

trinity *Tidings*

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reaching hearts, touching lives

The Next Step

We do it every day, multiple times a day, and for most of us, we do it without thinking. We take the next step, followed by another step.

As you prepare to take the next step as a congregation and as members at Trinity, it might be useful to focus on a few aspects of what we normally do without thinking.

Reflect

When you take a step in the freshly fallen snow, how often do you look back and think about the step you just took?

As you take the next step in your journey as a congregation, it's appropriate to reflect, to look at where you have been, what you have accomplished, what significant mile markers you have already passed.

By reflecting, you realize that you've made progress, that you haven't been standing still. Your past footprints are evidence of movement in the past, evidence that things have changed and you have embraced and adjusted to those changes of the past.

Assess

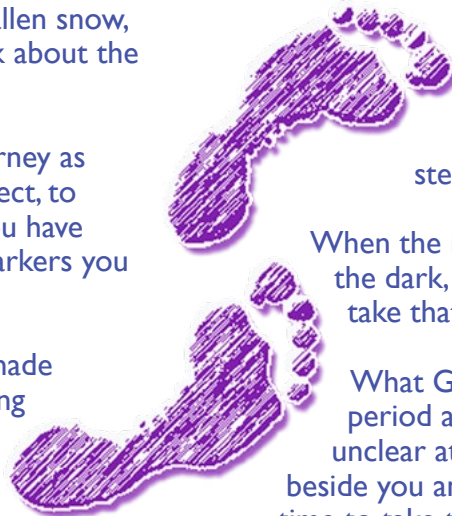
When you take that next step in the snow, how often do you stop and ponder before you take another step?

Transition is a time to do an assessment, a time to not only look at where you have been, but to look at where you want to go.

When that next step opportunity arrives, you need to know where you intend to go because there are multiple directions you can go, but, after

careful assessment, you, as a congregation, will need to determine which direction fits best with God's plan and prepares the most effective footprints for others to follow.

Careful assessment will lead to carefully, thoughtfully placed steps, footprints in the snow of your future, footprints that will set the course for the next chapter that lies ahead. With that careful consideration and God's guidance, you will journey forward with boldness and confidence that each new step is, when you take the time to notice, coupled with a unique footprint, the footprint of God.



Move

How far will you get in the snow if you look back, consider your next step, but don't actually take that step?

When the next step feels a lot like a step into the dark, it takes God-imparted courage to take that step boldly.

What God has planned during your transition period and beyond may be unknown or a bit unclear at the moment. Even so, God stands beside you and says, "It's time. It's time to carry on, time to take the next carefully thought out step. It's time to step forward boldly knowing I will be with you wherever you go!"

Next steps in the newly fallen snow are simple steps. We take them without even giving them a thought. As you prepare for your next step as members of Trinity, step out, not as one walking in the snow, but as one walking wisely, as one who has taken proper time to reflect and to assess. Take your next step as a united whole who is convinced that the next step will be matched with the footprint of God.

God bless your next step!