

First Presbyterian Church 2017 Lenten Devotional
“Building the Church, Building the Faith”

Week 5

Day 23: Monday, March 27--I Corinthians 3:10

“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 on it.”

God has given each of us the tools to build up the Church of Jesus Christ. What tools has God given to you, and how are you going to use them to give glory to God?

Day 24: Tuesday, March 28--II Chronicles 2:6-7

“Who am I to build a house for him, except as a place to make offerings before him? So now send me an artisan skilled to work in gold, silver, bronze, and iron, and in purple, crimson, and blue fabrics, trained also in engraving, to join the skilled workers who are with me in Judah and Jerusalem, whom my father David provided.”

So many special skills are needed to build an addition to a building. Give thanks for all those craftspeople who will be sharing their talents with us so that we can have a successful project.

Day 25: Wednesday, March 29-- I Kings 6:12

“Now the word of the LORD came to Solomon, ‘Concerning this house that you are building, if you will walk in my statutes, obey my ordinances, and keep all my commandments by walking in them, then I will establish my promise with you, which I made to your father David. I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel.’”

The Lord reminded Solomon that a successful building project is not judged by how nice the building is, or whether it came in under budget. It is judged by how well he, and we, obey the teachings of God. What can you do to make this project a spiritual success?

Day 26: Thursday, March 30--II Kings 5:11

“They would give the money that was weighed out into the hands of the workers who had the oversight of the house of the LORD; then they paid it out to the carpenters and the builders who worked on the house of the LORD,”

Building the church not only means managing the construction, but it also means managing the money. This is a good time to appreciate the work of those who are making sure that the finances of this project will be handled efficiently and in order.

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Day 27: Friday, March 31-- Deuteronomy 22:8

“When you build a new house, you shall make a parapet for your roof; otherwise you might have blood-guilt on your house, if anyone should fall from it.”

During this construction project, we all need to be concerned about safety—the safety of the workers, the safety of our members, and the safety of our guests. Take into account the ways that we can have an injury-free construction project.

Day 28: Saturday, April 1-- Jeremiah 22:13

“Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness, and his upper rooms by injustice; who makes his neighbors work for nothing, and does not give them their wages;”

The Bible teaches us to be fair in all our business dealings. This would be a good time to remind yourself to be fair and just in all of your own business and financial affairs.

Fifth Sunday in Lent: April 2-- Nehemiah 2:18-20

“Then they said, ‘Let us start building!’ So they committed themselves to the common good. But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they mocked and ridiculed us, saying, ‘What is this that you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?’ Then I replied to them, ‘The God of heaven is the one who will give us success, and we his servants are going to start building; but you have no share or claim or historic right in Jerusalem.’”

After long months, even years of planning, evaluating, deciding and praying, this building project has finally come to fruition. As we get set to build, entreat God for a successful start and completion of this venture.

