

FROM THE PASTOR

Many years ago I read some thoughts by the Rev. Roy Minich which I thought would be good to share.

He writes: "One of our historic churches is situated on Broadway at 56th Street in New York City. It preaches a continuous message to the hurrying crowds on that great thoroughfare. Not many people realize it: you must look upward to do that. Above the triune entrance is a sculptured group representing Jesus preaching the Sermon on the Mount.

One day I noticed a rather significant fact- the thumb is missing from the right hand of Jesus. The more I thought about it, the less sure I became that the thumb should ever be replaced. Jesus could get along quite well without a thumb, at least much better than we can.

We use our thumb to tighten our hand into a fist. Peter would have missed his thumb; his instinct was to fight. Judas would have missed his thumb; his acquisitive instinct made him want to grab something. Both these men have a good many counterparts in modern society. But Jesus was neither a fighter nor a grasper; he could get along without his thumb. He came not to get, but to give.

This word used in any connection makes us think of the phrase, 'thumbing a ride.' Jesus did not 'thumb' rides, he walked. He did not expect to be ministered unto; he worked his way.

The part of his hand Jesus used most often was his index finger. He was always pointing at something. He pointed at need and said here is your obligation. He pointed at children and said here is your opportunity. He pointed upward and said here is your home. Yes, I think by and large, Jesus could have gotten along pretty well without his thumb. I am not so sure I can."

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our prayers are with all who are ill or who are recuperating from an illness. Those hospitalized recently include Carol Mina (Lawnwood) and Steve Sabecki (Port St. Lucie).

We express our sympathy to Charlie Basdekis on the death of Dorothy on April 4th. Charlie and Dorothy have been coming to Florida for the winter for many years. They will be missed.

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, April 10, we held our annual congregational meeting following the morning service. Our moderator, Dickie Brooks, led the meeting. In business, a budget was approved and the slate of the Nominating Committee was approved.

Many of the officers, boards and committees remain the same, with some exceptions.

Trustees: Don Rogers is going off and Doug MacWilliam and Paul Carboni are going on.

Property: Hank Lemoine is going off and George Starkey is going on.

Auditor: Charlie Jenkins is going off and Bob Sternal and David Holtje are going on.

Deacons: Charlotte Fritz is going on.

Missions/Stewardship: Veronica Fountain is going on.

Music: Brian Lammers is going on.

Nominating: Carolyn Rogers is going off and Grace Carboni is going on.

We welcome new members to our Boards and Committees and thank everyone who has served this past year.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP (Grace Carboni)

On Saturday, April 2, we held our annual Spring rummage sale. Between the household goods/toys/tools/ misc. stuff/clothing, etc., the total was over \$1,100 with some extra \$\$\$ coming in after a late sale. The kitchen take was a little over \$200. At this time we would like to thank all of you who volunteered time, energy, items for sale and food donations. We could not achieve the level of success without such a large group of good-hearted church members.

On Tuesday, April 12, we held our annual end-of-the season luncheon at the Red Lobster in Ft. Pierce. About 20 women attended and a delicious lunch was served along with lively fellowship among the group. This luncheon is open to all women (and men if you dare) of our church. Please consider joining us next year for a fun-filled time.

At this time, Women's Fellowship would like to honor a long-time member Alice Fowler. Alice consistently demonstrates her commitment, dedication and devotion to our church ministry each week. Besides being very active in Women's Fellowship, Alice is also a Deacon and on a weekly and monthly basis she happily performs duties and tasks around the life of the church. Some of these are assisting the Pastor with changes of altar decoration, fresh water for the Pastor and Lay Reader and tending the garden besides the duties of being a Deacon. Thank you, Alice, for all you do for us.

There is no meeting planned for May. Peace be with you all.

ONE BIG HAPPY RICK DETORIE



4

"YES, I CAN"

A "Yes, I Can" person is Elaine Souza. She can always be found in the office putting something together for the bulletin or bustling about looking for someone with "news" or details about some ongoing project. She is always involved in multiple projects. She along with helpers provide for this much needed secretarial office support.

She is always helpful, supportive, and polite. Frequently she can provide suggestions or additional ideas to accomplish a variety of tasks. Although sometimes overextended, she maintains a cheerful and pleasant attitude.

Thank you, Elaine, for all the tasks you somehow complete on time and all the support you provide to anyone who needs it.

Are you a "Yes, I Can" person?

DEACON'S MEETING (Diana Junker)

The deacons met Sunday, April 17, to discuss plans for the ensuing month and upcoming holidays. Among future events planned are a "celebration" covered dish lunch following the stewardship campaign and activities honoring Mother's Day and Father's Day. Memorial day will include a commemoration of past and present veterans and deceased loved ones, followed by a pot luck luncheon.

It was reported that the profit for the St. Patrick's Dinner going into the general fund was \$486. Profit for the bake sale was \$200 allocated to the sponsor, Women's Fellowship.

Job descriptions for deacons were distributed for review and clarification of long standing responsibilities. Future meetings will be held as necessary.

ENJOYMENT BOOKS (Peggy Goldacker)

We wish to thank all of you who purchased an Enjoyment Book. The total number of books sold was 74 and the church received a total of \$740! So, ENJOY!

5

WEBSITE (Dickie Brooks)

We have transitioned to our new website. The address is the same, www.firstcongregation.org, but the look is a bit different. We hope that current members will find it informative as well as a fun way to stay in touch. Our secondary goal is that folks searching for a place to worship and/or a new church family may see something that draws them to visit us.

It's a work in progress and we still have a number of things we want to add to it, but I think it's a good start. Take a look and let me know if you have suggestions. Just please be patient with my learning curve!

THE PRACTICE OF HOPE (UCC Publications)

"...and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." Romans 5:5

The practice of hope is a spiritual practice. It recognizes that the world is not perfect and there is much that divides us. If all was as it should be then we would have no need of hope. But the world in which we live groans for more than it has. It sighs for more justice and more compassion and more access to happiness for all people. Creation longs for its own healing and redemption. It aches for fresh air and a wholesome wind to blow through the geography of despair. All the powers that support greed and degradation and inequality are born in a cynicism that says, "nothing will change," or "There is nothing we can do to stop the inevitable."

But the faith we carry in a story of redemption born in a manger and died on a cross is a faith that says, "Nothing is impossible." Our God is a God of mercy and hope, who longs for our fullness as we long for the fullness of the Spirit. How faithful a practice it is to be hopeful, to reject doom-saying and say we will live in hope! The church is the sign of that hope and we are the seal of its promise, the bearers of possibility.

Be generous to that promise by giving everything to this present moment.

6

MAY

BIRTHDAYS

- 7th Glenn Hower
- 9th Gail Cook
- 10th Katharine Gordon
- 11th Rev. Dr. Clyde Embling
- 11th David Holtje
- 16th Lauren Miller
- 21st Barbara Tuzes
- 25th Bob Tryon

ANNIVERSARIES

- 7th Dick & Carol Sinotte
- 29th Clyde & Audrey Embling

MARSHALL'S OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday – Friday 1:00 to 4:00 772-465-2082

You may feel free to contact him at any time at
772-340-0472

Please call before stopping by the church in case
he is out calling on people.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DEADLINE **THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH**

You may email newsletter articles to Dickie Brooks at
jadybrooks1@gmail.com. You may also drop them off in the
newsletter mailbox at the church, or call
Elaine Souza (772-462-2272) or Dickie (772-971-1370).

Thank you!

7