

LISTENING TO THE HEARTBEAT OF GOD – FROM PASTOR LAWRENCE

I appreciate gaining a new perspective. One recent night, we received a lovely and unexpected photo. The weather that particular day seemed to change from one season in the morning to another by evening. After nightfall, moisture hung in the air.

The night deepened, and as our friend traveled through uptown, she noticed that light was streaming through the Rose Window. That light met the water droplets in the air to create the effect of a beacon shining toward the sky.

That inspired me to imagine that Jesus Christ walks past the Oxford Presbyterian Church every night, or every morning, or every Sunday. What would he see? Who would he see?

I believe that Jesus would see the servants and saints of this congregation faithfully and graciously, lovingly and joyfully, living out the marks of a Christian that Paul describes in his letter to the Romans.

*Let love be genuine;
hate what is evil,
hold fast to what is good;
love one another with mutual affection;
outdo one another in showing honor.
Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit,
serve the Lord.*

*Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering,
persevere in prayer.
Contribute to the needs of the saints;
extend hospitality to strangers.*

Among those Jesus would see, I believe, are these individuals who have been part of our ministry for 50 or more years.

Jane Baer
John Baer
Jay Baird
Betty Barnhart
JoAnne Bogard
Ken Bogard
Fred Brower
Mary Isabel Caspar
Rodger Cromer

Danny Cross
Judy Cross
John Curry
Marilyn Curry
Debbie Davidson
Pam Deahl
Jean Derickson
Mel Derickson
Bob Douglass

Sandy Douglass
Tom Fey
Judy Fisher
Nancy Gates
Louise Griffing
Dick Keebler
Ruth Keebler
Jane Kelley
Bill King

Susan King
Randy Listerman
Susan Maxfield
Alan Mehl
Rachel Mehll
Marty Miller
Ruth Miller
Dick Nelson
Marian Nelson
Mary Niehoff
Mickey Preston

Jan Reinhart
Becky Rudolph
Scott Shriver
George Simonds
Mickey Simonds
Barbara Skipper
Chuck Skipper
Sarah Jane Soika
Nancy Sturgeon
Vi Suit
Charles Teckman

Dolly Thomas
Betty Tomblinson
Jack Vaughn
Marlene Vaughn
Kate Wespiser
Opal Wespiser
Betty Wills
Sue Wilson
Jean Woodruff
John Woodruff

To God be the glory for such a legacy of faithfulness from generation to generation!

Thanks be our Living Lord for these and so many others in our congregation whose very lives and witness shine as a beacon in the darkest times.

Together, let us continue to be transformed and invite others into our ministry as we Seek God, Serve Others and Share Christ's Love with All.

When Jesus walks through Oxford, may he see his church shining for all the world to see.