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WHERE OR HOW HAS GOD SHOWN UP FOR ME THIS WEEK?

HERE'S HOW I WILL RESPOND:

WEEK 2: BEYOND TODAY: TOMORROW

MATTHEW 25:14-23 "AGAIN, IT WILL BE LIKE A MAN GOING ON A JOURNEY, WHO CALLED HIS SERVANTS AND ENTRUSTED HIS WEALTH TO THEM. TO ONE HE GAVE FIVE BAGS OF GOLD, TO ANOTHER TWO BAGS, AND TO ANOTHER ONE BAG, **EACH ACCORDING TO HIS ABILITY. THEN HE WENT ON HIS JOURNEY** . . . HIS MASTER REPLIED, 'WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT! YOU HAVE BEEN FAITHFUL WITH A FEW THINGS; I WILL PUT YOU IN CHARGE OF MANY THINGS. COME AND SHARE YOUR MASTER'S HAPPINESS!'

God invites us to work with him in the "family business" by managing His resources to fulfill His work on earth.

As a boy of twelve Jesus said, "I must be about my Father's business." How might this apply to us?

Do you view your material resources as your opportunity to participate in God's business in the world?

How does it make you feel to know that God trusts you and is counting on you to be an active partner in accomplishing His will and work on earth?

WEEK 2 INTRODUCTION

“BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD.”
(PSALM 46)

As we continue to discover, even anticipate, moments of solitude in our daily lives, we begin to notice how God is present around us and in us. We want to know this God. We want to see more clearly our God who is immanent in every cell of His creations from a blade of grass to the stewards of His creations – US!

Our actions and intentions can either move us closer or further away in our relationship with God. We know that God is already waiting for us. We just need to figure out how to get out of our own way so that we can live lives focused on praising and bringing God’s plan to fruition.

“Our Father, who art in Heaven. Hallowed be thy name! Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven!” This week, through a clear refocusing of our purpose as God’s servants and with a certain indifference or detachment to our current circumstances, we will examine periods of our past and present in the way of St. Ignatius’s Spiritual Exercises so that we can discern where God is at work in our futures.

WEEK 2 PRAYER

*Dear God, I desire to be in relationship with You **Beyond Today!** I yearn to know Your ways, to be held in Your gaze every moment of every day. Make me Your instrument of peace and reconciliation in a world that is separated from You. Help me to be Your face to my family, my church, my world. And as I search my soul to learn what You would have me learn, help me to know and follow the path that brings me closer to You not farther away. As Your humble servant, I pray. Amen.*

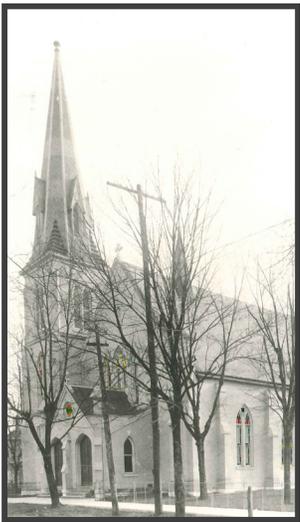
WEEK 2 PRACTICE

Continue to spend time in daily solitude and reflection this week. In your quiet moments, become aware of an event, time or circumstance in your life. Reflect on it. Ask yourself, did you feel God’s fullness or an emptiness? If you felt empty or lost, did you still desire to know God’s plan for yourself? There are ways to know if what you feel or hear is from God or if you are forcing your plan on God. Even in the darkest of times, God is present to us waiting for us to acknowledge and surrender to His power and love. As you reflect on your choices, a pattern may present itself to you – moments of comfort and moments of misery. Feelings and thoughts that draw us deeper into God’s fullness or take us further down a path of distraction and busyness holding God at arm’s length. Practice this discernment process as your days unfold this week. Learn from your decisions that have brought you to this point in your relationship with God. Then look, listen and feel for those moments when God is drawing you closer, challenging you to know Him and to be His face and hands and heart in this world.

WEEK 2 PILGRIMAGE POINT

PRAYER WALK DOWNTOWN

We now invite you to explore on foot some of the forgotten points of interest as they relate to our church's heritage in downtown Franklin. You will make a four-block loop that begins and ends at the historic sanctuary. The stops on the tour encompass sites that were active parts of our church life throughout the span of over 200 years.



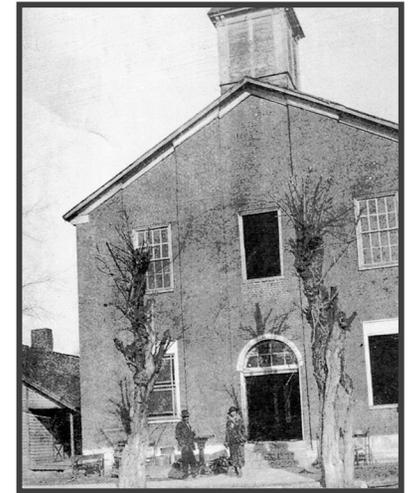
EXTERIOR OF HISTORIC SANCTUARY.

