

Late in March a new revival opened on Broadway entitled “*Promises, Promises.*” Originally on Broadway in the late 60s and early 70s, it’s a musical based on Billy Wilder’s film, *The Apartment*. Written by Neil Simon and Burt Bacharach, it’s picked up 4 Tony nominations, while having less than stellar reviews. I mention it this morning, because I love the title, *Promises, Promises*. Because that is what our faith is about.

God promised Abraham a land and a posterity...and God kept that promise.

God promised Moses a new land and freedom...and God kept that promise.

God promised the disciples new life on Easter morn...and God kept that promise.

God promises each of us the forgiveness of sins, a community of faith and support, and the gift of eternal life...all in our baptisms...and God keeps those promises.

Inherent in our faith is the understanding that God is constantly calling us, as individuals and as a community, to new ministry, to new ministries. And with that call there is the constant promise that God will provide for us.

Our lessons today. In our first lesson God calls Paul to plant the church in Macedonia. And he went. And God provided Lydia who shared her gifts to help birth that community. Our second lesson reminds us of the sacrifice of Christ who will gather the world into God’s kingdom...how preposterous given that rag tag church. And in our Gospel Jesus tells the disciples and us that God will give the Holy Spirit to enable, to empower our ministry. And we have seen that Spirit at work in our midst.

We have a new Pastor coming in 3 weeks. It didn’t just happen. God stirred in this community and in Pastor Jim’s life to make this all a reality. If you had told me a year ago this would happen, I would have wondered. It simply didn’t seem possible. But the reality is, God continues to put challenging ministry before us...and God has provided for us.

And midst our call process, that Spirit stirred anew, and now our Jane is off to the Seminary in Philadelphia. I’ll bet if you had told her a year ago this would happen, she would have told you you were crazy. Once again, God has called and God has provided.

That is the wonderful thing about this Family of Faith. As new opportunities for ministry come before us, there is an openness, a readiness to be led by the hand of God. Its all about promises, promises.