

President's Note for October 2019

"Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe." Saint Augustine

Well, as I write this month's column we've just concluded the celebration of fifty years of mutual ministry for Pastor James Townsend and St. Paul's. And since Pastor Townsend often refers to and quotes Saint Augustine I felt it would be appropriate to open with a few words from that oft quoted teacher. While we need a bit of a nudge and some help from the Holy Spirit to nurture our faith, with persistence in prayer and worship faith ultimately will reveal God's glory and will to us if we remain patient and humble. A big thank you to all who worked hard towards making the fiftieth celebration a great success. From the clergy, their families and others who came from near and far and to those who brought and made some very delicious food, to those who decorated and put together the little golden mint favors, scrolls, table decorations and trivia and everything else, thanks indeed. Particular thanks to Dede, Gayle, Punky and others from St. Paul's and Kris, Pastor Brad and everyone else from Grace Presbyterian. We are blessed to have so many faithful servants of our Lord here at 59th and Broadway.

On Saturday October nineteenth we will be hosting our annual Oktoberfest starting at six pm. If you can help with the setup, cooking, distribution or cleanup there is a signup sheet in the Fireside Room. Check with Dede McKinnon if you have questions. For tickets, a very reasonable fifteen dollars each, see Punky Dias. There will be food, music, great raffle prizes and of course great fellowship. We're even working on the return of our celebrated lederhosen wearing tuba player Daniel Funner. Should be fun, it always is!

As I write this column we are looking forward to having Rev. Mark Vance preach on Sunday September 29th. Pastor Vance will return and be with us on

the fourth Sundays of October and November. Pastor Olsen will be with us on first Sundays, Pastor Townsend will preach on second Sundays and Pastor Emmert will lead us on third Sundays. We are blessed to have such faithful clergy leading us in worship. With fifth Sundays and occasional absences we hope to have some of our other clergy friends and mentors with us leading, preaching and guiding from time to time. As I've said so many times before we are blessed to have so many clergy with close ties to St. Paul's. Forgive my humor, but perhaps we are so lovable these men and women of the cloth are only able to enjoy being with us in small doses;).

Our world is ever changing. As Pastor Townsend noted in his most recent sermon much has changed over the last fifty years and much will change over the next fifty and beyond. Representatives of our Sierra Pacific Synod will be choosing or attempting to discern who our next bishop will be. Our nation will be having major campaigns and debates to determine who our next elected representatives will be. Let us give thanks for the freedom to choose our leaders and representatives rather than have them imposed upon us. May God grant us reason, compassion and good judgment as we move ahead with confidence that ultimately everything is in our makers hands.

Pray for our friends, family, those on our prayer list, those struggling from fires, floods, hurricanes, illness and persecution and all in need. We've lost some good friends, family and fellow believers in recent months and years, but we've made some new friends too and should be comforted and reassured that those who have left us are now with our Lord. I was pleased to hear that the loose offering proceeds from our recent fifty years of ministry celebration would be forwarded to Lutheran Disaster Response. There is great need in the Bahamas, the Caribbean and beyond. Thanks to all who give in so many ways. You are a blessing to our church, our world and our Lord. Last month I closed with words of our Lord found in Matthew 7:12 NRSV to "do to others as you would have them do to you..." This month I'll conclude with words of guidance and assurance from St. Peter that within them contain words of wisdom found in the book of Proverbs.

"And all of you must clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another, for 'God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.' "

1Peter5:5 NRSV (the inner quote echoes Proverbs 3:34)

Sincerely,

Chuck Prewett

Council President