

**LET THERE BE LIGHT! (Part Two)**  
**Celebration Sunday –June 24, 2018 –Genesis 1: 3-4**  
**The Church of the Covenant**

At the beginning of Genesis God is recorded as saying: *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...And God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light; and God saw that the light was good.”* (Genesis 1: 1, 3-4) In a perfect and intentional scriptural parallel the beginning of the Gospel of John records this: *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him; and without him was not anything made that was made.”* (John 1: 1-3) It is the same thing referenced at the beginning of the Bible in Genesis; it is the same thing referenced at the beginning of the Gospels. God speaks a WORD and brings all that is into being. God speaks a creative Word and brings life and light. But the Word God speaks is clearly Jesus. He Jesus is the creative Word, co-equal and preexistent with the Father, that brings everything into being. God speaks and it happens. The Word is spoken, and it happens, and it is GOOD.

Last fall, in the Fall of 2017, I had been praying and waiting upon the Lord. I had been praying for two years and waiting for the Lord to give us the go ahead to proceed and in purposefulness and power to do something great for Him here at The Church of the Covenant. I didn't know what it was. I am not by nature a patient person. But I have learned in ministry that you wait for the Lord to speak a Word and then and only then do you act with speed and strength and purpose. When God speaks then God will act and God will bless. He spoke, “Let there be light”. And oh by the way, there was light. And now today as we celebrate what the Lord God Almighty has done, we know and can see that the light of God in Jesus Christ is always and forever GOOD! This is not strategic planning as the world does strategic planning, although last Fall the Session and Deacons met in a series of INTREATS in order to come up with what we thought the Lord was calling us to do. Rather this is --When God speaks a Word, then act, and act with confidence, purposefulness and in God's power. And God will bless one's efforts and what results will be GOOD. God's Word, God's will, God's way, God's plan, plus God's creative power results in something that is always a blessing and is Good. This is the spiritual summary of the Let There Be Light Campaign.

The session goal was \$538,000. When the dust settles we will see some \$738,000 inclusive of new endowments established, come in, or exceeding our goal by some \$200,000. We didn't do this; the Lord God spoke a Word and Jesus the Light of the World did this. It is a miracle of God's Word active in God's people. --A generous God who provides, speaking into the hearts of a generous people of strong faith. Jesus shown His light into our hearts and He did this. To Him alone be the glory! The light. This is the summary of the Let There Be Light Campaign.

And it has unleashed a powerful new creativity into the hearts of the people of God here at our church. It has tapped into the creative power of the universe God first unleashed at creation in Genesis, and then unleashed in Jesus Christ in the Gospel of John. *“God is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think.”* (Ephesians 3: 20) That's what Ephesians says. *“With God all things are possible.”* (Matthew 19: 26) That's what the Gospel of Matthew says. *“I (we*

*can do all things through Him who gives us strength.” (Philippians 4: 13)* That’s what the book of Philippians says. I have loved the moments over the last months as I have seen people get excited about what their creativity and generosity can do. Widows who have given their widow’s mite to establish endowments to provide for what they believe is important going into the future and for eternity. People giving gifts to allow the front doors of the church to become accessible to all people. Someone giving a gift to set up a ministry that will help our homebound. Gifts of artwork, gifts of preserving our stained glass windows, not just today, but in perpetuity. Gifts of endowments to preserve our wonderful pipe organ that it may always give praise and worship to the Lord God from whom all blessings flow. Gifts of mission to shine the light of Christ out into our world. Gifts through our preschool to make sure the light of Christ always shines forth into the hearts of little children. It has tapped into the creative power of God in our midst. It has tapped into the creative imaginations of our people. It has tapped into the illumination of our hearts and through us out into our community and world. Doing wild and creative things way beyond our own abilities. God said LET THERE BE LIGHT AND THERE WAS LIGHT AND IT WAS GOOD. And that light is a HOLY FIRE going out into our world, through us and our faith, to shine and shine and shine and illumine the world in Jesus’ name.

If I may say, it really isn’t about stained glass windows, or preschool endowments, or CovConnect and security, or mission and building mission churches, as good as all those worthy things are. It really is about unleashing a HOLY LIGHT through us, a powerful creative Spirit, the power of creativity exploding out through us and into our church and into our community and into our world. In the end it really is about the creative Word and the light of the world, Jesus. To Him be power and glory and honor and dominion. Because He alone is worthy of our praise.

And God said, *“Let there be light.”* And YES indeed, there was light. And O yes indeed it is GOOD. May the LIGHT of the WORLD continue to shine through us. In Jesus’ name. Amen and Amen.

*By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA  
IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!*