

The Connection

15 MAY 2020 NEWSLETTER

A PASTOR'S WISDOM

WRITTEN BY JERRY ASCHER

Most of us have never heard the name Francis J. Grimke'. Until recently, I was in that group. Francis Grimke' was the pastor of the 15th Street Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. from 1878 until 1928. During his tenure as pastor, the Spanish Flu epidemic struck, infecting over 33,000 residents of his city. Of that number, 2,895 people passed away. For the month of October, 1918, government officials banned, among other things, all church services. After the ban was lifted, his first message to his congregation was, "Some Reflections, Growing Out of the Recent Epidemic of Influenza That Afflicted Our City: A Discourse." In that message, he reminded his people of God's power, God's sovereignty, a Christian response when civil liberties are suspended, how sickness is no respecter of persons, and the importance of being mindful of eternal values. I was especially struck with his hope that such a time would engender a renewed love for Christ's church. Here's a part of his sermon: "The fact that for several weeks we have been shut out from the privileges of the sanctuary has brought home to us as never before what

the church has really meant to us. We hadn't thought, perhaps, very much of the privilege while it lasted, but the moment it was taken away we saw at once how much it meant to us. One of the gratifying things to me, during this scourge, has been the sincere regrets that I have heard expressed all over the city by numbers of people at the closing of the churches. The theater goers, of course, have regretted the closing of the theatres. I do not know whether



1918 at Spanish Flu Ward, Walter Reed, Washington D.C.

A PASTOR'S WISDOM (CONTINUED)

the children or the teachers have regretted the closing of the schools or not; I have heard no regrets expressed, but I do know that large numbers of people have regretted the closing of the churches." No doubt, most of us have pondered these same thoughts. I trust that one of the takeaways from this time apart from our church family is to have a renewed appreciation for what God has so graciously given to us at Meadowlands Baptist Church, and may the words, "I love the church because I love her Lord!" increasingly become a reality for you and for me. I am praying that in God's timing we'll be back together soon!

May Christ be praised: "Preeminent! Adored!"

I love the church because I love her Lord

--CHRIS ANDERSON

FAMILIES REDEEM THE TIME

WRITTEN BY PASTOR MARK RICHMOND

"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:1-3).

Notice the paradoxical words "joy" and "cross," referring to Jesus' attitude and suffering. Even as Jesus endured the cross, He had the end goal in sight—the salvation of His people. This demonstrates that we can also suffer through trials while maintaining joy as we fix our eyes on the Lord and the certain future He has promised. The hard times will refine us as we faithfully endure knowing that Christ's suffering on the cross has brought us everlasting life. This week, we can rely on the Lord for our daily needs while we thank and praise Him for all He has done. Families can redeem times of suffering as we look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith!

O Church of Christ in sorrow now, where evil lies in wait,
When trials and persecutions come this light will never fade.

For though the hordes of hell may rage, their pow'r will not endure;

Our times are in the Father's hand, our anchor is secure.

---MATT BOSWELL AND STUART TOWNEND

WORSHIP SERVICE BROADCAST & CHILDREN'S STORY

You can find the video and audio of the sermon and children's story broadcasts on our [sermon audio page](#).

"WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?"

PHILIPPIANS 4:8-9

PASTOR KEVIN WILLIAMS

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: "HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION"

HYMN: "'TIS SO SWEET TO TRUST IN JESUS"

JOHN 10:1-18

PRAYER

HYMN: "SPEAK, O LORD"

MESSAGE

HYMN: "BEHOLD OUR GOD"

CLOSING PRAYER

This Sunday's children's story continues the 8-part reading of *The Big Picture Story Bible* by David Helm. Children of all ages will learn the Bible's message of "God's people in God's place under God's rule."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

To join an online group to discuss these questions and pray together on Wednesday evening at 7:00, email Pastor Kevin: kwilliams@meadowlandsbaptist.com

1. In Philippians 4:1 Paul commands, "Stand fast in the Lord." How do the commands in verses 4-9 contribute to our spiritual stability?
2. According to Philippians 4:6-7, prayer is essential to maintaining peace. What else is necessary for God's peace? (Phil 4:8-9)
3. What is meditation? (Phil 4:8) Is worry a form of meditation?
4. What are the results of meditating on God's Word day and night? (Josh 1:8; Psalm 1:1-3)
5. What are the results of renewing your mind? (Rom 12:1-2; Eph 4:22-24)
6. What activities fail the test of Philippians 4:8?
7. How can you use Philippians 4:4-9 to encourage a fellow believer this week?



UPDATE ON RE-OPENING

As the province is starting to allow businesses to reopen, there are also allowances for churches to meet in Phase 1 under certain restrictions. Guidelines include a limit of 50 people, physical distancing of 2 metres, and no congregational singing. The pastors and deacons are discussing options that will allow for safe worship and fellowship in the church facilities. Whatever we decide to do, we will continue to offer our Sunday worship broadcast online for everyone. Look for more details in next week's newsletter.



We hold a virtual meeting on Sunday morning with testimonies, prayer, and the Lord's Supper. Several teachers have collectively produced a number of thematic reflections in video-clip format. We have started 30-minute prayer meetings every weekday morning, with a dozen people attending. As the saying goes, necessity is the mother of innovation! Globally, over 75% of our membership participate in at least one weekly activity via Web video conference. We're seeing some people get creative: for instance, one lady uses her phone line so that another lady, who is without Internet access, can listen in on our virtual meetings. We are blessed to see people coming together, calling each other... we can feel people miss in-person gatherings. And for sure, some things go awry in these troubled times: two families have gone through a crisis, and we have had to do counseling over the phone. As for the Ouellette family, Élise and kids all keep busy working in essential services.

VIRTUAL BRIDAL SHOWER FOR SUSANNAH ENTZ AND JEAN-DAVID JUTRAS MAY 29

Please see the Sincere Hearts Facebook page for details and gift suggestions. You may also e-transfer money to be collected for a gift card to custom@meadowlandsbaptist.com.



PRAYER REQUESTS

In the newsletter, we try to include submitted prayer requests from those in our church family who want to share their requests in this format. Requests may be emailed to info@meadowlandsbaptist.com by Thursdays at noon.

- Diane Burdett's son, Steven, is homeless. Pray that he finds the Lord, comes off the streets, and repents of his lifestyle.
- Estelie Fries and Diane Burdett are among 24 members and attendees of MBC who work in the health care industry.
- Mitch Laslo and Merv Tuplin are home recovering from recent strokes.
- John Knutson's mom has Alzheimers and is staying in a long-term facility in Ontario.
- Several of our senior citizens are in assisted living homes and isolated from their friends and families.
- Tina Wragg broke her arm and is recovering from surgery.
- Alfred Neumann is in U of A for treatment of blood clots due to his cancer. He is scheduled to have surgery soon.
- Keith Killeen's daughter passed away in early May. He has also been struggling with back issues after having a fall recently.
- Laura Cook's dad has possible skin cancer on his head and her sister, Lee, is going through chemo treatments for breast cancer.

Need to contact us?



Church Office

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Pastor Kevin Williams

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Pastor Jerry Ascher

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GIVING

E-transfer is available. From your bank's website, select the e-transfer feature. The email address to transfer to is donations@meadowlandsbaptist.com. Your donation will be automatically accepted and you will receive a confirmation of the transfer.

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