

## PASTOR ED'S PONDERINGS

*"And the one who was seated on the throne said, See, I am making all things new."*

(Rev. 21:5)

Dear Friends,



Here we are at the beginning of another church year! It can be a time of excitement and wonder. What blessings will God bring to us this year? In what ways will God use us to be a blessing to others? What new things will I learn? What new experiences will God bring? This year at Grove Avenue, as you will see below, God has blessed!

There are many new things that God is bringing to us:

**I want to thank this community of faith for its prayers and discernment over the summer concerning our Youth and Children's Ministries. I was very blessed by the way this church responded to my asking for prayer and support in my last letter to you.** We have spent the summer listening to our children, youth and parents; praying for the ministry during worship, and striving to be faithful in our meetings. As a result of this there will be some changes to our regular Sunday morning routine. **First of all, we will be adding a Contemporary Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday and a Fellowship Time following the service at 10:10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** This is to help respond to the need we heard from many of our congregation (especially younger families) for this worship option. **Second the Children's Sunday school will be moving from the 9:30 a.m. time to 10:45 a.m. It will be held during our regular traditional 10:45 a.m. Worship Service (in place of Children's Church.)** While we had not received volunteers to staff at our old Sunday school time, our children's church volunteers were willing to step in and rotate so that this very important ministry continues. Thank you teachers and helpers! And thank you to our new teachers and helpers who have stepped forward! You are a blessing to us!!!

**Our Adult Sunday school, "Frank's Flock," and Fellowship group will still meet at the old 9:30 a.m. time.** They will be able when the class is finished to meet in the Fellowship Hall for coffee before the 10:45 a.m. service.

**God has also blessed us in other ways with new beginnings!** As I write this letter workmen are placing new carpeting in our Sanctuary, our Mary Martha Room, hallways, and entryways! And TopDog Productions is busy upgrading our sound system and projection systems! We have been very blessed by your donations! Thank you...and thank God! We are still continuing to collect funds to pay the costs for these. Our very generous donation to match all funds given up to \$10,000 has graciously extended the time to match through August and September! Every \$1 you give becomes doubled as a gift to the church through these matching funds! Thank you!

Lastly, as I write this letter, we are in the process of interviewing people for both our Nursery Coordinator position and our Youth Director position. Our hope is to have these positions filled by the time our new church year starts! God has blessed us indeed. Our God is making all things new!

I think of the quote above taken from Revelation's vision of the New Jerusalem at the end of John's letter. It is a vision of hope, of life, and of resurrection! Our God is a God who makes all things new. It is that hope that holds us through the sometimes long, long journey through the dark places in life! Praise God! Our God is making all things new! Come and experience the new beginnings!

See you at Worship!

*God's Blessings,  
Pastor Ed*