

Parking Lot Dedication Service
A message by the Rev. Frances Savill
Sunday September 27, 2020

If in January you had told me I'd be standing on the back of a bed of a truck, in September for our anniversary Sunday and parking lot dedication, I'd have said – sure I can see that.

If you told me that we would be doing it mostly with people online, wearing masks, because of a pandemic- I would not have believed it possible.

These are different days – and different days for the church. But these are still God's days, and God has still called us to be the church even in a pandemic.

God has called us, maybe especially for this day, to be His church during this time of upheaval and uncertainty.

Our scripture today on this anniversary Sunday, and Sunday when we give thanks for the work done on our parking lot is from 1 Corinthians 3:10-11

Paul, a founder of churches, and a faithful disciple of Jesus says: ***According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build upon it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.***

All us build on what others, who have gone before us, have done. Today we see that.

That is part of what we pause and give thanks for on an anniversary Sunday.

None of us here today were part of building this church building, or beginning its work. It was your parents, or grand- parents, or our ancestors in faith that started this work, and they have left us to continue.

This work has now been entrusted to our care.

Some of you have laboured in this building and in the ministry of Calvin for many years, for others this is a new work to you.

Paul says that we are to take care how we build upon the church.
And I know that all of you have tried to do that.

We have worked to build up the church, the body of Christ, together.
And we have tried to do things well, in a way that glorifies God.
How we do what we do is at least as important as what we do.

Both are important because this church is not ours.
This church is God's church – built for the glory of God, built to serve not our mission, but God's mission.
God's mission has a church, and buildings, and today we celebrate the whole history of this church and its work for God, and we celebrate that it is easier to get to parking spot here.

This parking lot is not ours, but we dedicate it to be used by God, now and in the future as God chooses.

The point of today is not the building or the parking lot in and of itself, it is about the body of Christ, God's people, together serving God's mission, in the community that God loves.

It is about using our gifts and the tools we have, all the resources entrusted to our care—building on the foundation of Jesus our Lord.

So let me say to all of you as a church “well done.”

You have worked carefully and well, continuing Jesus as our foundation, and strengthening the church that Jesus loves.

All of this has been accomplished by the grace and gift of God, for the glory of God, thanks be to God!