

Another word September 6, 2022

To our friends and family of First Christian Church

Well, here we are in September. Don't know about you but with all this rain, it seems more like April. This is going to be a busy month so let's get started;

First, if you would like to be on our email prayer chain, please let Ellie know.

This Sunday the Sacred Assembly will again be at Freer Field starting at 5pm. We will be praying for our community, State, Nation, and for peace in the World. Please plan on attending this community event.

Our next Jazz concert is this coming Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. McCray Martin's band, 'Abstractions' will be performing. Hope to see you Monday Evening!

Scriptures for Sept.11; Psalm 14, and Luke 15:1-10, "What is Worth Searching For...The Lost!"

Scriptures for Sept.18; Psalm 79:1-9, and Luke 16:1-13, "Expect the Unexpected."

Crop Walk is coming Oct.2<sup>nd</sup>. Dick Reich is heading the effort again this year. See Dick for donations or sign up to walk and collect pledges. 25% of all monies stay in our community, and the balance goes to help those needing food around the world.

May we be in prayer... O Creator of life, we humbly come to you in need of healing, comfort, and assurance. Life seems to tumble in on us at times, overwhelming us with burdens that can cloud our thinking and weigh us down. In times such as these, we look to you for strength and courage. It is nice to know that you are always there to support us, to guide us with your word, and comfort us with your love. We ask for wisdom to help us reach those around us; for your protection for those on the front lines that are working with the sick, the helpless; and encouraging those who feel that have no hope. May we all reach out with love to a hurting and scary world, and pass on your greatest gift; the gift of compassion and grace as given through your Blessed Son Jesus, our Savior and redeemer. In his holy name we pray, Amen

The time was mid summer or early fall in 1960. Ashland was preparing a parade down Main Street, and our scout troop was participating by building a float to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of The Boy Scouts.

I had what I thought was a great idea. What if one scout on the float was in our current uniform and another would be dressed in an original uniform showing the then and now of scouting? But where could we get an old uniform?

Knowing what the original uniforms looked like, I asked if we could borrow my grandfather's World War One uniform, campaign hat, leggings and all. It would be the perfect addition for our display. To my disappointment, I was told that the uniform had been either mistakenly discarded or lost years earlier. Regardless of the missed opportunity,

the float was still a success and the parade a fond memory for me. I always wondered, “What if...?”

Fast forward 58 years. I got a phone call from one of my cousins and she said she had something I might want of grandpa’s. Each family member, when grandma passed kept a few items when we cleaned out her house. To my surprise, my cousin had grandpa’s complete uniform and asked if I would like to have it! I was stunned! What was thought to be lost was now found. And to me, it is a treasure worth more than gold.

Do you have something you treasure, something you thought was lost? Or possibly even something that you didn’t even know existed but turns up and changes everything?

There is a story in 2 Chronicles that tells of the discovery of a lost treasure. It’s found in chapter 34. King Josiah decided to follow the ways of King David and follow God. He began by cleansing the land of idols and temples. In his 18<sup>th</sup> year as king, Josiah began to repair the temple in Jerusalem. While working in the temple, the priest Hilkiah came across The Book of The Law, most likely the book of Deuteronomy, hidden away many years earlier for safe keeping. And of course, over the decades it was simply forgotten.

When the King heard the words of The Book of The Law, he was deeply moved, and greatly troubled. He realized that obedience to God through the scriptures had been neglected by the people. Realizing the importance of the find, he called the people together and read the

entire book to the assembly, and they committed themselves to keep all that was written in it. Think of how they must have felt. To have their hearts opened to God's word! How their lives must have changed.

And it can be the same for us. We have access not to just one, but to all 66 books of The Bible. What an amazing blessing that has been given to us. The finding of my grandpa's old uniform filled a hole in my life, it brought about an ending to a mystery, and I consider it a great treasure. But it can't compare to the great life changing treasure that can be found every day by simply opening your Bible.

In His Peace,

*Rich*