

From the Pastor

Ted Miller's funeral was a couple of weeks ago. We will certainly miss him. Yes, we've experienced quite a number of losses here at Centennial over the last year and half or so. It seems that we have had more than our share of funerals. And it seems we've been lighting the candle we use to remember those among us who have died every other Sunday morning.

Each of these losses causes us to remember the past, to look back with fondness to the days when these we have lost were still among us, to look back and remember how things used to be. This, of course, is normal and is as it should be. It is right and good that we should remember with fondness those we have lost.

We should not, however, allow ourselves to get stuck in the past and the way things used to be. Centennial has been blessed with a good number of new people. A good number of people have chosen to join the church over the last few years. And a good number of others, while they haven't officially joined, have chosen to be part of the church; it's like they are members. There are, of course, a few churches that have seen more new members than we, but Centennial has seen many more new people than most churches have seen, far and away. Far and away.

I hope you will not let your remembrance of the past, how things used to be, blind you to fact that there are new people participating in the life of your church. I hope your remembrance of the past will not blind you to the future of your church, the new possibilities that having these new people present to your church.

I hope, too, when we gather for communion, that our remembrance of Jesus and his life long ago will not blind us to his presence with us around that table. I hope we will not be blind to the presence of Jesus, risen from the dead, with us at the table and in the life of the church. I hope we will be able to see the new possibilities, the future, that the presence of Jesus with us opens up for Centennial.

Pastor Neal