

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Two of my favorite verses of Scripture are Proverbs 3:5-6: **“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge God, and he will make straight your paths.”** How wonderful it is to know that, as long as we trust God, God is “making our paths straight” in this crazy world!

As FPC moves into our 3rd century, it is essential that we do so with clear intentions and a deep dependance upon God. *Our* wisdom, *our* knowledge, *our* intentions, will get us nowhere unless they are grounded in a firm and faithful commitment to Jesus Christ, who is the Head of the Church. If we seek God’s wisdom, it will be given to us: **“If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you.”** (James 1:5)

Please note the verbs in those verses from Proverbs and James that I quoted: **“Trust; Rely; Acknowledge; Ask.”** That is exactly what we are trying to do with our Long-Range Planning efforts. We are asking for your opinions and thoughts, and we want you to spend some time praying about your thoughts before you share them with us. We want you to trust in, and rely upon, God, then share your thoughts with us at our luncheon event on February 18.

God’s wisdom and guidance are essential to the mission of the church, and we trust that God makes that wisdom and guidance available to us through our common faith and petitions, thus we need you to be a part of this process. Beginning January 29, you will receive a devotional each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Please read each devotional and allow it to guide you into a time of prayer for our Long-Range Planning process. It is our prayer that not only will this exercise help the church as we seek God’s guidance; it will also help you personally to grow spiritually.

Thank you in advance for your prayers, and for your wisdom, intelligence, imagination, and love.

Grace and Peace,
John H. White