

# September 2018

**1 Corinthians 12: Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.**

It's funny how fast six (6) months passes. When I announced to Council my retirement, I thought how much that six (6) months would help things. It is not always so easy. There is much work, but we are blessed with good and VERY talented people at Faith United to help discern what is needed. I have been purposeful to stand back from the discussions... helping by 'clarifying' but not suggesting any course. It has allowed me to marvel at the number of initiatives that have occurred. From the Breakfast for Lutheran Disaster Relief to the work necessary to design and install the outside sign, the congregation has shown its love of the church. That to me is part of God's wonder. I hope you think that too.

There are always those places where time has never seemed enough. There are tasks that I still wish could have taken form. (Cleaning my office will take place of necessity now...and miracles will be needed.) Then again, it is about those places where the congregation understands God is calling. That is not any one person's sense of things; but the work of the Spirit calling hearts to small yet wondrous opportunities.

I must admit that I have been thinking about the vacated side where Kiddie Korner use to be. There is space that is being heated and cooled. It is a place which cries for life. Could we offer it as a place for the homeless? Might it be a place where we add a Clothing Ministry to Peter's Porch? Could it be a site for small group activities where a kitchen update serves for Bible and Breakfast to do "made to order" breakfasts? Could it be rented storage where the church makes some money? Might we make it an apartment to help transition a family in need? Is there a partnership with the school district where it answers some after school need? It is a silent set of rooms looking for a voice. What should it be doing? *What voice is calling?*

I need someone with a sense of humor (or maybe irony) to be the poet for our outside sign. (We have a voice there too.) What message should be causing neighbors to pause and think over a "turn of a phrase?" Should our younger members have that voice and see what happens in their "old school" conversation to everyone who passes by? *Who will author that message?*

There are the things that may fall by the wayside when I leave. Will Faith work with Angela Marley (principal) at Denver Elementary to feed families at the holidays? Will the plant give-away be part of Peter's Porch next May? Will anyone care whether the Blessing of the Animals happens? Will the Christmas Store continue to open new doors to how we talk about a baby's birth AND how that love motivates a morning devoted to children and families? The Witches Brew...work with the other Peter's Porches...Reformation Sunday...All Saints remembrances...Bible and Breakfast; *will these become shadows?*

I invite you to something I do. Sit in our garden and think about what God is saying. Watch those who walk by, those who park in our lots, see the children who walk home past us from school—*what are they calling Faith United to be?* I hope you contemplate that and maybe—a ministry to people with addictions and a contemplative prayer gathering. What would be nice if a couple of you would share such a time in the garden (perhaps with some beverage) and dreams dreams.

*To Those I Love...Pastor Joe*