Pastor History

I first heard God’s call in 1975. I was quick to answer, “Here am I, send me!” I even took my first college class, on the book of Acts, off campus, in my hometown, while I was just a sophomore in High School. This class strengthened my desire to attend Kentucky Christian College and in December of my junior year of High School, I was accepted. Unlike many of my friends, I did not spend much of my senior year wondering where I would be attending school in the fall; instead, I began to read the Bible with a renewed vigor, as I wanted to be “ready” for classes. During my Junior and Senior year, both my Youth Minister and Preacher spent extra time with me. They both encouraged me and they modeled ministry. If I could pattern my ministry after anyone I have ever known, it would be that of Earl Swank, the preacher at my home church while I was in High School. His ministry demonstrated the importance of truly loving those people whom you serve.

During the first few years in the full time youth ministry, I learned more about me and how I approached ministry than four years of Bible College had revealed. It was during these years that I began to learn the difference between ministry as a vocation and ministry as a calling. Someone once told Mother Theresa that they would not wash the lepers she was washing for a million dollars. Mother Teresa's reply was, “Neither would I.” Humble servanthood was not a part of my character when I left Bible College. I was sure that I could and would change the world. While I did the “right things'', I did them often for the wrong reasons. I wanted everyone to know how good I was at my job; and it was a job, not ministry. Looking back, I realize that for much of my ministry, I was a fraud. I did the right things, but for the wrong reasons. I was more interested in how others saw me, than in how God saw me. Given the opportunity to relive these years of ministry, I would heed Steve Camp’s advice when he sings, “don’t tell them Jesus loves them, until you’re ready to love them too.”

Now that I have matured both as a person and as a Christian, it is painful to see how shallow I was during those years. When Jesus called Levi, he was at work and he left his table to follow the Savior. Later that day Jesus was eating at Levi’s house when he told the people assembled “I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." I qualify. In the thirty-nine years since I graduated from college, and more recently the fourteen years since I graduated with my MDiv degree, God has been shaping me into the person he wants me to be. By no means perfect, I am but a humble sinner relying on the grace of God to get me through all of life’s struggles. I want to be able to help others find this love and this grace in their lives. I want to be the best pastor I can be. I want to be the best so that by all means I can reach the lost, comfort the sick and encourage the fallen. I want to be ready to help others in season and out of season. I want to be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks me to give the reason for the hope that I have in me.

My wife Amy and I currently live in Schoharie and I commute to Amsterdam. Amy is a Counselor for Schoharie County (though she is also an ordained minister). We live with Amy’s mother, Rosella and two dogs (a border collie named Annie and a Yorky named Madison).

If you would like to talk with me, please feel free to call, text, email or simply drop by the office. I am looking forward to working with the Amsterdam community to make it a better place to live, love, work and worship!