

“Truth for Tough Times” What does that mean?

Today in Ronni’s message, we learned from the 3 prophets in about 500 BC time frame.

I can tell you what it means in my life, today!

I will begin and share with you that this past year, I turned 50 years old – one of those milestone birthdays.

I am blessed that I feel healthy, energetic, and strong from a physical perspective.

On a personal level, it seems that I have experienced lots of changes recently so I began to look back, evaluate life and try to put things into perspective.

That may have been triggered by several milestone changes we are experiencing in our personal life. Things like:

- Our first child, Jerry off to college in Texas, Home 4 People /3
- We started visiting colleges with our Daughter Leah, Home 3/2
- Lots of Change

I began looking back over 20 years ago, when Sharon and I were married. Both being new to the area, we started visiting churches because we wanted to join and be part of a church before raising a family.

- Even though we lived in Batavia at the time, Baker was our choice and what a blessing that was.

-And yes our children, Jerry and Leah were baptized, attended Sunday school, confirmed and I can visualize those images as if they were yesterday.

-So much to cherish and experience at Baker including our Pastors, staff, voices in the choir, music and so many other valued programs.

The Truth is... speaking on behalf of Sharon and myself, even over 20 years and many changes at Baker and in our lives, what has not changed is our steadfast love and commitment to Baker Memorial United Methodist Church.

-This is OUR church to worship and be with God.

-This is OUR church to raise our children and teach them Christian values.

-This is OUR church to value time with our church family and friends.

-This is OUR church that we enjoy the physical beauty of the stone, stained glass and so much more...

It is very “easy and clear” to talk about how Baker has impacted our lives through the years. I am confident each of you also has wonderful memories that will remain with you forever.

Now, albeit difficult, I find it necessary to ask you for your help and support to overcome this shortfall with our building fund and debt obligation.

The Truth is... this is a difficult economic environment that most all of us are experiencing. It is frightful how many families are being pressured with loss of employment, increased food and gas expenses, fixed incomes that have decreased over the past few years and for us, rising college tuition and expenses to name a few examples.

The Truth is...so many are working effortlessly to help support Baker church with their time, talent and treasure, and support the very important programs we are committed to.

The Truth is... it is not enough, as we are experiencing lower contributions and reduced pledges.

With that, Sharon and I are going to make an additional contribution beyond our original pledge because **“this is our church”** We ask and pray that you will be able to help also.

Thank you