

October 16, 2016

You've got to.....
2 Timothy 3:14 -4:5

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As part of a three week series between myself,
Rev. Breisch, and Rev. Miller we will be modifying a practice
known as Lectio Divina (Latin for "Divine Reading")
It is a traditional Benedictine practice of scriptural reading, meditation, contemplation and prayer
intended to promote communion with God
and to increase the knowledge of God's Word.
It does not treat Scripture as texts to be studied,
but as the Living Word.
Traditionally, Lectio Divina has four separate steps:
read; meditate; pray; contemplate.
First a passage of Scripture is read,
then its meaning is reflected upon.
This is followed by prayer and contemplation on the Word of God.

The focus of Lectio Divina is not a theological analysis
of biblical passages but viewing them with Christ
as the key to their meaning.
Each week the same passage from 2 Timothy will be read...
but a different voice will lead the meditation,
the time of prayer and contemplation.
As a church we are many voices, but one people ...
joined through Christ Jesus.
Let us listen for God... Let us pray...
SCRIPTURE

Paul writes;
from childhood you have known the sacred writings
that are able to instruct you for salvation
through faith in Christ Jesus.
This afternoon I am going to a 15 year reunion –
It has been 15 years since Chalmers Presbyterian Church closed its doors and its membership amalgamated
with St. Giles. Some are worshipping AT ST, GILES,
others here at St. Andrews', some at Westminster,
and sadly some are worshipping no where.
Garry and I made a video history for the event
and it was bitter sweet looking at the pictures
of all of the people who were leaders,
my guides, my teachers, and became family.

Many of them have passed on, including my own parents...

but their pictures bring back wonderful memories...

Picnics, pageants, worship, breakfasts, learning...

In this congregation of St. Andrews

is my childhood Sunday School teacher, my choir director, the children of My minister when I was a teenager.

I still remember Rev. Wilcox doing a children's story about how

'I am special, because God doesn't make junk.'

I have carried that in my heart.... A message of love from God

I have been blessed with wonderful people..

saints who have shared the word of God the stories of Christ.... But have not just done so in words, but action too.

Living out their own faith as an example

As I was working on the video presentation

the word perseverance has been on my mind. Chalmers opened as a Sunday School Mission in 1945

...

it closed in 2001.

For 56 years the people faithfully taught about

and shared the love of God through Jesus Christ...

they persevered through hard times,

they experienced lots of good ...its closure was unfortunate,

but not due to lack of trying...

If we had read two more verses this morning,

we would hear these familiar words:

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race,

I have kept the faith... words of truth for Chalmers...

but for us today at St. Andrews where we are gathered in worship,

communion, service and hope...

his words are..

I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message;

be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage,

with the utmost patience in teaching.

TO be persistent is almost to natter...

like a child at a supermarket line asking for a treat

with increased urgency and volume until the adult gives in.... or perhaps it is like the Jehovah's witness who comes back week after week despite no's..

in the hope for a yes.

and yet this is what Paul is saying to do...

other translations say..

preach the word.

Be ready to do it whether it is convenient or inconvenient. or to be instant... or prepared...

there is an urgency to his words...

my thoughts of perseverance sound slow and long coming...

much like planting a tree - for someone else to enjoy the shade

When i was minister in Olds a teenage boy

used to visit me at work to chat -

sometimes he brought ice cream or a friend with him. Occasionally he came to church.

I moved to Ontario and he was living in Edmonton...

but Years later we were catching up on Facebook

and he wished me a happy mothers day and I said...

i have no mother and i am not a mother.

He replied happy important women day - because,

he said to him i was an example of faith

and strength and friendship.

a positive adult in a difficult time for him.

Paul calls us as Christians to be persistent...

to persevere in good and bad

- to continue to preach the good news, to spread the gospel,

to minister to the needy, and be there for his people.

Think now on your faith journey...

who are those that have led and guided you?

walked beside you...

Who have you led and guided? walked beside?

How TODAY will you live out Paul's words

PRAYER