



The View

from South Church

Summer 2016

Pastor's Message.....

Legend has it that a missionary was swept overboard while traveling on very high and rough seas, and was subsequently washed up on a beach at the edge of a remote native village. Nearly dead from exposure and lack of food and fresh water, he was found by the people of the village and nursed back to health. He lived among them for 20 years, quietly adapting to their culture and working alongside them. He preached no sermons, and made no claim of personal faith. He neither read nor recited scripture to them.

But when people were sick, he sat with them, sometimes all night. When people were hungry, he fed them. When people were lonely, he gave a listening ear. He taught the ignorant and always took the side of one who had been wronged.

The day came when missionaries entered the village and began talking to the people about a man named Jesus. After listening for a while to their story, the natives began insisting that Jesus had already been living in their village for many years. "Come", one of them said, "we'll introduce you to him". The missionaries were led to a hut where they found their long-lost companion.

I share this story as an example of how important it is to share the good news of Jesus Christ by reaching out to the world. When we share ourselves with others; when we show that we care, and we all have ample opportunities to show our faith and our concern. A friend loses a loved one and needs a hug. There is the need for a helping hand in the neighborhood and you appear. A hunger crisis comes and you make a casserole. A person is depressed, and you are there to radiate hope. Children need a Sunday school teacher, and you step forward. A lost and lonely soul needs a friend, and you are there. We could go on. You happen to be in the right place at the right time. You didn't plan it that way. Discipleship, not in name only, but in deed, is suddenly yours by chance. Don't let that chance go by. In many cases, actions do speak louder than words.

One of the hallmarks of South Church is our obvious care and love for one another. An example of this is our Caring Ministry activity; wonderful volunteers who visit, stay in touch with, become special friends with those of our faith community who need to feel the love and care of their church because they cannot be there on a regular basis.

The summer is upon us, a good time to reassess our gifts, and how we can use our gifts in service to others. As I sign off on this, my last VIEW article for our beloved church family, I can tell you that you have made my ministry at South Church one of the most fulfilling, rewarding and awesome experiences in my life. I leave with the sure knowledge that our lives will be forever connected through our Lord Savior, Jesus Christ.

God's Blessings Always,
Pastor Al

