

Kris Adams Testimony 11/17/2013

Good Morning and thank you to Reverend David and FPC Church members for allowing me this opportunity to speak to you this morning.

For those of you that don't know me, my name is Kris Adams Paterson. I am currently serving my third term as a Deacon at Fanwood Presbyterian. I'm also actively involved as a member of the Fellowship Committee, participate in Presbyterian Women's Needle Night mission, and am a regular member of one of our ushering teams.

I'd like to tell you a little bit more about the path that led me to finding a home with Fanwood Presbyterian. There was nothing unusual about how it started. My parents weren't regular church goers, but it was important to my mother, especially, that we kids (I'm the 2nd oldest of 9) were all baptized and attended Sunday school. That continued until my confirmation and with my joining the Brick Presbyterian Church in my teens. Once I was driving and working part-time, my attendance at church became less and less frequent, and, after I went away to college and my parents moved out of state, I seldom went. I still considered myself a Christian and identified myself as a Presbyterian, but I did not practice or live my faith.

When I eventually bought a home and moved to Fanwood, one of the things I liked about my new community was the beautiful brick church downtown that reminded me of the church I'd attended as a child. But, not having children of my own and enjoying a successful career and a happy social life, I didn't realize what was missing from my life was my relationship with God.

I met my husband Bruce through mutual friends in the late 70's. Our paths crossed over the years and we knew each other for almost twenty years before we started dating. Bruce and I were married in 2008. It was a first time marriage for both of us. I know that God intended Bruce and I to be together and it was through Bruce that I came to FPC. Bruce was also living in Fanwood and he would tell me about visits from a Jehovah's Witness woman who came to his house and the Bible discussions they had.

The Jehovah's Witness interpretation of the Bible and it's relevance to current events didn't match with mine, but I was never quite able to express my beliefs. I decided that I needed to continue the spiritual journey I had started as a child and to re-connect with my faith. I started attending FPC and became a member shortly thereafter.

I know the Lord has been with me, leading and guiding me every step of my journey. He was with me as I sang hymns in my childhood Sunday School and is with me as I sing or play hymns in church today. God was with me the day I met

Bruce in the 1970s and was with us the day we were married in 2008. It was God who brought the Jehovah's Witnesses to Bruce's door and God who brought me through the doors of FPC. God led me to become a Deacon and is with me each time I visit a shut-in or do some other service in His name. He is with me today as I speak to you, and will be with me on the day I die.

In humble appreciation and knowledge that God is in my Life and that my Life is God's, I also wanted to use this opportunity to speak to you about an upcoming event. The Deacons are sponsoring a Blood Drive on Saturday, December 7, 2013 at the NJ Blood Services office on South Avenue, in Scotch Plains.

I, like many of you, experienced a hospital stay and surgery this past year. We are truly blessed to live in an area where we have available excellent medical facilities and caring, experienced medical professionals, including many who are members of this congregation. Ready access to a safe and adequate supply of blood and blood components is essential for these physicians and hospitals to conduct their business of saving lives.

One in every three persons will need blood at sometime during their lives. Yet only one out of ten people eligible to give blood actually do so. Most donors are students or mature older adults. Less well represented are donors in their late 20's to mid 40's. Donated blood lasts only 42 days, so it is important to continually replenish the supply. Your help is needed.

As we enter the holiday season, I encourage you to consider giving a life saving gift that will cost you nothing other than a small amount of your time. As an extra incentive, anyone who donates blood between now and January, 2014 will be entered into a raffle for the chance to win Super Bowl tickets. Additionally, if our church reaches or surpasses a goal of 18 donated pints of blood, donors will participate in another drawing for a chance to win an NFL jersey.

Sally Drewes and I will be available in the Narthex and by the back door after services the next few weeks to answer any questions and to help schedule your appointment to donate blood on Saturday, December 7th.

Finally, in closing, I'd like to call your attention to Romans chapter 12, verse 1, where Paul wrote: _Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your Spiritual act of worship._ I can think of no better way to do this than to participate in the Blood Drive on December 7th and in the many other mission projects sponsored by our church. And God's people say AMEN.