

Under the Pastor's Desk

By the time you read this Halloween will be over and we will be heading full board toward Thanksgiving. First, I would like to say a big THANK YOU to all who came out and helped with the triangle clean up last month. There were over 40 people there and 18 of them were teenagers who then went out to Port Farms for the corn maze. I had a conversation while I was there that I thought was interesting and I would like to share it with you.

Since I had already done the corn maze with my family and we needed an adult to be outside in case of any problems, I decided to stay out and wait for the kids to finish. Near the maze they have benches set up with fire pits and there were a few people over there so I went to go and make some new friends by the warmth of their fire. As I approached, I recognized one of the individuals as a pastor in our vicinity. We talked for a while and one of the things he told me about was the fact that they begged and pleaded all summer but received no volunteers for their Sunday School program. That conversation made me thankful for all of our volunteers we have here in our church.

Later that week I had another conversation with a friend who is a pastor elsewhere and he was telling me that no matter what they do, they cannot get more than two or three youth to any of their events. Another pastor friend told me that they have no young families with children in their congregation. A member at another congregation told me that their church is currently \$40,000 in the red for this year.

After all those conversations I could not help but think about and be thankful for our situation here at St. Paul's. Yea, nothing is perfect and we have our own struggles, but in the big scheme of things we are doing very well and holding our own.

The more I think about all of this the more thankful I am for all of you who make this congregation what it is. So as we approach the holiday in which we are to give thanks for our blessings, I would like to personally thank God for all of you and for this church. We will never be perfect, but together we can be the people of God in this place.

Peace and Blessings
Pastor Brian