

September 22, 2016

Dear friends,

It is with great joy that I send you greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ as you celebrate 200 years on ministry and mission as a Presbyterian congregation. Our six and a half years with you are well remembered. We left rather abruptly to take care of my father, after my step-mother went to an assisted living facility, but you were understanding and supportive of our decision.

What memories should I share of my time as your pastor? There are so many and I don't want to be too long winded. I have included two pictures of updates to the building. One is of the stainless chimney liner being installed. The other is of Glenn with the bell wheel that he remade.

The chimney liner and the bell wheel are unseen, yet have a very important function to perform. There are (and have been) so many wonderful people that do so much for the congregation. Much of the time what they do is unseen by others. They quietly go about their business not to be seen and praised, but to do what they can to make Union a welcoming place in the name of Christ.

I suppose that most of all I am thankful for the Sunday School classes. They are a good measure of the health of a congregation. Union has been blessed to have dedicated teacher/leaders as well as individuals who want to learn about God by studying the Bible and also model community by doing that with others.

Being a Christian is similar to getting married. You get the love of your life (Christ) and you get the in-laws (the congregation). It is a package deal. Being a Christian is more about relationship than it is about religion. That focus is what has enabled Union to last and still be a beacon of hope to the community.

I am still active in the life of a local congregation as a half time pastor and preach every Sunday. That is why I am unable to be with you today to celebrate your milestone. Beth is currently the office charge nurse for a Hospice home health agency.

Best wishes to all and thank you for sharing 6 ½ years of your 200 years with us.

Love in Christ,
David & Beth Clark