

Moving On

By Red Miller

A new Pastor came to town. After about a month the church received a bill for lawn work at the parsonage. No one paid much attention to it; the Pastor had been busy getting acquainted and familiar with the community and probably didn't have time to cut the grass.

The next month another bill came, so the finance committee met and decided they couldn't afford to pay these bills each month. They sent the chairperson out to talk to the Pastor about it. After a short cordial visit the chairperson ask the Pastor about the bills. The Pastor said, "Yes, I've hired a crew to take care of the yard and they are really doing a good Job." The chairperson responded "the former Pastor cut the grass himself, have you thought about that?" "Yes," said the Pastor, "and I asked him but he don't want to do it anymore."

The point of this story is: The only reason to look at our experiences of the past, both good and bad, is to make better decisions as we move forward. The past is gone, it's history and it's time to forget the past and move ahead into the future. In the book of Ephesians 4:11-13, Paul writes, "Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers, their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. The key word in our scripture above is equip.

If we were asked the question can the Pastor do it all? I think we would all agree that the answer is no. Though the Pastor's job is to equip the people for ministry, certainly there are some obvious ministries that the Pastor must do, such as preach, visit the sick and do Christian counseling. However, the Holy Spirit has also given each Christian special gifts for building up the church. This involves teaching, nurturing, giving, administering, building, and many other tasks. By pooling these gifts we are able to do many things that an individual cannot do alone. We all need to look for opportunities to use our special gift for building up the church. Working together, the church can express the fullness of Christ.

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy. Philip. 1:4