

Another Word January 19, 2021

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

It was just about a year ago that we first began hearing of the virus. Since then, well let's just say, it has been an interesting learning experience. One of the things we missed was our being together during Lent and Easter. This year, we are proposing to re-open for live services starting February 17th, which happens to be Ash Wednesday. All safety protocols will be in force for your wellbeing. We will continue to monitor current conditions and keep you informed with any changes. Our wish is to be able to worship together once again. Services will continue to be recorded and placed on YouTube and our Website.

We have received many thank you notes and calls from those who received a Christmas goodie bag from the church.

Thinking of you cards were sent to Kingston yesterday. If you begin to bring Valentine's Day cards, please mark them with a small heart so they won't be given too early or missed and given after the 14th. Thanks

Our scriptures for the 24th are: Psalm 62: 5-12, and Mark 1: 14-20

May we pray. Dear Holy God. As we settle in to this New Year, may we first express our love and gratitude to You. Sometimes we forget to simply say thank you for all You do for us. You provide for all our needs as well as guiding us in ways to live fruitful lives. We ask for blessings to be showered on all those working to provide safety and protection for us. They are indeed selfless and have You in their hearts. Guide us through Your word and inspiration so we may help bring peace and

comfort to a world that desperately needs Your love. We pray this in Christ's most Holy Name, Amen

Anybody out there remember the July 4th flood of 1969? I missed it because I was on my way back from Alabama at the time. (But that's a story for another day.) When I got back late that night, there was water and debris everywhere. The destruction was awful, especially along the town creek. Garages, sheds, and even some houses were destroyed. But the sturdier buildings, the ones built on firm deep foundations, were still standing. OK Rich, why bring up the flood?

In my spare time I have been working in our basement. Our house is close to 100 years old, and when it rains, we often get water leaks. (I know, not a flood, but bear with me.) I inspected the foundation and found it to be sound. However, it still needed some attention. So I began to scrape old loose paint, re-point bricks, seal, and then re-paint the walls. It was then that it occurred to me that what I was doing was exactly what Jesus was saying to the crowds in Luke 6:46-49.

He first said, "Why do you call me lord, but don't do what I say?" (vs 46) Then He said, "I will show you what it is like to hear my words and put them into practice." (vs 47) "He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on solid rock. When the flood came, it struck the house, but could not shake it, because it was well built." (vs 48) "But the one who hears my word but does not put them into practice, is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the flood struck the house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete." (vs 49)

In our lives, there will be floods; times of stress, worry, and loss. Sometimes we know it is coming, but often we don't. Jesus stresses the need for a strong sure foundation; one built not just on hearing His word, but also by living out His word. (Doing as He says) When the floods come, and they will, we will be able to withstand the storm because we have been "well built." If not, we will be left vulnerable to "collapse and destruction." In other words, that is the difference between being wise or foolish.

So, now, we go back to our basement. The builders of our house put in a strong foundation. But that doesn't mean I should never look at it again. In fact, it's good to step back and do a little "foundation inspection." To repair some of those cracks and leaks before they become a problem. It's the same with our lives. Living through the word of Jesus daily helps us inspect and repair the weak places in our foundations, so that when the storms and floods of life come, we will be able to stand firm because of His power.

In His Peace,

Rich