

# Pastor's Corner

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**April 2014 – Rev. Eric Lane**

Someone posted a picture of two deer that were making their way through the snow and the caption read: "Spring is on the way! You can already see the deer in the meadow."



Sometimes, even though the calendar tells us that it is spring, it just doesn't feel like spring. Yet, we know that spring will come just as it always has. The days will grow warm, the flowers will begin to bloom, and the dreary cold days of winter will fade into our memory—not forgotten but filed away.

Life is much like that. Over the past almost twelve years, we have seen those trusted leaders, saints of the church, those who worked tirelessly for the kingdom of God, pass from here to the Church Triumphant where they now are enjoying the joy of the Lord.

The other day someone came up to me and said, "So many of the pillars of the church have passed on. What will we do? There is such a void left behind."

Yes, I have to agree that we have lost some great pillars; but each one of those instilled in others, through their prayers, and through their teaching, and their presence that the body of Christ is made up of many members; members who are called to step up and to be the hands and feet of Christ.

The church is built on ONE foundation and that is Jesus Christ our Lord. The greatest honor that we can bestow upon those who have finished their race is to follow in their footsteps and to commit ourselves to the will of God.

Every one of those great pillars has touched my life in a different and a unique way. The thread that connects each of them was the love and devotion that they had for God and others. When Jesus was asked which of the commandments is the greatest, he answered that we are "to love the Lord our God with all our heart, all our mind, and with all our strength." This was reflected in all those men and women that have served Ebenezer and now rest from their labor. But Jesus did not end there, Jesus continued by saying: "And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." What has set each of those pillars apart; that which makes those tears run down our cheeks, is that they truly lived and fulfilled the commandment of loving

their neighbors as themselves. Honestly, they often went beyond to where they put the neighbor ahead of their personal needs.

You may be reading this and feeling sad, but try not to take it that way. You see, they showed us through their lives how best to live our lives. They taught us about God, church, being in ministry for the kingdom, and loving our neighbors. They taught us about life and what was important and what was not. Now it is time for us to step up and step out, and to know that we are never alone. Because what they have taught us will always be with us, and that no matter what happens, God is with us, and Jesus remains the Way the Truth and the life.

Like each of you, I miss those whom we no longer see. But I rejoice in that which they left behind. I know that they would want us to continue that which Christ began in them and in each of us. Look! Spring is almost here!

May the peace of Christ abide with you.