

Devotional Meditation for First Mennonite Church, Hillsboro, Kansas –50 years celebration of building

By Ken Peterson, Former Pastor of First Mennonite, Hillsboro, Kansas

“The Journey ... The Journey ... The Journey... “

We read in **Hebrews 13:14**, **“For here we do not have a continuing city, but we seek one to come.” We are all on a journey.** A life-time journey. The journey may be quite **literal** – traveling from one place to another. The journey may also be **metaphorical** – an emotional, relational, educational, experiential, or spiritual journey. But we are all on a journey.

Carol and I remember journeying to First Mennonite Church, Hillsboro, Kansas. Before and after we traveled many other roads to pastor Mennonite congregations in many places of the United States.

In each congregation we traveled on emotional, relational, educational, experiential, and spiritual journeys. Your congregation has traveled on these roads for **fifty years in your present building.** You have journeyed together in faith, nurture, relationships, and service. Remember, reflect, learn and celebrate the journey of your life together in Jesus Christ.

You are on a journey, a journey, a journey. Some of your experiences in church and life have been hard, and some have been wonderful. Whatever you have gone through, Christ has been with you. **Hebrews 13:5** gives the promise of God in Christ, **“I will never leave you, nor forsake you.”** You may have gone through valleys of sickness, heart-ache, financial set-backs, relational strains, or spiritual uncertainties. **Christ has gone with you.**

You and I continue the journey to the city that lasts for ever with Christ and the multitudes of believers who have gone before us. They made it to their destination, and God will bring you to that eternal city and building of love and peace. **Keep at the journey of faith and service, and mature in Christ in the fellowship of the church.** The many cities and buildings we travel to are only temporary. Let us serve well where God may take us, and know that joy awaits us, when we will hear our Lord say to us, **“Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your Lord.”**

*Warm greetings in Christ,
Pastor Ken & Carol*