

410 Center Ave., Jim Thorpe
Room 103

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Find us on Facebook at Grace-St.
Paul's Church

Pastor Dan Meader

pastordanmeader@gmail.com

SUNDAYS AT GSP

Fellowship: 9:30 am

Worship: 10:30 am

WOMEN'S LUNCH

All ladies are invited for lunch and
fellowship at Dom N Ali's

Next Lunch:

Monday, Sept. 9th at 12 Noon

MEN'S BREAKFAST

All men are invited for breakfast
and fellowship at Bob's in Jim
Thorpe.

Next Breakfast:

Tuesday, Sept. 10th at 9:30 am

PRAYER CIRCLE

All are invited for a time of prayer
at GSP (410 Center Ave.) on

**Tuesday, September 10th at 10
am.**

CHURCH COUNCIL

All are welcome to join us on
**Thursday, September 12th at 7
pm** at GSP (410 Center Ave.).

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Heather Bacsick

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Grace-St. Paul's Church

GRACE NOTES

September 2024

Letter from Pastor Dan

In Matthew 19 Jesus is confronted by someone we call the "rich young ruler" who approaches Jesus with one thing on his mind: how to inherit eternal life. Unfortunately, we find out in this encounter that he had something else on his heart, his possessions and wealth. So, rather than walking away in joy of eternal security, he walks away in sorrow, unwilling to make the sacrifice and relinquish what held him back, but not the possessions themselves, but rather his love for them. He couldn't walk away from his wealth, even when it meant walking towards the kingdom he longed for.

Fast forward to verse 27, and Peter boldly asks what they (the disciples) will have, who have left everything behind to follow him. We might expect here a rebuke by Jesus, "is that what you're worried about? How you'll be compensated?" But our God is one of blessing and faithfulness to those who serve Him, who are willing to make the sacrifice, whose hearts desire Him above all else. So, Jesus responds instead with a promise. Not only for the 12 (excluding Judas) who will sit and judge the tribes of Israel, but a promise for future generations of disciples. "And everyone who has left *houses* or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life." (Matthew 19:29)

Only a few months ago now, we were worshipping comfortably in a modern building, with modern facilities, a house of worship that would have served our needs for years to come. I'll admit that shortly after we left, when the search for a place to worship was coming up empty, during a moment of weakness, I thought to myself "what have we done?" But it was a fleeting moment, because I knew that what we did was what the rich young ruler could not, we walked away from something valuable, and in some ways precious to us for the sake of following Christ. We counted the cost and simply did what we knew we must, make the sacrifice, trading our comfort and security for the sake of our Lord. We did it because our consciences, and the conviction of the Holy Spirit demanded it of us. We did it for no other reason than we knew we could not remain part of a denomination that refused to repent. They were and are stumbling further into the darkness, and we desire to walk in the light and hold fast to the Word. I'm confident our motives were pure, and our actions justified. And because God is one of blessing, I'm also confident that He will reward our faithfulness and our sacrifice both here in prosperity and flourishing, in bearing fruit for his kingdom, and in that kingdom when it comes in glory.

(Letter continued on page 2)

Friends, brothers and sisters, take stock of this moment, and be assured that to lose for the sake of Christ is to gain, and that our reward is safeguarded for us in heaven. Until then, let us continue to strive towards that kingdom, making the sacrifices both individually and as a church, that we might bring glory to God. I thank you, from the deepest parts of my heart and soul, for your faithfulness, and allowing me to be your pastor and help lead us through this moment.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Dan



Sunday Fellowship



Choir



First Sunday at new location.



Reaching out into the community at National Night Out in Jim Thorpe.



Happy Birthday!!

September

Eva Beckman	7
Samuel Kenna	14
Theresa Meader	15
Cheryl Nyce	24
Garland Edwards	29

Happy Anniversary!!

September

Beverly & Jeff Covelens	3
Cindy & Rick Kenna	7

We are looking to update our Birthday and Anniversary List. If you are not listed, please contact Heather Bacsick (sweet88@ptd.net) to be added. Thank you!

If you would like to help, there is a sign-up sheet for weekly cake, donuts, fruit, etc. for Sunday Fellowship at 9:30 am.