

**My heart overflows with a pleasing theme; I address my verses to the king; my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.** Ps. 45:1

This weekend nothing seemed to go right. The bulletins were messed up because of a word processing glitch. The livestreaming was messed up due, apparently, to a wifi hiccup (though the recorded service is available on the website with just a bit missing from the beginning). School preparation was all messed up because at the last minute we had to switch to remote learning out of an abundance of caution. It was, as they say, “just one of those days,” and as easy day on which to think the world was rigged against you.

The world, however, is not rigged against us. We learn what we can from setbacks and move on. We find a pleasing theme worthy of being addressed to our Lord and King. The exciting news today is that no matter how disappointing, plain or laborious any aspect of our life together might be, we can trust that God is working through us in ways we can't even see. If the glory of it remains hidden to us, God's Word can open our eyes to what He is already doing through us and inspire our hearts to ever greater ways of serving Him.

That exciting news is not just a bunch of talk. It is an actual, concrete plan for St. Paul's. Over the weekend Rev. John Nunes (president of Concordia-Bronxville, the one who was featured in the podcast about the church and racism back in May or June that so many of our members loved) agreed to lead a four week Bible study for St. Paul's. He is a powerful speaker. He is also a writer. So he will lead our study toward a positive, uplifting sense of the future with a “tongue like the pen of a ready scribe.”

The study will cover many Bible verses, but will follow the format of his new book “Meant for More: In, With, and Under the Ordinary.” Everyone in the congregation who chooses can join our staff and lay leadership through this book. The book is available from [CPH](#) or [Amazon](#), or you can get a copy in the church office. There is a \$16 suggested donation to cover the cost, but a generous donor has made sure nobody will be excluded for financial reasons.

The four week study will take place over zoom (Pr. Nunes had agreed to come lead a one day seminar in person back in the fall, but Covid had other plans) on Wednesday evenings from 7-8:00 p.m. starting January 20. The book is really a series of thematically related devotions and reflections, but they all address the very practical questions that individual Christians and congregations have in difficult times.

As your pastor I've tried to have the pen of a ready scribe throughout this pandemic, and it because I see such value in this opportunity that I truly hope the people of St. Paul's will readily participate. Yes, you might not enjoy zoom, yes, reading might not be your favorite pastime, yes, the last thing we need is another appointment on the calendar, and yes, some of the content will challenge as well as inspire you. But also, yes, this study will be worth your time and energy, and yes, you'll be better off for having participated. St. Paul's as a congregation will be better off, too.

More details to follow, but again, please make the effort. Btw, this also means the Wednesday evening zoom Bible study on Revelation will not resume until after Easter. To those of you who can't handle the suspense, just know it ends well.

In Christ, Pastor Speckhard