Mission Moment on 11-15-26 from Dave Weber

Good Morning! As we approach Thanksgiving in the days ahead, I am happy to add a few thoughts to those expressed by Ginny and Larissa over the past two Sundays about what makes Old North special for me.

First and foremost, I'm thankful for Lindsay and Christine's spiritual leadership! Whether it's their good humor, their storytelling skills, their ability to ground their sermons in scripture while also relating to our daily lives, or just their ability to connect with each of us on a personal level, we are truly blessed to have not one but two great pastors. I love Christine's passion for engaging our youth and her focus on families and inter-generational activities. I love Lindsay's involvement in our town through her contribution to the Marblehead Master Plan, her participation in the Ministerial Association, and her masterful ability to lead a vigil when the town is hurting and really needs a collective hug. On a lighter note, I also love having a pastor who surprises her wife on her 40th birthday with a "ride along" on one of our dog buses! I'll never forget stopping at the home of one of our town's prominent government leaders to pick up her dog, and when she heard Lindsay was on the bus, she came out **in her pajamas** to chat with Lindsay and wish Ashley a Happy Birtthday! That experience spoke volumes to me about Lindsay's deep connections within our town!

I'm thankful for Maria's leadership of our music program! In the past few years, I have enjoyed singing in both our regular Sunday choir as well as the Festival Chorus. Together with our talented section leaders and the dozens of professional instrumentalists in her Rolodex, Maria does an amazing job of inspiring us "weekend warriors" to tackle some very challenging music! The Festival Chorus extends our Old North community as it brings together musicians and audiences from other churches and surrounding towns.

I'm thankful for our Men's Group! Our monthly Men's Breakfasts bring together two of my favorite pastimes—cooking and eating! Those monthly breakfasts, along with weekly walks on the rail trails and other field trips give us a chance to discuss the big challenges facing both our little town and the world at large, as well as brainstorming ways we can contribute to the Old North community.

I'm thankful for our church's amazing history. Using silver in our worship that was created by Paul Revere himself is such a vivid symbol of the important roles that our church and our town played in the early days of our country! What's even more extraordinary is that our church was actually founded nearly 150 years *before* that Revere guy became famous! And while this building is only half as old as the congregation itself, it is another beautiful physical reminder of that important history and one that deserves the constant care and upkeep we provide.

I'm thankful for our summer services at the lighthouse. Not only do we gather in an incredibly beautiful setting each week, but our community expands again to include others who might not be regular members but enjoy worshipping out in nature. And who doesn't love the Blessing of the Fleet, the Blessing of the Animals and all the special baptisms that are celebrated in that wonderful setting!

And finally, I will always be grateful for Lindsay, Christine and Don's support during the last months of my wife's seven-year journey with breast cancer. Whether it was just checking in with me regularly, checking on Jill, or sharing a lovely shawl from our Prayer Shawl Ministry to help keep Jill warm, they along with many of you, provided much comfort during a very tough time in my life. After Jill's passing, Lindsay, Maria and Holly orchestrated a beautiful memorial service to celebrate Jill's life, for which our family will always be grateful.

I hope these examples illustrate why Old North has a special place in my heart and why I so appreciate all of you who share your time, talent and treasure to enrich this community. Our church has an amazing spirit of volunteerism—with no more vivid example than this weekend's holiday fair and preview party. **Stewardship is all about supporting the people, the place and the programs that make Old North special.** Thank you for doing your part to continue that stewardship and ensure that Old North will be here for another 400 years!