

Another Word May 31, 2022

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

What a beautiful and meaningful Memorial Day weekend! We hope you all had a chance to be with family and friends, to consider God's Blessings, and to remember those who gave their all for our freedom.

Alice Metcalf wishes to thank everyone who helped make her recent birthday a memorable day. And special thanks to those who came to her party, and to those who sent cards and well wishes.

This Saturday, we have the honor to host the marriage of Lilly Potosky to Brad Boulden. Lilly is the daughter of Pastor Matt and Jennifer Potosky. Please join me in wishing them God's Love and Blessings, and a long and beautiful life together.

This Sunday is Pentecost, so try to wear something red. As a reminder, we will be taking a special offering that will be used to help new congregations and new church plants within our region. Our scriptures are Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b, and Acts 2: 1-21, "The Times, they are a changin'." Our serving Elder is Dale Campbell.

This Sunday at 2pm, we will be worshipping with our friends at Belmont Towers.

As we go to the Lord in prayer, please remember Dick Reich, Mary Bee, Dale Campbell, Cari Campbell, and all the families in Uvalde, Texas. O' merciful Father, Holy is Your name. You are the great creator, and we bow before You in gratitude for all that Your hands have made. May we never take for granted the gifts of life and freedom. Use us to reach out to our brothers and sisters who are in need, and bring peace to all who are hurting and oppressed. Please bless and guide those who

unselfishly stand in the way of danger. May we with the Holy Spirit, see the good in others; have the courage to forgive, and to spread Your love to a hurting and wayward world. We wait for Jesus' return. But until then, may You find us faithful. In His perfect name we pray, Amen.

One of the side benefits of me traveling was being able to find wonderful bakeries and unusual places to eat. Trust me when I say, "Tim Horton's" and "McDonald's" can't hold a candle to some of the great "off the wall" eateries I have had the pleasure to experience.

One that comes to mind is a place called "Pete's Famous Hot Dogs." While visiting Betsy and André a number of years ago, we were introduced to this long established Birmingham tradition.

In 1939, Pete purchased a little hotdog business that was established before the start of World War I. "Little" being the operative word. In fact, it wasn't as much "off the wall," as it was in the wall. The stand is nestled between two buildings and the entire business space is 7ft wide by 20ft deep. Try to picture the counter, grills, inventory, and people all in a space smaller than most living rooms. But with their special sauce and Pete's son Gus fixing each dog, and a line of people around the block waiting to be served; it wasn't lunch, it was an event! Sadly Gus, who took over in 1948 passed away in 2011, and the business closed its door forever. To this day, many still long for the taste of Pete's famous hotdogs and secret sauce.

People waiting to get in, a narrow door, the owner closes the door. Hmm...This reminds me of Luke 13: 22-25. Jesus was asked if it was true that "only a few will be saved." (vrs.23) His response is quite telling. You see, many people felt that they only had to be of the lineage of Abraham to be saved. Jesus tells us something different. He says, "Make every effort to enter the narrow door, because many will try and not be able. Once the owner gets up and closes the door, you will stand

outside knocking, but won't get in." (vrs.24-25) Jesus was saying, the path to the Kingdom is not the wide and easy path of the world, but the path of suffering, self-denial, and child-like attitudes. And once the door is closed, only those who entered will enjoy the feast. Those left outside will be told, "I don't know you."

We live in a world of wide-open temptations, enticing us at every turn. We need to follow Jesus, and respond to His word. We are to look for the narrow door, because through it is something good, something unique, and indeed, something worth standing in line for. The door may be narrow, but like the little shop in downtown Birmingham, the narrow door is wide open to all who will place their trust in Jesus. But be sure you aren't distracted, because The Owner (our Father) may close the door when you least expect it, and you will miss out on the greatest feast of all.

In His Peace,

*Rich*