

SERMON IRON BRIDGE CENTENNIAL
Psalm 84 Acts 14:21-28

Rev. Kitchen was extraordinary in his own day, he just could not see that as clearly as we see it today. The families who put their names to the deed to buy this land were extraordinary people, they just could not see it as clearly as we see it today. The women who cooked the meals, the children who sang in the Sunday School, the organists who shared their special talent in worship, all were extraordinary--today we see that.

So, in a hundred years when they pull that service bulletin out of the family Bible and put it under glass for all to marvel at, it will become clear that you are all extraordinary people--returning ministers, honoured guests, members of the current congregation, organizers of the great renovation of the early eighties, members of the choir today--all so extraordinary.

Why? What transforms you from what you are into something so extraordinary? God does it. We gather as a church to declare all that God has done with us. Alone, we are nothing. In declaring all that God has done with us, we join that great host who have praised the name of the Lord since the day the Psalmist wrote, "How lovely is thy dwelling place, O Lord of Hosts!"

The book of Acts speaks of "The work which they had fulfilled." In that day, the work fulfilled had been just that: work. It was all in a day's work, travelling from one town to another, working hard and strengthening the churches. Afterward, it became the story of the birth of the Christian Church. Today, it is scripture and that day's work will never be forgotten.

So it is with your day's work. Today, it is just another day. Tomorrow, people will remember and give thanks for it. That is what we are gathered today to do: to remember and give thanks for all that they fulfilled in these hundred years. In its day, the work was not so very much different from the work that you do. Our ancestors did not know that we would display their pictures with pride, and treasure their faded signatures.