

A Word from the Pastor

We live in the age of the Spirit. We are gathered together by that holy fire that descended that first Pentecost, flowing through Jesus' followers down through the ages to our day, spreading the word about his loving actions in God's name, in order to bring about God's realm of justice and peace through active loving. This is the work of the Spirit flowing through people like us.

When I think about the work of the Spirit, I think about the enthusiasm on our children's faces as they gather together at the front for a family story. And the hugs of love they are so free in gifting before, after and even during a worship service. I think about the willingness of our youth giving of themselves in numerous walks of service. I think about the compassion of numerous people in our congregation who have a heart for the sick and unwell, the homeless, the disadvantaged, the impoverished, and give of themselves be Christ amongst them.

I think about the light that is reflected in people's eyes as they are visited in their hospital bed or homes ... or the Pastor's Study prayed with sung to ... listened to; about the holy ground that exists as we gather together in the name of Jesus; the peace that is reflected in family member's faces in the midst of their care, concern, struggle or grief. I think about the aha moments that spark people's spirits and faith lives as we study together God's word and what it means for us TODAY of the healing that happens through caring touch and prayer....of the enjoyment had in each other's company as we eat and laugh and play together.

I think about the new faces drawn to our congregation, coming aback again and again ... and the familiar faces that decided, NOW was the time to make a commitment and have become members. I think about the numerous individuals who have become involved as leaders for the first time or in a long time whether on *Church Council* or the current *Feasibility Study Task Force*, or ministry teams like *Mission and Outreach*, *Worship*, and *Stewardship*, or the willingness to serve as our congregation's representative at various church wide events.

And I think about our worship life, the core of our existence that continues to draw people to experience God through Word and Sacrament, where the energy and burble on Sunday mornings is infectious and uplifting, where the prayer life is caringly palpable. Nothing but fire kindles fire. And this is God at work in us and through us, shaping us in ways we may not expect or anticipate, but re-fashioning us nonetheless as God's workers in the kingdom of compassionate justice and peace, to be experienced and known by all. God's hand is upon us, providing us with all we need and more.

In this Spirit-filled era, may the fire that has joined us together in Christ's name continue to burn, refresh, renew, reshape, and guide us into the future for Jesus' sake. For this is God's church. And God's church is always feasible!

In Christ's love,
Pr. Brenda +