

The Rolling Stone

Rollstone Congregational Church

October 2018

One Hundred and Fifty Years!

THE GREAT AND THE MIGHTY

This morning as I sit in my hotel room staring out the window I can see in a short distance the great and mighty Mississippi River. The river seeming to be so peaceful and gentle as the waters flow gently towards the Gulf of Mexico. It starts at Lake Itasca in north central Minnesota and flows southward through Wisconsin, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana. This river provides life to millions of people by driving so many communities' economies through jobs and recreation. It is hard to imagine how a river that starts at a small glacial lake could have so much impact on so many lives.

The river is called the Mighty Mississippi because it is so massive in many different ways. It provides life by bringing water to communities to drive businesses that have built up along the river. There are cities that have grown and prospered because water is a natural resource that human populations need in order to survive. The river is also called mighty because when it is flooded with the drainage from the small streams and rivers along its path overflow from storms and other natural events, the river becomes almost uncontrollable. We have read in newspaper accounts from years past of how the severe rains and melting of the northern snows have caused the river to rise and flow over its banks leaving massive destruction in its path. The destructiveness of the river has left lives altered and at times in turmoil. In the aftermath of the damage is not all bad, but in instances leaves considerable good in its place. The soil that has been covered with the floods waters in reinvigorated with replenished nutrients, water tables that feed wells are refilled, dead and decaying foliage is washed away. What appears as bad is actually good.

This analogy of a great and mighty river can also be said of God. God is so great, mighty, and good which may appear to be just a small insignificant being that we take for granted all that He is in the lives of millions. In most instances God is peaceful and gently existing in our lives, but when the storms of life rage around us we turn and ask, "Why is God doing this to us?" God may not be doing this to us directly, but with assurance I can say that God is opening doors and opportunities for good to come from bad and dangerous situation. We

have all in one way or another have called out, “*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*” “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Those are the very words cried out by Jesus as he hung from the cross. Nothing in our lives may ever be as bad as what Jesus was experiencing at that particular moment in time, but rest assured that God is with us always. God hears our pleas and cries, never forsaking us He will stay with us turning the difficult into good. Our God is Great and Mighty always capable of making all things better.

May we always keep a positive mindset to see the Good in God.

Blessings,

Pastor Dave

Deacon Report

Hi everyone. I can't believe summer is over and fall is here. We had homecoming Sunday on

Sept. 9th. Pastor Dave, Don and Kim and Mary put on a luncheon for us. We had grilled hot dogs, rolls, potato salad, potato chips, all the condiments and dessert. I know there were other things that I have forgotten. Cookman hall and the sanctuary were decorated with balloons. Very festive and a great time.

We are busy getting ready for our 150th anniversary in October. Invitations have been sent out to members, previous members, clergy and other friends of Rollstone. The worship service will be at 11on Oct. 21st with a luncheon to follow at IL Forno restaurant. It will be so nice to see people we haven't seen in a long time.

We have parishioners who will be joining the church on Oct. 7th. It is so nice to see new people in the church. We are so happy to see them.

If anyone would like to be lay liturgist please let me know.

Cathy Fontaine is home after having bypass surgery, and Paul Stansel is improving after having a valve repaired. Mary Anne Smith will be having back surgery in October. Hope she does well.

Not much other news at the moment. I hope everyone has a nice fall.

Linda Haas

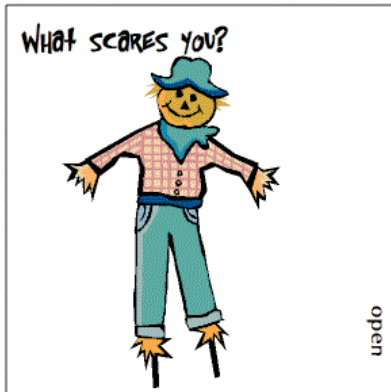
Reminder!!!

If you haven't sent in your RSVP to the 100th Anniversary of Rollstone Church Service of Celebration and Banquet to be held on October 21, 2018, do it NOW! Reservations for the dinner are due by October 10, 2018.

October Church School News:

Fall has arrived and it feels good to be back for Church School where we share more Bible Lessons. Church School meets upstairs each week after the Sharing of the Peace, then after lessons we join fellowship time with the whole congregation – children are an important part of our church family.

What about Halloween - it can be fun - it doesn't need to be scary - read on...



Is it scary, hairy monsters or spooky, kooky creepers?
Life can be scary, but when you trust in Jesus
he promises to never leave you alone.

Jesus LOVES You!

"God loved you so much that he sent Jesus to earth,
and if you trust in him, God will give you the gift of eternal
life in heaven with him."

(Adapted from John 3:16.)



Blessings, Beth and Hal



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

---Margaret Mead

WAYSIDE PULPIT

Doing Without

In a discussion group in another church, someone said, “Humans have been endowed with such gifts – opposable thumbs and toolmaking, language, scientific curiosity and reason - yet we are not satisfied. We hunger for things we have never had, yet feel deprived that we do not yet have them. Have you ever seen a dog unhappy because it could not do mathematics?”

This made me think about deprivation. At least in the developed world, most of us have never experienced absolute poverty. We suffer greatly, however, from relative poverty – from having less than someone else has, or less than we imagine we should have. So I wondered whether this is a side effect of original sin – this knowledge of what we do not have, and discomfort, even pain, at not having it.

Or is it a virtue, a positive gift? We admired John Kennedy for seeing what never was, and asking “Why not?” Isn’t most, if not all, of human progress the result of overcoming deprivation from things we have never had, or things we have never been able to do? The freedom to travel long distances at great speed, the conquest of most diseases, works of art, literature, all of culture. These are things we have because of a God-given sense that we needed them, though we had hitherto never had them, but had in no sense been deprived of them.

Chuck Funk

