

The Pastors Connection

Finding a Family of Faith

“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the Lord: Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn.” Isaiah 50:1

I was struck anew recently of the strength to this congregation of persons who have chosen this church family. Although we value and celebrate those who were carried into the original building in the arms of their mothers, we also praise God for a rich heritage of welcoming others. We would be a severely impoverished body if the only members were ones with generational lineage.

Howard Moss and I had the privilege last winter to hear the story of the house on the west side of Re-Uzit owned by Conestoga Christian School. We heard how patron members of CMC built the home originally for a teacher moving with her family into our community to teach at the School. We heard how over time ownership transferred, followed by neighborly challenges, such that when the property came up for sale CMC patrons of the school bought the home back and donated it debt free with the only obligation to the school being the condition it never be sold.

Rental income has generated consistent support to the school’s budget “through good times and bad.” Now the home needed a face lift. The question became “how might we as CMC members honor the CMC School founders?” What would it mean to “pursue righteousness” as called for in the text by “looking to the rock from which we were cut, the quarry from which we were hewn.”

Motivated by honor of founders Howard organized volunteers to pull carpet, paint walls, and repair cabinets. Early this morning as I was making my small contribution to the effort by cleaning up debris from the back yard it struck me that the primary volunteers did not have generational patron roots. They have names of Moss, Ebert, and Boyer; all of whom have made CMC their church family such that they too are “looking to the quarry from which we were hewn.”

I wonder whom it is that God is yet bringing through our doors to lay claim to sharing this godly heritage. Who has God’s eyes to see those in our community who want to be adopted into a church family with roots that go deep? What connects us to gospel relevant and fresh? What does it look like for CMC to run with passion in the power of God’s Holy Spirit applied to God’s heart for this community in this generation?

When life seems fragmented and torn; when busyness threatens to disrupt our pursuit of righteousness Isaiah the prophet tells us to listen to him and “look to the rock from which you were cut; the quarry from which you were hewn.” May we honor with joy the reality that newcomers bring fresh energy transplanted into the edifice of faith; for as Peter (2:5)

so elegantly declares: the NT church is “like living stones, being built into a spiritual house.”

May the edifice honor the Cornerstone, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May it bring joy to the quarry generation from which we are hewn. And may it produce the next generation of living stones living hiStory to benefit others.

Amen and Amen, Pastor Bob Petersheim