The Parish Prints Journal has made it through one year. The topics paralleled the themes of the church year. We began last March with Lent and Easter and moved forward. With a second year of publication we thank God for a wonderful response to the authors and articles that were shared in the past year. Fourteen friends have shared their faith and passion with us intimately. And this spring the journey begins again.

Faithfulness—God’s and ours—is the theme of this issue. You have the opportunity to read the testimonies of three new writers—Paul Goudy, Katie Lydon, and Bill Warren—along with words from your LeaderTeam. Their personal statements of a faithful God provide us a feeling of comfort and assurance that God is faithful—in ways we don’t always realize.

As I write this introduction it is Holy Week. The faithfulness of Jesus our Savior is never more evident. “With eyes focused on Jerusalem,” is a powerful statement. Jesus never took his eyes of his ultimate goal—being faithful to his Father’s will. And he calls us to faithfulness as well.

But it’s not a blind call. As he calls he empowers us to receive it. He grants the faith necessary to say ‘yes’ to the call.

God is faithful!

When we speak of the faithfulness of God we are usually thinking of God’s reliability. He is our Fortress and our Rock. You can count on him. God has your back.

I believe there is another aspect to this divine attribute that we often miss. Taken literally we could also say that God is full of faith. No matter how sinful we have been he says, “You are mine. You are salt. You are light. You are a city on a hill.” No matter how unreliable we have been he does not hesitate to entrust us with his mission. “Go make disciples, Baptize. Teach.”

It takes a lot of faith on the part of God to think that his will can ever be accomplished by the likes of us. God is faithful. The Almighty creator is full of faith in you, his creature.

God is faithful!

For the Journey

(continued next page)

Mission Statement
To Know Him and to Make Him Known

Vision Statement
Prince of Peace is a vibrant cross + generational Christian family. Lifelong Christian education defines and drives our ministry - we learn, love and teach about life with Jesus. The more we learn, the better we love each other, making our community of faith grow stronger. This bond empowers us to boldly serve our neighbors in ways that show them Jesus, and bring them to faith in Him.
**Relationships**

The one thing I have been unable to do is to quit smoking. I even resented your prayers for me because I really did not want to quit and I did not believe I could.

During my Christmas break in Alaska this year I had yet another health incident related to a lifetime of smoking. One wise cardiologist simply told me that this was something that was in my control. This was a place where I could make myself healthier with no help from him or anyone or anything else. He was faithful. He was an agent of the God who is full of faith in me. I could do it.

Whatever you are facing in your life, you can do it. God is full of faith in you. You can do it.

I saw God’s faithfulness in action during our free health clinic for the elderly. This trip was both rewarding and challenging, I frequently relied on God to help get me through some of the struggles. Throughout this trip, it was amazing to see that even though the people had so little, they always remained positive and had such faith in God.

**Youth**

Last May I went on a nursing mission trip to Nicaragua with some of my fellow classmates from Concordia’s nursing program. We went to several small towns throughout Nicaragua and worked at many different Hogars (nursing homes) for the elderly. This trip was both rewarding and challenging, I frequently relied on God to help get me through some of the struggles. Throughout this trip, it was amazing to see that even though the people had so little, they always remained positive and had such faith in God.

I tried everyone’s psychological schemes including hypnotism. I used the substitutes for nicotine and their many offshoots. I finally concluded that it didn’t really matter because I was so far gone that quitting wouldn’t help much anyway. Forget God. When it came to smoking I had no faith in him or myself.

The car accelerated down the straight, the driver’s foot crushing the gas pedal against the floor. A corner quickly came into view, but not until the last moment did the driver come off the gas and quickly, yet progressively press the brake pedal down.

The car’s nose turned toward the corner and the driver’s body pressed hard against the bolster of the seat as he had bent back on the gas.

The hot sticky tires gripped the asphalt, allowing the car to slow and turn-in toward the corner. With confidence the driver pressed the gas pedal to the floor as the car passed the turn’s apex drifting out to the edge of the track, accelerating down the next straight.

In auto racing one of the differences between the driver who wins and the one who does not is the ability to recognize and use the available traction. Though it is difficult to actually see traction, without a doubt it exists and so, as you find yourselves called in service to God, don’t be discouraged by what you don’t have, be encouraged by what you know a faithful God will provide, that you may bring His blessing to those in need around you!

When Moses returned to Egypt after 40 years of guiding sheep in Midian, he felt ill-prepared for the task of freeing the Israelites from Pharaoh’s mighty Empire. When Isaiah and Jeremiah heard God’s Call to speak as His Prophets, they felt ill-at-ease with their ability to proclaim anything of value before the Kings they would confront.

When David stepped out to meet the Philistines with a handful of rocks and a leather sling, he seemed ill-equipped to do battle with the giant Goliath. And when the boy Phillip found was brought forward to help provide an evening meal for the more than Five Thousand people who had gathered to hear Jesus teach, his five loaves of bread and two small fish seemed hopelessly inadequate for the needs of the moment.

The Christian life is filled with challenges—some physical, some relational, some spiritual. Often we find ourselves nudge by God into situations that are far outside our “comfort zone”, and wonder how He could seriously be calling us —of all people— to represent Him in a particular person or circumstance.

We cite our lack of courage when it comes to voicing our faith. We point out our absence of deep Biblical knowledge and our shallow understanding of Scriptural truth. We reflect on the resources we possess, and judge ourselves unequal to the task He is asking of us.

But, like those heroes of faith we read about in Scripture, we must remember the resource who is always with us—a Savior who loves us, and who promises to never leave us, but stays with us and helps us get back on track.

**Education**

The big difference between a race car’s traction and God’s faithfulness is when the driver pushes the car beyond the traction envelope traction will be lost and the car will spin off the road out of control.

When we push our lives out of control, though we may spin off course, God’s faithfulness does not leave us, but stays with us and helps us get back on track.

**Service**

When we give of ourselves to serve others, we may bring His blessing to those in need around you!

**Relationships**

Katie Lydon

“God Has Faith In You” Pastor Bill Warren

Education

“God’s Faithfulness in Nicaragua” Katie Lydon

Youth

Paul Goudy

“God’s Faithfulness - Traction For Our Lives”

“God Is Faithful to Provide” Jeff Kranich

Service

“God’s Faithfulness supports us in many ways including giving us loving parents, teachers, pastors, mentors, friends and associates, jobs, good health with the ability to heal, to name just a few, but most of all He gives us a Savior.”

Jeff Kranich

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