



Heartbeats along the way: The Honest and Good Heart

"But as for that (seed) in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance." Luke 8:15

This will be the first year that our part of the original Smith Farm will not have a crop. No longer will soybeans, corn, grain, or some other cash crop take root, because our Spring Garden Campus is being built to grow a different kind of crop – new Christians. Our job is to make this piece of ground as fruitful as it was when it was farmland. To make it good soil for the Kingdom.

Jesus' Parable of the Sower, found in three of the four Gospels, tells us that the soul who hears the Word and holds it fast in an honest and good heart is the soul that will bear fruit with patient endurance.

As I envision this for CUMC, I see a fresh yearly crop of souls growing in love with God, nourished by the Word, through reading and study, and enriched by example of our faithful fellowship. Some of these are among us now; but many others are not yet reached, perhaps not even born.

As our building takes shape, let us prepare ourselves to be finders, inviters, welcomers, nurturers, encouragers, consolers, and mentors to the new crop of souls who find their way to our good soil.

Think of it as a Little Lights Learning Center for persons new to a relationship with Jesus.

"O Holy Spirit, hold our hearts in honesty and goodness to the task of showing our Savior's love to everyone who does not know or understand it. Let us be good soil. Amen."

~ cl reynolds