



FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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PASTOR ANDY

I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO GROW VEGETABLES FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS. IT KEEPS ME BUSY AND ALLOWS ME TO TRY NEW THINGS IN THE SUMMER. WE ALL KNOW THAT ONE OF THE MAIN WAYS TO HAVE HEALTHY VEGETABLES IS TO MAKE SURE YOU CONTINUOUSLY WEED. THE WEEDS LOVE TO CHOKE OUT THE SPACE THE CROPS NEED AND TAKE THE NUTRIENTS THEY NEED AS WELL. THERE ARE MANY APPLICATIONS I COULD MAKE ABOUT THIS, BUT I WON'T.

ANOTHER WAY TO HAVE HEALTHY VEGETABLES IS TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE WELL FED. FERTILIZERS ARE GREAT, BUT A MUCH-NEEDED WATER SUPPLY AND AMPLE SUN IS THE BEST. THERE ARE PLENTY OF APPLICATIONS I COULD MAKE ABOUT THIS, BUT I WON'T.

ANOTHER WAY TO HAVE HEALTHY VEGETABLES IS TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE PROTECTED. RABBITS, CHIPMUNKS, BIRDS, SQUIRRELS (INSERT AN ANGRY, DISGRUNTLED TONE HERE), AND BUGS/BEEETLES LOVE TO TAKE FROM YOUR HARD WORK. I THINK THEY BELIEVE I AM PLANTING ALL THIS FOOD FOR THEM. THERE ARE PLENTY OF APPLICATIONS I COULD MAKE ABOUT THIS, BUT I WON'T.

THERE ARE PLENTY OF APPLICATIONS I COULD MAKE ABOUT ALL THE WORK THAT I AM TRYING TO DO TO HELP PLANTS FLOURISH, BUT THE ONE I HAVE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THE MOST HAS TO DEAL WITH MY PUMPKINS. I PLANTED PUMPKINS AGAIN THIS YEAR (4 DIFFERENT KINDS) AND THEY ARE DOING WELL, BUT THE PUMPKINS THAT ARE FLOURISHING MORE THAN I COULD HAVE IMAGINED ARE WHAT'S CALLED "THE VOLUNTEERS". THEY ARE THE ONES THAT COME UP FROM THE SEED OF PAST PUMPKINS. I DID NOT PLANT THEM, BUT THEY DECIDED TO GROW ON THEIR OWN. THEY TEND TO BE STRONGER AND MORE RESILIENT BECAUSE THEY DO NOT HAVE TO BE NURSED ALL THE TIME.

I THINK THE CHURCH IS LIKE THAT. THE STRONGEST A CHURCH CAN BE IS WHEN IT IS FULL OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE DECIDED TO GROW ON THEIR OWN. THEY DO NOT HAVE TO BE CONTINUOUSLY PUSHED, PRODDED AND PLEADED WITH TO GROW. THEY DO NOT HAVE TO BE NURSED AND TAKEN BY THE HAND AND PULLED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. THE CHURCH CAN PROVIDE ALL THE BIBLE STUDIES, SMALL GROUPS, FELLOWSHIPS, OUTREACHES, MISSION TRIPS, PROGRAMS, AND ACTIVITIES NEEDED TO HELP PEOPLE GROW BUT UNLESS THEY DECIDE THEY WANT TO ON THEIR OWN, IT WILL BE HARD TO GROW STRONG AND RESILIENT TO THE DANGERS OF THIS WORLD.

SOMETIMES THE SHEPHERD DOES NEED TO CARRY A SHEEP, AND HE GLADLY DOES IT. SOMETIMES A FARMER DOES NEED TO TEND TO WEAKER PLANTS, AND HE GLADLY DOES IT (ACTS 20:35). BUT THE JOY OF A STRONG HARVEST. .THE JOY OF A FLOCK OF SHEEP THAT HEAR THE VOICE OF THE SHEPHERD AND FOLLOW WILLINGLY (JOHN 10:27) CAN BE PLENTIFUL AND MIGHTY.

WHO WILL ECHO THE SAME WORDS AS ISAIAH: "THEN I HEARD THE VOICE OF THE LORD, SAYING, "WHOM SHALL I SEND, AND WHO WILL GO FOR US?" THEN I SAID, "HERE AM I. SEND ME!" ISAIAH 6:8

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO GIVE SO MUCH FOR THIS CHURCH BODY AND THE COMMUNITY THAT SURROUNDS!