

An Important Piece of the Puzzle

Thursday, October 08, 2009

Over the last couple of months, Debbie and I have been getting used to a new reality. For the first time in our adult lives, we don't have any children living at home. It has been odd to walk through this change. We are slowly getting used to it.

At first, when I was home, the house seemed so quiet. It was certainly different to know that when I locked the door at night and turned off the lights, no one would be coming home late. We are getting used to it. But we know that there has been a change.

An important piece of the puzzle of our family has changed. There are no children living at home right now. Debbie and I are learning to adjust to the changing relationships that have arisen when children leave home. We understand that we are still connected as a family it is just that our family is changing. Now, we have to work at really being intentional to stay connected.

The Apostle Paul says in the book of I Corinthians, that we in the church are like parts of the body. All of the parts are needed to help the body be whole and healthy. All of the parts are needed to help the body function well. Then he reminds us that in the church, every person is needed and valued, as a part of God.

These words from Paul are not new. Many of us have heard them before. We have heard that we are important and valued by God. We have heard that we are important to the church, the body of Christ in the world today. We have heard this. But we have not often lived as if this were so.

Do you ever wonder about your value? Do you ever wonder about your value to others? Do you ever wonder about your value to God? Do you ever wonder what God wants you to contribute to the church and the building up of the church?

If you have ever wondered about this, I invite you to do a couple of things. (1) Come to worship each weekend this month. Listen for God's call in your life. Welcome old friends. Seek out two people each week that you don't know and say "hello" and welcome them to our church home. (2) Get involved in some type of small group. It can be a musical group. It can be one of our Bible Studies. It can be one of the small group experiences offered by our church. (3) Invite someone to worship with us.

In short, I invite you to make yourself available to God. Invite God to help you on your journey. Spend time with God at home, at church and as you travel.

I believe that as you do this, you will begin to hear God's voice and feel God's presence gently pushing and tugging at you. As you make yourself available to God, you will begin to notice a passion within you. These moments of tugging and pushing, these moments of passion, are God given moments to remind us that we play a part in building the Kingdom of God.

You are an important piece of the puzzle here at the church. I thank God for you and I look forward to seeing you in worship this weekend.

In the hope Jesus offers us,

Rev. Scott Carlson

The Mission of Sun Prairie United Methodist Church is to invite and welcome people to be committed and compassionate followers of Jesus Christ through worship, through spiritual growth, through fellowship and through service to others.