

Another Word June 4,2024

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

I again would like to thank all who filled in on Memorial Day Sunday that allowed Donita and I to be with family in Cincinnati, and to see our beautiful granddaughter dance!

Before you know it, it will be July 4th. We will again need ice cream bars, popsicles, and a few smiling faces to walk through the crowds to pass them out. This year, New Life Church will be joining us by organizing some yard games and handing out glow sticks. It should be a memorable evening, so plan to come out and welcome families of Ashland as we celebrate the birth of our great Nation!

Our scriptures for the next couple of weeks are as follows:

June 9- Psalm 138 and Mark 3:20-35. "The question is, 'Who do you believe?'"

June 16- Father's Day. Psalm 20 and Mark 4:26-34. "Even mighty oaks start out small."

June 23- Psalm 9:9-20 and Mark 4:35-41. "What and why do we fear?"

Please keep Shannon, and Lyle and Jeanne Easterday in your prayers this week.

O Holy God, we come together to give You thanks for our lives and all its blessings. We thank You for Your steadfast love, Your abundant mercies, and Your unending faithfulness. As we grow in our faith, we become even more aware of Your forgiveness and are humbled that You have removed the burden of our sins from us. We ask for Your peace, healing, and comfort to shower down on our families and friends who are in need of Your loving touch. And fill our hearts with joy

as we live our lives in service to our neighbor. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

When I first hit the road as a sales rep, I had to make my own way in the world. Finding a motel that was clean, a restaurant that had good food, as well as finding customers strewn across 3 states. It was at times, a daunting task. Actually, good food was the hardest thing to find on a consistent basis. Let's face it, a Big Mac® can only go so far.

Then in the early 80's, some motel chains began bringing you a sweet roll that was hung on your door handle in the early morning ... Breakfast is served! Back then, I carried my own coffee and pot with me so the danish, even if it was a little stale, was a small bonus. Such was the life of a salesman.

Then, by the mid 80's, something changed. Some motel chains began putting in breakfast buffets to entice travellers to stay with them. At first, they were very simple. Coffee, tea, toast, danish, donuts, bagels, and a few jellies and cream cheese. Not too bad. But then, the motel wars erupted. There were waffles, pancakes, scrambled eggs, fruit cups, sausages and bacon, and even "to go" boxes. In the mornings as I was checking out, I would take a look at the buffet. Quite often, it was in such a mess that I would just grab a coffee and wait until evening to eat at a restaurant.

Well, if you have made it this far in my story, you are probably asking the same question as Donita, "Where are you going with this, Rich?"

One time when I came down to the dining room of a motel, I saw something different. It was clean and organized. Everything from the utensils to the buffet table were stocked, filled, and in perfect order. Looking around, I saw an unassuming woman caring for the area. She quickly and quietly refilled containers, wiped the counters after spills,

and seemed to anticipate everyone's needs before they even asked. As I watched, I noticed her constant attention to detail. It was an amazing thing to see. This woman was working faithfully and quietly for the comfort of others.

She reminded me of some words Paul wrote to the Thessalonians. "Make it your ambition to live a quiet life; to mind your own business and to work with your hands, so that your daily lives will win the respect of outsiders." (1Thessalonians 4:11-12.)

A faithful worker, regardless of the task, can win the respect of others through dignity and purpose and good works. In fact, our quiet actions can become a silent testimony of God. That day, that woman, by her actions spread the Gospel because of her desire to work with her hands and faithfully serve others. We also are called by God to live quiet lives, and to show the love and compassion of Christ through our good works and service to others.

In His Peace,

Rich