

**WHAT ARE YOU BUILDING ON?** CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

of the Word and not hearers only. You can also live with the fruits of the Spirit as the measuring stick for your behavior – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. You can pattern your life after Jesus, the Incarnate Son of God, who shows us what it looks like to love like God and live within the will of God. These are things that you can go to on a day-to-day basis. They are tools to help you make good decisions. They are God's principles – a great deep strong rock upon which you can feel safe building.

The sand, on the other hand, could be seen as representing preferences. What are preferences and why are they not good to build upon? Well, preferences are those likes and dislikes that each of us normally has about various things. You have preferences in your diet. Some of you may prefer chicken, some beef; some may prefer not to have meat at all. Some like dogs, others like cats. Some prefer the ideas of liberal America, while others prefer the ideas of conservative America. You get the idea.

There are two main problems with building your life on preferences.

1. Each of us has our own set of preferences. Therefore, as we try to live in society with one another, we will find it difficult – if not impossible – to arrive at consensus on anything if we only use our preferences as the standard.
2. Our preferences tend to change over time. I don't like the same things to eat now as compared to when I was a kid. I don't dress the same. My taste in cars has changed. When I was a kid I wanted a '66 Mustang convertible...now I drive a sensible safe Kia. (Okay...I still want the convertible.) My point is this...how can we build anything stable on a moving target?

Here's the thing. Our temptation is to build our lives on our preferences rather than on God's principles. And for a while that may work – as long as the weather is good. But, as the Palestine of Jesus' day was known for its sudden torrential rains that could create instant floods that destroyed everything in their path...so also is this world known to deal pain and destruction into our lives when we least expect it.

So, what are you trying to build this year? What are you trying to build it on? The goals that you have for the coming year may seem good to you right now, but have you measured them against Kingdom principles? Have you listened to what Jesus is calling you to do in His Kingdom? Because if your daily activities and goals aren't grounded in Him, they will be short-lived and useless. Sure, you'll be tired at the end of the day doing things your own way, but you will also be stressed, unfulfilled, and without true vision and direction.

So as you plan for this year, why not let Jesus be the architect for what you want to build in your life. Ask His advice on where to build it, and then with Him at your side, get busy building a life that will glorify the Father and contribute to his kingdom.

Pastor Ross

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# FRONTLINE

Focusing on the life and ministry  
of Front Street UMC



January 21, 2021 Volume MMXXI No. 2

## WHAT ARE YOU BUILDING ON?

Luke 6:46-49

As we move further into this new year of 2021, I think about all of you, and about my family and me. I have no idea what this year ahead holds for any of us. (I learned that from thinking I knew what 2020 held as it began.) For most of us, this past year was a mixed bag of blessings and trials. But whatever last year held, it is gone now and we have a brand new year in front of us. This New Year is a time for new beginnings. As you look at how you will invest your time, energy, intelligence, monetary resources, etc, in 2021, there are a couple of questions that deserve answering. The first is: What are you building? We're all "building" something. Also, as you think about what you are trying to accomplish, there is another question that goes hand-in-hand with the first: What am I building on?

In this Lukan passage, Jesus presents two options – building on sand and on rock. But what do those translate into for us today? Jesus talks first about those who build on rock, so I will, too.

I want to suggest to you that the rock represents principles of God that are immovable and immutable. If you choose to build your life on Kingdom principles, then you have chosen to recognize that there are certain ideas that are right/wrong... helpful/hurtful...God-honoring/God-disgracing. The Bible is full of principles by which you can live without falling into simple legalism. These principles help us in our relationships with other people and with God. Consider the following as examples. Jesus reminded us of the two greatest commandments. There are also the 10 Commandments. There is the Golden Rule. There is the word from James that teaches us to be doers

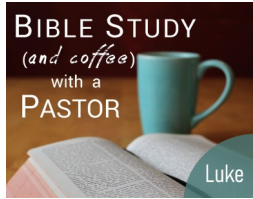
continued

# A LOOK AHEAD:

## GROWING IN CHRIST

### BIBLE STUDY AND COFFEE WITH A PASTOR

Join Pastor Patrick on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. via Zoom for a Bible Study. This study is ongoing with Pastor Patrick hosting the gatherings in January. Look for the Zoom link in Tuesday's *Front Street Happenings* email. If you would like to participate but are unable to join us on Wednesday mornings, these gatherings will be recorded and posted on our website and available to view at a time that suits you.



### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Front Street United Methodist Women has been recognized as a Mission Today Unit for 2020. This acknowledges the various activities that were completed in fulfilling the UMW purpose. The Corridor District UMW will have a Kick-off Zoom meeting on **Saturday, February 13, 2021** at 9:30 a.m. Registration is required. E-mail Jennifer Freeman, President at [president@corridorwmw.org](mailto:president@corridorwmw.org) or call 919-491-4790 to register. Speaker Rev. Megan M. Pardue will address "Faith and Domestic Violence."



## SHARING CHRIST

### METHODIST HOME FOR CHILDREN FUNDRAISER WITH BOB GOFF

Here is an opportunity to support Methodist Home for Children. On **January 30**, online for one night only, from your comfy spot at home, join best-selling author Bob Goff – a beloved authority on love, hope,



and dreaming big. All the details are available at <https://www.mhfc.org/dreambig/>

### JANUARY FOOD DRIVE CONTINUES



Just a reminder that we are in the midst of our January Food Drive in support of our Backpack Ministry! We're collecting specific items which will help feed food-insecure families in our community.

- pasta
- pasta sauce (no glass jars please)
- canned beans
- cans of corn or mixed vegetables
- canned meat
- cans of fruit
- rice
- snack packs (Jell-O or fruit cups)

Please deposit your donations in the Welcome Center. This collection will continue **through January 31**.

### CEREAL & CANNED GOODS FOR THE SALVATION ARMY

We continue to collect cereal and canned/dry goods for the Salvation Army. Please feel free to drop off these items any time during the month. You may deposit cereal or other canned/dry goods in the tubs in the cabinet in the Welcome Center or call Betty Huneycutt (336-212-0704) for porch pick up. Thank you for your continued support of stocking the food pantry at the Salvation Army.



Giving Hope Today

### BLOOD DRIVE

Front Street will have a blood drive on **Saturday, February 27**, from **8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** in Aldersgate Hall. Note: donors can go ahead and sign up now online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org), sponsor code: Front Street. Also, donors may text or call Gene Fonville at 336-260-8114 (cell) for more information or to schedule your appointment.



## Prayers

- **Teresa Brand** upon the death of her brother, Steven P. Atkinson, on January 7
- **Marcy McAdams** who is at home recovering from COVID
- **June Reid** who is at home recovering from COVID
- **Neil and Martha Wimmer** upon the death of his sister, Joyce Wimmer Ross, on 12/15

Continued prayers:

- **Pat Fogleman**
- **David Hedgecock**
- **Tina Manning**

### SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The following dates are available to place flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or memory of a loved one: **January 31 and February 7, 21, and 28**. For more information, please contact Linda Paul at 336-543-5081 (cell) or [kpaul5@triad.rr.com](mailto:kpaul5@triad.rr.com) (email).



### FINANCIAL GIVING UPDATE FOR 2020

YTD Actual Giving - \$1,221,226.13  
YTD Budgeted Giving - \$1,264,022.70

#### STAFF

- Senior Pastor**  
Ross Carter
- Pastor of Discipleship**  
Patrick Murphy
- Youth Minister**  
Chris Huneycutt
- Director of Children's Ministry**  
Marcy McAdams
- Minister of Visitation**  
Leslie Peavy
- Organist/Director of Music**  
Matt Brittain
- Choirmaster**  
Laura Sam
- Director of Aldersgate Music**  
Clay Stevenson
- Finance Manager**  
Tammy Page
- Administrative Assistant**  
Pamela Shields
- Communications Coordinator**  
Joanna Strelow
- Building Superintendent**  
Jackie Long
- Maintenance**  
Joe Peloquin  
Zach Mace
- Playschool/Babies Morning Out Director**  
Rebecca Hurdle