

# From the Pastor's Desk...

## Taking Time to Ponder

*"This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead." – John 21:14*

One time on a family vacation, I found myself on an electric bike. It offered a quiet ride and allow me to zip up and down gravel roads effortlessly, that was until the battery died. Then while walking it back to the station, I noticed a large turtle in the wet grass on the shoulder. He wasn't nearly as interested in getting to the next thing as I was. Turtles always take the time to reflect, process and absorb the events of their day. I think that is why God made the turtle, to show us how to slow down in life, and just take things in.

May is graduation season, and many are tossing their caps into the air and launching into the next stage of their lives. Let's hope every graduate also takes the time to include God in their plans. We all need to have a well thought out journey ahead of us. Sometimes we can move too quickly and get ahead of ourselves. Many of us have that desire to jump to the next thing, without processing the moment and the meaning of where God has us in life.

The Risen Lord moves quietly and deliberately forward in his activity post-Resurrection. However, in a startling display of patience and consideration, Jesus doesn't get moving so fast that he leaves us in the dust. Sure Jesus could have advanced to heaven at any point, but he, like the turtle, slowed down and considered the circumstances at hand.

He knew that we wouldn't just be zapped with understanding about the Resurrection. Seeing your mentor and miracle working friend suddenly come back to life, and proclaim victory, is enough for anybody to sit down and ponder one's existence. So, Jesus appeared to Mary in the garden, then to the disciples in the closed room, then on the road to Emmaus, then again in the closed room to Thomas and later on the beach over breakfast.

The method to his madness? Take the time to process one stage, before leaping into the next stage. Because I believe God wants us to learn the lessons in one stage, before jumping into the next. He is God in the transitions of life also. The Holy Spirit had not come yet, but he was taking that extra 40 days to help his disciples catch their breathe and grasp the events unfolding. With the Lord its better to seek understanding, than to rush ahead in haste. He will guide the way!

Blessings to all our Graduates!

Sincerely, Pastor Chris

