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9:00 a.m. Children & Adult S.S.
10:00 a.m. Worship Service



Pastor Paul Kehney
Phone • (231) 865-3300

Communion every Sunday
Barrier Free

First Congregational Church of Fruitport
3212 E. Pontaluna Rd. (across from Edgewood Elementary)
Pastor Mike Scott 616-780-9763

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284 N. 3rd Ave.
Next to Word of Hope Church



Lincoln's words
by Rev. William Randall

With President's Day approaching, I have chosen to write about two of President Abraham Lincoln's writings, the Emancipation Proclamation and his stirring Gettysburg Address. Thoughts about the Gettysburg Address warm my heart because two years ago at Muskegon County's National Day of Prayer Breakfast I recited the address almost in its entirety. When time is spent in memorization one gets a moving feeling of the word's meaning. This is also true when a person invests time in Scripture memorization. It is part of the process of hiding the Word in one's heart.

We will first think about the Emancipation Proclamation because it was issued in January of 1863 and the address was given at the little town of Gettysburg in November of 1863.

Efforts were made to free slaves prior to the war. The American Colonization Society supported a plan to return the black people to their homeland, from which they were taken against their wishes. Children from Sunday schools all over the nation saved pennies for this project. Hundreds of black families were transported to Liberia. The first ship, Liberia Packet from Baltimore, set sail from Norfolk, Virginia in 1850. Lincoln also had a plan to free slaves gradually. His idea was to buy slaves from border states for \$400 a head. He considered it to be cheaper than the cost of war. No bloodshed, no destruction, no heartaches. His plan was not accepted. The proclamation was issued, declaring, "That on the first day of January, 1863 all persons held as slaves within any state or designated part of a state, the people whereof, shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free." This act freed the slaves in rebellious states.

The Emancipation Proclamation won for the abolitionists stronger support for the war and made

FMS Peace Garden for everyone, thanks to teacher Letter to the Editor:

I am writing this letter to let the community know what a great teacher we have at Fruitport Middle School. Jackie Ball has worked endlessly to help create a garden for the students of Fruitport schools and the community.

Jackie raised money and gave her own money and time for this garden. She even involved her husband to make benches for the garden. No, Jackie is raising more money for two large permanent steel tables in the garden for teachers and students to use for class or just to relax. I, for one, as a taxpayer, am very happy to see a teacher so caring in and out of the classroom go above and beyond to help her community.

Everyone in the community is welcome any time to stroll through the garden.

Those wishing to donate, can send checks to the "Peace Garden Fund" in care of Jackie Ball at Fruitport Middle School, 3113 E. Pontaluna Road, Fruitport, MI 49415. •

Bruce DeVries
Fruitport

people of other nations friends of the North. The aim of the war was then clarified as two fold: preserve the Union and abolish slavery.

The news leaked through to plantations of the South and brought hope to men and women in the bonds of slavery.

In like manner people today hear the good news that Jesus died to set sinners free. He came to break the chains of sin. Some respond to the good news of Christ's death and resurrection for the salvation of the lost by receiving salvation as a gift

In November of 1863 people had come from many states to see the dedication of a national cemetery. It was the final resting place of Union and Confederate soldiers who had fallen in the Battle of Gettysburg.

Tourists who visit the slopes outside of Gettysburg today are emotionally moved to see the burial places row on row and to realize how horrid it was in hand-to-hand combat with bayonets and guns and the firing of cannons that ripped through the crowds of men.

Edward Everett, a famous orator, faced a crowd of people at the very spot where so many men had died and spoke for two hours in the polished language of a learned man.

Since the President was there, the committee in charge called upon Lincoln for his comments. He took two slips of paper from his pocket and spoke slowly and thoughtfully. His words were few but were so powerful. One statement that moved my heart was this, "The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here."

The world did note and does still remember what he said. One of the reporters wrote in his paper, "The oration by Mr. Everett was smooth and cold. The few words by the President were from the heart. It was as simple and earnest a word as was ever spoken."

The Gettysburg Address calls upon us to dedicate ourselves to this unfinished work, which they who fought there so nobly advanced. Our responsibility in 2011 is to value and protect the freedom that was preserved and to see the value of human life and to treat others with dignity. •



What makes a successful church? Letter to the Editor:

Someone recently told me that if I want to see the church grow, then I should get off my butt and go see a certain pastor. I was deeply annoyed by that remark. I get tired of pastors and churches that define success in the number of people, or how much money they have or make.

Let me ask the question. How many people have gotten saved in your church recently? Or how many people have gotten healed in your church recently? Or received the baptism of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in other tongues?

Pastors, you want a successful church? Then start preaching Christ and him crucified, and not what your board wants or what one family wants. The Apostle Paul told Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:1-2, "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom: 2) Preach the word, be instant in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

So let's look at this for a moment. Paul, who was an Apostle, or you could say pastor, or an overseer, told Timothy to do what? Preach the word. That meant he was to preach the Bible, and nothing else. Don't compromise; don't let your board or people in your church tell you what to preach. Let God direct you.

I'm amazed at how preachers who say they love their sheep, but yet won't stand up and preach the Bible. They will read out of a book or they will get up and say, "God gave me a dream," and preach that, but not the Bible. I guess that must mean they have a successful

church. I like what Jesus said in Matthew 7:15, "Beware of false prophets which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." Jesus warned his disciples 14 times in the gospels to watch out for leaders who would mislead. (Matthew 7:15. 16:6, 11:24, Mark 4:24, 8:15, 12:38-40, 13:5, Luke 12:1, 17:23, 20:46, and 21:8.)

I'm going to make a bold statement here. Preachers, if you're not preaching the Bible from Genesis to Revelations, and I do mean the entire Bible, you are a preacher of no value. You are wolves in sheep's clothing, blind leading the blind, and you will answer to God for what you say behind that pulpit, and what you won't preach because of your board or family that controls you.

A successful church isn't about how many people you have or how much money you have or how big your building is or how well known you are. A successful church is a church where God is first and the Bible is being preached, people are being saved and filled with the Holy Spirit, healings are taking place, people are hungry for the word, and come in with anticipation that God is going to show up and move in the midst. Pastors, you can have your book reports and your dreams, but don't expect me to fall in line with you. I choose what the Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 1:23, "But we preach Christ crucified."

That's what makes a successful church. •

By Pastor Dan Gardne
(Pastor of Crossroads of Life Ministries)