

## **Passing the Baton**

Are you enjoying the Olympics? I am! I love watching all the events but one event I like is the relays in track. I love it because it is based upon the speed of individual runners working together as a team. You can have the fastest runners but if you can't navigate the passing of the baton you will be beaten by a team that might be slower than you. The transition from one runner to the next is crucial towards the success of the whole team. One transition can mess up an otherwise great team. No matter who fast you are if you can hand off the baton your team will not win the gold.

Relays remind me of our church. We have what we have because others gave and sacrificed. Look around you. All these facilities were provided for us by members who went before us. We would not be making the impact here in our city where it not for those great saints of God who believed that our town needed a church like ours. They were the first out of the blocks if you will. They through their time, talents and resources built this church. Without them some of you would not be in the spiritual place you are. We owe these runners for God a debt of gratitude that only Heaven will be able to tell us about.

Each generation here has a responsibility to keep us in the race God has called us to. We are not built upon one person or one personality. It takes all of us to accomplish what God has for us. The past generations here have passed the baton to us. We are each called to run the race set before us. Yet it is our responsibility to carry that baton to the next generation. Our race is not for a medal that will perish but to reach people with the love of Christ!

Every time we take up an offering here you help sustain all the work, all the ministry and all the mission activities we do. Your generous gifts allow our church to run the race God has for us. Your gifts fuel us forward. Your gifts helps assure that we are faithfully carrying out the vision of past generations who passed the baton to us. Your gift helps assure the next generation will have a place to worship and serve God at. So this morning as we pass the offering, think about it as a passing of the baton. Let's give so that not only the present can be fully funded but also the future!