

President's Message September 2020

My car was due for some routine maintenance and service as well as the annual state inspection. So yesterday I took it to the shop. When I got my bill, there were some parts and materials listed, but the lion's share of the cost was the labor. It got me thinking about how skilled, talented, experienced, and valuable people are in this world and how much we all depend on each other to do his or her job. It's good that we take time to honor and celebrate that labor with a national holiday each year.

It's also a good time to reflect on all the gifts of talent and skill and experience we have in our congregation and for the willingness of our leaders, and committee members and others to engage themselves in a labor of love to share their gifts freely in service to all at St. Timothy. I think about all the issues this year with COVID and how hard the members of Council worked to adapt to new ways of meeting and working together to keep our church operational, unlike many other churches in our community, some of whom are just now beginning to resume worship services. I am especially grateful to this Council for all their support this year and I am very appreciative and thankful for all our volunteers who serve on committees and others who do a lot of work around St. Timothy that sometimes may not quite get the notice or attention it deserves.

We're reminded that Jesus worked with his hands too. We don't know for certain how much he got paid for his carpentry skills early on, if anything, but we would assume he was compensated in some way. He depended on his feet to take him around the area and his hands to craft items of wood, and his mind to figure out how to make repairs to items that had broken. Later, he used his mind and hands and feet for other purposes like teaching and preaching, feeding the hungry, healing the sick and infirm and, yes, even raising a dear friend from the dead. He did these things out of love, freely and without charge. In the end, which was just the beginning, his hands and feet were nailed to a cross and he died for us willingly and freely. Our salvation and life eternal were secured; our bill was 'Paid in Full'.

My prayer for us all is a peaceful, restful, and joyful holiday weekend. We have worked hard and we should enjoy it and give thanks to God for giving His people such wonderful talents and gifts for us to use for the betterment and good of all.

¹⁸ This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given them—for this is their lot. ¹⁹ Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God. ²⁰ They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart. (Ecclesiastes 5:18-20)

Happy Labor Day and Blessings,
Will Harmon