



### *From the Pastor:*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As a kid I served as navigator on road trips. I held the massive Rand McNally Road Atlas of the USA in my lap and called out the route. It was fun, as well as a good education in geography. We travelled over much of the east coast, so I had plenty of work!

I studied the route we were on, the way ahead to our next destination and whatever else caught my eye.

Nowadays, even with GPS and a mapping system on my smart phone, I still like to study a real map and see the whole travel plan. It helps measure progress and give hope that the destination is in sight. We keep such an atlas to study before each trip - even the trips that are familiar I like to review ahead.

The same is true for the study of the Scriptures - especially a long book. It is good to know the way through - outlines, themes, features, connections to the rest of the Bible and section breaks to segment it apart. A good study Bible can help with this exercise.

We are well past the halfway mark in our Sunday morning study of Hebrews. After this Sunday's consideration of chapter 8, there will only be four chapters to go!

Where have we been so far? Using the keyword that helps understand the book - "better" - we have seen that Jesus is better than what has gone before him. And what went before him were great things, he is simply greater, better!

Jesus give us a better word than those who wrote before him. Jesus is far greater than the angels - his ministry is better! Jesus is better than Moses, the great servant of the Lord. Jesus offers a better rest than the Promised Land. Jesus is better than the priests of the line of Levi, as he serves from a better order or priesthood, that of Melchizedek. Jesus' ministry in the heavenly tabernacle is better than the priestly ministry in the tabernacle made by men. Jesus mediates a better covenant than the old covenant. Finally, Jesus once and for all sacrifice of himself is better than all of the blood of bulls and goats that had to be daily sacrificed.

Where is all of this headed? We see several exhortations scattered here and there in this letter, this lengthy sermon to scattered Jewish believers in Jesus Christ. The exhortations promote perseverance, faith, steadfastness and hope. This they needed as strangers and exiles making their way to the New Jerusalem. And so we need it too!

"We must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it." (2:1) "Take care, lest you have an unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God." (3:12) "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful." (10:23)

God has written the Scriptures to us that we may know what to believe (faith) and how to live (practice). He has written to us that we may know the way of salvation and be reminded, charged to stay in that way. He has written the Scriptures to build us up in our faith so that we can stand against the tide of culture, the strikes of the enemy and the weariness of the flesh.

So, as a body of Christ, let's continue to hear of God's Son and his better ministry. Let's also continue in the faith, steadfast to the end!

## YOUNG AT HEART

Tuesday April 26 we will have Lasagna, salad and rolls. Contributions of other pasta dishes, vegetables and desserts will be appreciated. After the meal, we look forward to Bryan and Sarah Ickes making a presentation on their family life of foster parenting and adoption.

### SHORT-TERM MISSIONS & JUBILEE BIRTHDAY REPORT

On May 22, Sheila Osborne, a representative from World Witness, will be here during the Sunday School hour to speak about short-term missions opportunities through the denomination. She will also speak about the Jubilee Birthday Celebration Offering that we collect each year. Additionally, Ed and Lynn Limon will share about their summer missions opportunity in Mexico.

### MISSIONS SUNDAY & CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 5. Drew and Lauren Goodman will be with us for Sunday School, Worship, and Lunch. Pastor Goodman will share in the Sunday School hour, preach in our morning service, and be available during lunch to tell us about their pastoral ministry in Wales. They serve through the denomination's World Witness agency and serve the evangelical church in Wales.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT FIRST ARP

##### April

- 20 WM morning Bible Study
- 26 Young at Heart
- 27 WM morning Bible Study

##### May

- 1 Lord's Supper
- 2 Men's Lunch Book Study
- 3 Women's Ministry Leadership Training
- 4 WM morning Bible Study
- 5 Men's Evening Study
- 8 MOTHER'S DAY
- 10 WM evening book study
- 11 WM morning Bible Study
- 19 Stated Session Meeting
- 22 Sunday School with missionary, Sheila Osborne
- 24 Young at Heart
- 29 5th Sunday Hymn Sing

### MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

#### BIRTHDAYS

Bill Haynes	5/1
Graig Pulley	5/1
Connie Bennett	5/4
Tom McPherson	5/6
Vicki McPherson	5/6
Sue Walton	5/8
Lauren Childrey	5/9
Pat Kinney	5/10
Frances Vanderford	5/10
Wendell Turner	5/11
Ben Gregory	5/12
Ian Constable	5/14
Mary Jane Glass	5/16
Zoey Ensley	5/18
Ben Wright	5/18
David Spaulding	5/20
Shirley Boswell	5/21
Michael Peppo	5/24
Jacob Christopher	5/26
Jason Massey	5/28
Esther Roy	5/28
Kathy Isley	5/30
Mae Wilburn	5/31

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Matt & Britt Causey (13)	5/10
Bill & Fran Haynes (55)	5/14
David & Nicole Newton (12)	5/15
Larry & Lynn Causey (44)	5/20
Ferald & Betty Mann (49)	5/28

#### Nursery:

April 24: Nicole Newton & Sarah Ickes  
May 1: Nicole Newton & \_\_\_\_\_

#### Counter:

April 24: Stephen Robinson  
May 1: Jay Snow

#### Deacon Duty:

April 24: Glenn Owens  
May 1: Stephen Robinson

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