5/1/16 Acts 1:1-14 *Extraordinary God*

We are in the middle of a sermon series where we are looking at how ordinary people when they allow God into their lives end up doing extraordinary things. We considered my husband Gary and how God is using him to help provide education to children in Liberia, West Africa. How God touched Randy’s life to help take care of our earth. How through their illnesses Linda and Marcia have come to realize the importance of self-care and what that means for us. And in today’s story is how Jill and Mike Lowry realized the God given passion they had within them and when they followed that passion they are teaching preachers and their wives in the Congo—who would have thought!

So far in all of our examples it is how people were willing to listen to the voice of God within them, to listen to their passions and their gifts and their circumstances and situations and see how God was working in them and calling them to use their ordinary gifts to do extraordinary things.

Today I want to shift the focus. Today I want us to begin to appreciate and trust how extraordinary God is in our lives. The first disciples learned day-by-day how extraordinary God is. The writer of the book of Acts, believed also to have written the Gospel of Luke in today’s scripture text is continuing his story. He is writing to Theophilus, which could be a person named Theophilus, or a code name *Theo* meaning God and *philos* meaning “a friend”. These books were written for those who are “a friend of God’s” so that they would know what happened.

Who Jesus was, what Jesus did while he walked this earth. How Jesus died and rose again and before their very eyes ascended into heaven and how they were told to wait for the giving of the Holy Spirit who would help them live and teach and preach God’s love to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

It is a gift God offers to everyone. Come, know my son, follow his ways, receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and let me use you to do extraordinary things! Let me use you to spread my love to Pottstown, and Potts grove, and Douglasville and King Of Prussia and Reading or Philadelphia which is to some folks the end of the world!

There are times I think God in a way challenges us to trust God’s love for us to see what extraordinary things God will do if only we ask. Today I think may be one of those challenges. I am guessing you may have heard the saying, “Don’t tell God how big your mountain is, tell your mountain how big God is.” You see for us it is not a mountain, it is a tower.

You might have thought it was challenging enough to trust God to call forth your next pastor, and for many churches that would be more than enough to really begin their trust walk with God. But God has bigger things for you to be about for we’re not only going to trust God for the pastor God is calling here, we are also going to trust God to guide us in figuring out what to do about our tower and how it’s going to be fixed. You see we serve an extraordinary God.

This is the God who created the heavens and the earth. This is the God who created the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and the beasts of the fields and every creeping and crawling thing. This is the God who created humans, you and I in God’s image. This is the God who gave Abraham and Sarah a child when she was beyond childbearing age. This is the God who through Moses parted the Red Sea, gave manna and quail to eat in the wilderness and gave us the 10 commandments. This is the God who raised Jesus from the dead!

This is the God who has loved First Baptist Church of Pottstown from its very inception and who knows its ups and downs, its moments of glory and defeat, it joys and concerns; who knows every person here by name and called each of us here to this time and place for this moment. This is the extraordinary God we now have the opportunity to trust to lead us as we discover together how God is going to help us secure this building and keep it safe for generations to come worship and learn of our extraordinary God.

In the scripture text today you’ll notice as they were waiting for God’s direction they devoted themselves to prayer. That is what we will be about today. Before we celebrate the service of Holy Communion remembering again how much God loves us through Jesus Christ, we are going to lift our Tower in prayer asking God to guide us into what our next best steps will be for the life of First Baptist Church and the community of Pottstown.

Let us go to God in prayer with our joys and our concerns asking God to continue to do extraordinary things through us. Amen.