

## IN TOUCH

### FIRST THINGS FIRST

Dear Friend:

Have you ever wished for a 30-hour day? Have you ever said to yourself, “I am so far behind schedule that if the Lord called me home, I would be a week late getting there.”? Whether it is work at home (yard work, decorating work) or work at work (projects), work piles up on us like snow in a Minnesota winter. How do we dig ourselves out? The more important question is, “How do we avoid getting buried under in the first place?” The answer is simple but not easy: practice putting first things first. Years ago, Stephen Covey wrote a best-selling book with the title *First Things First*. It is excellent, and I highly recommend it. I have vowed to continue reading it over and over until I get it right. I am stilling reading it 25 years after my first read. You should read it – maybe it will only take you ten years to get it right.

If you were to pause and think seriously about the three or four first things in your life, what would they be? Why is it these first things so often are not first? Would they really be first if we just had more time in a day? Less interruptions in our day? A new smart phone to organize better? I do not believe any of these are the answer. One step to a more balanced life is what Covey says is to understand a time management matrix. Lots of things in life are urgent but few things are truly important. Put the important things first and the urgent things become fewer. There is not enough space to go into detail for everything, just know this: from a Christian perspective important things are: cultivating our relationship with God, with our family, with all those we love, and sharing and showing the love of God to others.

Two thousand years before Stephen Covey was born, Jesus spoke the clearest and most simple verse in regards to putting first things first: “Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you.” (Matthew 6:35) That has been my lifelong favorite verse and I need to spend the rest of my life pursuing it!

In Christ’s Love,

Pastor Mike

Prayers: Pastor Alan Hicks (colon cancer), David Hay (heart attack), Teri Kennedy (back surgery)

#### Events

- Friday 2PM – 3PM: Jeanne Teele visiting hour at the church (cremation). 3PM funeral.
- Saturday 9AM – 10AM: Pull Party (Weeds). All Ages! Do not bring your bathing suit!