



**From Our Chaplain (September 2004)**

**Dear Friends**

*“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”  
- 2 Peter 3:18*

September signals the beginning of autumn. School is back in session; there is a sense of routine and discipline to life.

Although we are not headed to a school this fall, I am wondering if life is school, in and of itself. There are certainly similarities between school and life.

We go to school to learn. The basics are important and so reading, writing and arithmetic are the foundations of education. Without a solid foundation no one will get far in life.

John Adams said, “There are two types of education: One should teach us how to make a living and the other how to live. We go to school to get an education in order to make a living, but perhaps the most important education is learning how to live.

There are basic and elementary truths for living found in God’s Word. We know it to be true that God loves all people and God in His gracious love has provided a way for us to be saved and live in eternal fellowship with Him. We accept and live in that truth by faith alone.

We also know that in school we have many teachers. Different subjects demand different teachers. Teachers also relate to each of us differently. It is a special joy to have teachers who believe in us and encourage us to become all that we can be.

In life, Jesus is the Great Teacher and He has given us the textbook for life. The Bible is always right and truthful. In its’ pages are guidelines and truths for living.

While we are attending school, we also hope to graduate. It is a goal to receive a diploma or degree. But the truth is that a diploma does not mean that we have learned everything. Life is about continuing to grow and learn. We may graduate from many schools, but our education goes on.

Of course, our ultimate graduation will be when we leave this world and are in the presence of God. Oh, what a day that will be. Someday this life will end and all the degrees will mean little in heaven. I pray that knowing God is your goal, your pursuit and your greatest desire in life.

Someone has said, “Nature forms us. Sin deforms us. School informs us, but only Christ transforms us.”

Be open to learning and discovering new things. Most importantly be willing to be transformed and educated by Jesus Christ.

In the confidence and joy of the Lord, Jesus Christ,

Chaplain Sandy Anenson