channel and online worship as we take two steps forward and one backward, sometimes seemingly the reverse, as we travel through unusual, uncertain times. We're going to try having a little preamble message to our online worship to share a bit on what we are planning and on how fellow believers are faring. As some of our sister congregations are doing, we are working on having a Zoom, YouTube or Facebook forum of some kind where members and friends can visit, share experiences and pray together to break down some of the isolation and loneliness many are feeling in this era of COVID-19. We may even attempt to have an online variation of our traditional Oktoberfest, which could prove to be

fun. If you have ideas or suggestions please let us know. Don't forget that while you don't need to login to YouTube to watch our online worship, if you do login you'll be able to chat, make comments and ask questions. Give it a try!

We continue to give thanks for the presence of our friends and fellow believers at Grace Presbyterian. We will be coordinating with them on a few projects and measures to maintain our campus and make our ministries both more appealing and efficient in operation, stay tuned for details. Like us, Grace is trying different means to reach out to our community and serve their congregation, right now primarily on the web.

As always, continue to pray for and check in on one another. As I said earlier, many are feeling out of sort and alone right now. Thanks to all who continue to send in their offerings. While we operate lean, there are always and will continue to be ongoing expenses to maintain our campus and continue our ministry. We recently paid our rather hefty annual property and liability insurance premiums and like for most of us there are periodically unpredicted, surprise expenses, like with our termite abatement costs earlier this year. We want to be well prepared when we are able to return safely to in sanctuary worship. In this interim time we will continue to worship together as best we can by word, prayer and, of course, by desire and necessity online. May our Lord continue to watch over us we travel this Camino together. As our Lord tells His disciples on that last, fateful night together:

*"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6 NRSV*

Peace, health and blessings,

Chuck Prewett

Council President