

2021! and we face not only an ongoing pandemic but, as a Church, a pastor vacancy. So, we look forward with expectation to the future but feel daunted by the uncertainties of the present. Our challenge is to have **faith** that Jesus calls us to extra-ordinary things, even in these circumstances!

Consider the disciples out on the water (Matt 14:23-32) as they struggle to handle the boat in rough wind and waves. Then Jesus appears doing the seemingly impossible, walking on the water. And *Jesus said "Come!" So, Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and he came toward Jesus.*" ³⁰ *But when he saw the strong wind, he was afraid, and began to sink. 'Master,' he yelled, 'rescue me!'* ³¹ *Jesus at once reached out his hand and caught him. 'A fine lot of faith you've got!' he said. 'Why did you doubt? They got into the boat and the wind died down.'*"

So, this year, will keeping the boat afloat be our only focus? Will we just batten down and cling to the ballast of all that is familiar as we wait for a pastor to come and take over? **Or can we risk stepping out of our comfort zone, in faith, to answer Jesus' call** to love and serve others, and engage in God's mission in our community? Can we still seek to thrive and grow as Jesus' disciples, and to support and encourage one another?

Faith says, Yes! We can do all things through Christ who is our strength. Peter walked, doubted, grew, and did more great things in faith! Let us **keep looking at Jesus**, and **listen** to him, so we too may go where he calls us. We may also doubt and make mistakes, but we can be certain that Jesus' firm grasp secures us. Upheld by his love, strengthened by his grace: ***let us step out in faith this year and walk on water!***

Blessings, Karen (Spiritual Growth Team)