

From Our Pastor – JULY 2017

WATER UPON THE THIRSTY LANDS

“For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessings on your descendants.” Isaiah 44:3

As I write this the Valley of the Sun is under an excessive heat warning with temperatures approaching the record of 122 degrees. I was here in Arizona when that record was hit, and have a vivid image of the neighbor putting a frying pan on the street and actually frying an egg in it! The sun had not even set on that day before some enterprising soul was selling T-shirts emblazoned with the words: *I Survived 122 in Phoenix.*

The word *survived* is important because one of the ways we survive in extreme heat is to stay hydrated! Toward that end our mission committee has opened a water collection station where our gifts of bottled water will be received until they can be dispersed to the most vulnerable in our community. Let’s make hydration not only a personal survival strategy, but also a compassionate community outreach.

In the words of Isaiah above, the prophet equates the compassionate pouring out of water to the way God compassionately pours out divine Spirit upon the peoples of earth. It is a popular theme in the Old Testament, and the psalmist spoke for all of us when he said, “My soul thirsts for God.” (*Psalm 42:4*)

Our Lord liked that theme also and compared our thirst for water with our thirst for God.

“Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.” (*John 4:13-14*)

Let’s just call that staying spiritually hydrated in a season of spiritual drought. On the global landscape, the national political terrain, the personal emotional plane, we are under an excessive heat warning as political rhetoric affects our comfort level. It’s a good time to stay spiritually well hydrated—until water is poured upon the thirsty land and streams flow once more in the desert.

David