

# From the Pastor

August 8, 2017

One very common interest found among preachers is a love of reading. It is an interest I have shared for as long as I can remember. I love to read, listen to audio books and lectures when I am in the car, and have a few books on my phone. While we already have plenty of book shelves in our house, I have just finished one book shelf project with another one on the way. At any given time, I am usually reading several books. I especially like to read theology, philosophy, church history, bible surveys and short stories. Dr. Fred Craddock, a world renowned preaching professor, once said a preacher should read one short story a week because the short story is a second cousin of the sermon and teaches how to hold a story together. I also read Bishop Reuben Job's daily devotional guide every morning which features comments from various writers along with an assigned bible reading and prayer for each day. If you are still reading this article, chances are you love reading too!



I thought I would include some quotes in this article from books I am currently reading: I hope you enjoy them:

*If elephants can be taught to dance...surely preachers can be taught to preach*  
Erasmus, (found in A Short History of Christianity, by Stephen Tomkins

*There is a conventional Christian doctrine that the Church lives, or ought to live, 'to the glory of God'. It is not easy to determine with precision what the phrase 'to the glory of God' means: but the doctrine is often used to repudiate, or at least to supplement, the notion that the church exists simply for the benefit of its members and the service of the world beyond.*

W.H. VanStone, Love's Endeavor, Love's Expense: The Response of Being to the Love of God

*If someone were to ask me to make a list of the most valuable qualities a person should develop in order to thrive in the world of work----and for that matter, life----I would put being a team player at the top.*

Patrick Lencioni, The Ideal Team Player

*The church's role is to encourage and challenge people to become followers of Christ, and expose them to real needs. It's up to the Spirit to motivate and lead people to get involved and give of their resources to meet those needs.*

Chris Willard and Jim Sheppard, *Contagious Generosity*

If you have a quote from a favorite book or author, you could forward it to me at [craig@stmarkstn.org](mailto:craig@stmarkstn.org). I love reading!

Blessings,

Craig