

Poor Chicken Little

Pastor's Perspective:

Connie and I were in Portland at the beginning of November to spend a few days with our daughter and family. We arrived Monday afternoon. On Wednesday I received a text that began, "I try not to bother you when you are away, but . . ." Right now you're smiling, I suspect, because you know what I was thinking. "Now what?" A phone conversation in reaction to the text informed me that the roof of the church building was leaking. Now that wasn't a surprise exactly because it's 25 years old and the shingles were warranted for, yep, 25 years. A couple emails began the process of getting cost estimates and we concluded our Portland visit. But the whole thing caused me to think about Chicken Little. It seemed like the sky might be falling.

It wasn't. The estimates to replace the shingles were received the following week. They were within the amount set aside for just such an event in the building escrow fund. A date was set for installation and the next time you walk toward the church building look up. You will see the new shingles.

The words of Advent are: Hope, Peace, Joy, Love. There is Advent Joy in the roof story. There was a need, it was anticipated and planned for over a long time, money was set aside, therefore it was not a crisis or disruption. Thank you, Lord, for those who planned decades ago and during the intervening years. Thank you Chuck, Larry, and Fred for your quick and calm action. Sorry Chicken Little, the sky didn't fall. Neither did the ceiling.

During the coming weeks of Advent you will participate in the CAT (Congregation Assessment Tool), the Survey. There is a need. It is to describe the mission and ministry of the congregation as clearly and honestly as possible. Your responses on the Survey will be used to prepare the Mission Site Profile (MSP) of All Saints Church. You can read more about the CAT on page 5 of the Grapevine. Participating in the CAT anticipates interviews and a call of the next pastor.

The succession plan transition process helps that not be a crisis. It will be more time-consuming and important than replacing shingles, but again we are able to pray Thank you, Lord, for those who are planning for the CAT and the transition during this time. There is Advent Hope through the CAT and Advent Peace during this transition.

There's a lot going on around here. It's just like the first Christmas. There was a lot going on then too. It meant the inn was full. Yet in the midst of it all Jesus was born. Jesus did come. That's the promise of Advent. In the midst of it all Jesus comes. The end of the Chicken Little fable is "poor Chicken Little didn't get to see the king." WE DO.

Pastor Gary