(SW corner of Fifth and Church) Notice the red bricks, how they are actually painted red and are not really red bricks. The original bricks were made down by the Harpeth River out of river mud. The building was originally painted solid white. In the late 1800s it was painted solid red. The mortar was later repointed and the appearance of red bricks became noticeable. Notice the steep roof line and the stone caps on the parapet walls, also with the arch effects and rosette window above double doors of the narthex.

CHURCH PROPERTY ACROSS THE STREET. (Block between Fourth and Fifth) Prior to the move to the Main Campus in December of 2015 we occupied almost the entirety of the block across the street. Beginning in 1906 with our first purchase, each parcel of land and each building acquired or constructed had its own story as the church grew and each generation sacrificed and contributed the funds to add buildings to accommodate the growing numbers.

SECOND CHURCH SITE. (NE corner Second and Church) You can now walk two blocks east and stand at the corner of Second and Church. This is the site of the

second church building. This structure was occupied by federal troops during the Battle of Franklin and used as a hospital after it was over. The building was originally completed around 1830. In 1865 E.M Bounds was appointed pastor here immediately after the close of the war and helped lead the powerful revival that occurred during that time. After the war, and resulting from the revival, it was decided to purchase the triangular lot three blocks up the street. This previous building was sold to the AME congregation that is now Shorter Chapel. In the 1920s they dismantled the church and used the materials to build their present structure at Eleventh and Natchez.

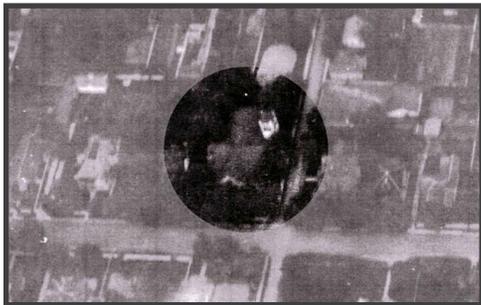


AFRICAN METHODIST CHURCH. Still standing opposite the second church site sits the former black church that was built by the Northern Methodists as a mission church for former slaves. Now the home to the Pull Tight Players, you can easily read the inscription "Wiley Memorial M.E. Church" on the cornerstone. Interestingly in 1869, after our congregation moved and sold the A.M.E. church building, this M.E. (Northern) black church was built.

FIRST CHURCH LOCATION. (First Avenue at the terminal end of Church Street) In this empty field to the right of the silos is where the first building was built. Remarkably, it was a brick structure, unusual since most similar buildings of that era were of log construction. The site, called the "Meeting House Lot" in the original plat of Franklin, was set aside by founder Abram Maury, who was a Methodist. Founding American Methodist Bishop Francis Asbury preached there in 1812. We are one of the few continuing churches who can make that claim. In his journal he records it as "neat little brick house on the Harper [sic] River.

DEPOT AREA. Walk one block to the South to the area where the railroad service yard is located. The freight warehouse is still present. The carpenter's shop that in 1870 crafted the Historic Sanctuary pews was located here. Imagine the massive logs arriving on wagons and being reshaped into our treasured pews. The depot itself was where countless new pastors would arrive to begin their ministry at our church. The Board of Steward's minutes every year or so would record that "brother so and so met the new pastor at the depot and helped him get situated in his new lodging."

HOLINESS TABERNACLE SITE. (SE corner of Fourth and Margin) Proceed two blocks west and stand in front of the "Casa De Mi Padre," the Hispanic congregation that is occupying the former Nazarene church which relocated in the



1980s. This building and the stone parsonage behind it was the site of the mammoth 2,000-seat Holiness Tabernacle which was completed in 1896. It was built a few years after Nashville's Union Gospel Tabernacle (now called the Ryman) was built for the same purpose

of preaching John Wesley's doctrine of sanctification, or the heart perfected in love which frees persons from the bondage to sin. This is the structure that was dismantled in 1929 with the materials being used to build a speakeasy on Moore's Lane. More on that later.

TENNESSEE FEMALE COLLEGE. On the corner opposite the Holiness Tabernacle sat the Methodist school called the Tennessee Female College. In the days before public education, private church-sponsored academies were common. Two structures were built on this site which encompassed the entire southern half of the block facing Margin between Fourth and Fifth. The first one burned and the second one survived until the early 1900s when public schools made the school

unnecessary. Shortly after the Civil War, our pastor, Robert K. Hargrove, became the president of this school and was later elected Bishop and ultimately was named the second chancellor of Vanderbilt University, the new Methodist university founded in Nashville in 1872.



Now, back to Historic Sanctuary. You have completed a historic loop that represents Franklin First's deep roots in Franklin. Imagine that in the years between the Civil War and 1900, Franklin grew to have about 2,000 residents. In 1900, our congregation alone had 500 members. By comparison, the then First Baptist Church (located at Third and Church) had 70 members. Our congregation today has nearly 3,600 members, substantially more than the entire city population of 100 years ago.

UNDERSTANDING OUR PAST IS CRITICAL TO UNDERSTANDING OUR FUTURE AND FOR THE WORK GOD IS DOING, AND INVITING YOU TO BE A PART OF IT THROUGH THE *BEYOND US* CAMPAIGN.