

Dear Church Family and Friends,

The spring and summer of 1969 brought about many changes to my life. My paternal grandfather, Preston, passed away in April; I graduated from high school in May; I moved in with my grandmother to be a support to her in June; July offered us race riots in neighboring York and of course we recall man's first steps on the moon.

On July 20, 1969, the world watched intently as Neil Armstrong would fulfill an earlier challenge by President John Kennedy to have a man walk on the moon before the decade ended. Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins would be propelled to the moon under the power of a Saturn V rocket from launch pad #39 at the Kennedy Space Center and history would be written. Armstrong would famously say as his left foot touched the lunar surface, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind".

In the span of a few short months my life experienced several significant changes and each one of them would have a rippling effect on my life. The calendar tells me that was more than fifty years ago, but the memories of that time remain so vivid to me. Maybe you can recall a few of those events or more likely have some of your very own.

Because we can get caught up in the busyness of life, often we miss the preciousness of the moment. Like you, I often wonder where time goes.

So, I believe the challenge is to live fully in the moment, yet plan your life as you will live well into the future. Easy to say but a challenge to do.

I pray that your July will be blessed and that your steps, small or giant, be memorable ones.

Paul told the church in Thessalonica to: <sup>16</sup>*Be joyful always;* <sup>18</sup>*give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.* (I Thessalonians 5:16 & 18)

I will additionally trust that the summer of 2021 brings you good times and fond memories as we give thanks to our wonderful God and Creator.

Blessings,

*Pastor Brian*