

Do you remember the hot air balloon illustration I used in my article last month? No? That's fine, here's a brief excerpt...

---

*We are all entering a hot air balloon. Part of me is a little nervous, like I said, being at the will of the wind can be unsettling. But in this case, the "wind" is the Holy Spirit. That should be comforting but it is the unknown that can cause concern in some.*

*"Oh boy, what are you changing, Pastor?"*

*Don't worry, I am not doing any redecorating in the sanctuary or anywhere else in the church building. You see, recently, the "wind" started blowing, which signaled me to enter the basket, and thus I am taking you with me. I am not exactly sure where this basket is going, but I do know that we are in good hands.*

---

Does that clear things up? No? Well, allow me to fill in some of the blanks: **(1)** With the departure of Pastor Russ to Algona, I have become the primary teacher for 1G on Mondays. I am still trying to find my groove, but I am getting there. The big thing I have noticed is that I am making stronger connections with the 1G kids, and I am loving it. I am also seeing other leaders step up with this shifting of leadership. There are still a lot of unknowns, but one thing is certain – God is continuing to do His thing here in Buffalo Center.

**(2)** I am teaching youth Sunday school for the first time in about 23 years. I get the privilege of teaching the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade boy's class. I began the year a little nervous and with the sense that this was just a stop gap measure until we found someone else. Now, I am feeling a connection with these boys and looking forward to continuing throughout the year. It does take me away from visiting during Fellowship time, but I am searching for a balance there.

**(3)** I am planning on doing a sermon series through a book of the Bible. I was thinking we were going to start in October, but I am putting that on hold for now as I reassess. I will have more details in the coming months.

**(4)** Confirmation is going to have a different feel, and not just because we have eight new 7<sup>th</sup> graders. I am trying a couple new things this year and looking forward to seeing the Spirit's fruit.

And there you have it. Our hot air balloon ride. For some, this may seem a little unsettling as some do not like change or a lot of it. But keeping to the status quo does not accomplish anything. A hot air balloon may look impressive on the ground, but it was meant to fly, and so we are. Are you ready? Let us see where the Spirit blows us.