

TEDDY TALK WITH MARTIN UMC FRIENDS AND FAMILY

New series (4): “I still haven’t found what I’m looking for.”

Chris Martin – COLDPLAY

Chase Dreams with Zeal

Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.

Romans 12:11

The word “tired” has multiple meanings. Tonight, the only meaning for me is, I want to just go to bed and go to sleep. With reality in mind, I have decided to just write a few words. Before I crash and go to bed for the night, I want to make a few comments about the twelve-word scripture in Romans. 12:11.

Recently, I scanned through the electronic file of sermons I have written, shared, and saved over the years. The MS Word documents file simply titled “MY SERMONS” with sub files with church names, special occasions, and memorials. The sermon that caught my eye noted the liturgical text was Romans 12:9-21 but it was a side note that grabbed my attention. It simply reads “Last sermon at Martin UMC.” I read it and determined it was good. The date was December 29, 2013. The following Sunday January 6, 2014 was my first day at Keller United Methodist Church.

After the scripture I had posted on the first page, I hand wrote these words in red ink on my typed manuscript: “Johnny Alexander asked me a question when I greeted him before service this morning. Johnny asked, ‘Is this going to be your last sermon?’” In green ink I wrote “O God I hope not!” I’m sure I delivered those lines just as I penned them. With certainty I knew that last Sunday in 2013 was simply a new beginning.

Now, about those twelve words in Romans. I mentioned in that sermon that “Zeal and enthusiasm stimulate triumph in every intention and ideal our mind conceives.” Additionally, the words suggested we should be “ardent (I like enthusiastic and passionate) in the spirit”. Zeal promotes the yearning to go forward, take the first step, begin the journey. I believe that zeal urges are behind all things personal and spiritual.

This Sunday we celebrate the leadership, personal zeal, and passion for ministry with Pastor Lara Whitley Franklin. Her zeal and enthusiasm have been missed for several months. As Pastor Lara begins her new journey into her ministerial career, Martin United Methodist people begin our new journey with new spiritual and passionate leadership with Reverend Daniel Hawkins and his amazing family.

I for one truly appreciate the word “Interim”. Rev. Dr. Scott Youngblood has filled the void between our Pastors with zeal and enthusiasm. Thank you Dr. Youngblood.

Peace Always
Ted

