

### **“A New Home” - 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

I know we're deep into Advent and Christmas is only a few days away, and usually the sermon would be based on a text from the bible that relates to Jesus' birth or at least his arrival on the scene. However as promised I am also presenting an update on the building project because we are getting very close to the next major phase in our rebuilding project, and when I looked at the texts for today I just had to go with the reading from 2 Samuel.

This part of the Book of 2 Samuel describes the establishment of David as King over all Israel. In Chapter 5 David is selected and anointed king and provided with all the trappings that go with that position. In Chapter 6 he sets out with a huge contingent of men and brings the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem. The Ark, you will remember, was the special box in which the tablets given to Moses by God were stored, and was revered by the Israelites as the very home of God.

As we come to Chapter 7, part of which is our text for today, David is nicely settled. No longer living in a tent he now has a wonderful house built of cedar. He decides it is time to build a permanent structure to house the Ark – and thus to house God. He checks with Nathan the prophet who gives him the go-ahead, but then God brings a different word to David through Nathan – and in a wonderful twist declares that although David has offered to build God a house, God declares that he will build a house for David, namely a lineage that will endure forever.

Now we don't expect the House of God that we are proposing to build will last forever, but it will continue the lineage of faithful worship here at Central. Let's take a look at how we got to this point and consider a wee bit what the future holds for us ...

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So here we are, poised on the brink of exciting times. Exciting, yes; worrisome, a bit; faithful, we believe so. We pray fervently that God will continue to lead and guide and direct us in this project so that all we do will be to his glory and help us to proclaim not only at Christmas but at all times his magnificent grace in Christ Jesus our Lord.