

*I'm not planning to go anywhere anytime soon.*

Let me explain. A couple of weekends ago I openly shared my heart with you. You heard me talk about my burden for the church. You heard me talk about my pain as I shouldered the responses of some who were angry about decisions the church leadership had made about staffing. It was an emotional service.

I found out later that a lot of people thought I was going to announce that I was resigning and you were worried. I want you to know *I'm not planning on going anywhere anytime soon.*

It's likely that someday I will announce my retirement. You can't do any job forever and you don't want a pastor who has to be propped up in the pulpit and rambles his way through a sermon because he can't think anymore. I don't think that's me yet, but there is a someday coming.

That someday won't be a surprise. Several years ago the church leadership team created a succession plan. I encouraged them to create a document that would help insure a smooth transition between me and whoever follows as pastor. I've been leading Heritage since 1973 and I care too much about the church to not pay attention to the hand-off to the next pastor. My dream, and yours, is that Heritage be an effective church for God long into the future!

*I'm not planning on going anywhere anytime soon.* The way I figure it I have somewhere between 5 and 10 years ahead of me in leading this congregation. I won't leave because the pressure gets too great. I won't leave because I don't like cold weather. I'll step aside when God makes it clear I should. I'll step aside when the future of the church is best served by someone else's leadership.

*I'm not planning on going anywhere anytime soon.* With that said, let me encourage you to keep praying, serving, investing, giving and inviting. Heritage doesn't just need me. It needs you! As we are the best we can be for God, we give Him room to bring His best to bear into our communities! So let's keep going forward for God!



### Easter!

Easter is less than 8 weeks away! That seems like a long time, doesn't it? By the last week of April grass will be growing, trees will be budding and it will be significantly warmer and less icy than it is right now.

But between now and then you have a job to do. Easter is one of the two times a year that are the easiest to invite someone to church. So who will you invite? We're planning a great service. We anticipate that God will be present and ready to make a difference in lives. Start thinking now about who you will invite. Start praying for them. Do some act of kindness for them. Then invite them. In order to make sure everyone has a seat we'll provide tickets for the service. They'll be free but they will help balance attendance. Start thinking about your friends so you'll know how many tickets you need.