

The Fairview Disciple



The Mission of the Fairview United Methodist Church is to enhance the spiritual growth of its members and the community by providing sound and meaningful experiences through worship, education, outreach, personal involvement in the ministry of the church, and the general nurturing of the congregation in keeping with the example and teaching of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

August 2009

Fairview United Methodist Church

Almost half of the church year belongs to the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter, but the other half is “ordinary time,” each Sunday identified simply by an ordinal number. For instance, this year Nov. 22 will be the Twenty-Fifth (and last) Sunday After Pentecost.

But we should not think of this time as ordinary in the sense of “banal” or “humdrum,” lest we miss the *extraordinary* works of God in the everyday. If Pentecost is to be more than just a day on the church calendar, we must strive to live as the newly formed Christian church did, sensing the Spirit of God at work in our daily interaction with one another and the world.

How greatly God works when people give of themselves! Here are some examples from the past few weeks when I have witnessed the work of the Holy Spirit among the people of Fairview:

THE PASTOR’S POUND

*“An ounce of
common sense is
worth a pound
of clergy.”*

— John Adams

At the same time that God’s people were giving much time and labor to organize a large and successful garage sale, they were also forming new friendships. They remarked how nice it was to work side by side and become better acquainted with persons who attend our church but whom they did not know. During lulls in shopping activity, they found small jobs to do around the church and even made plans to come back as a group to do other projects that presented themselves. These folks were able to see and respond to opportunities unfolding before them because they were receptive to God’s Spirit.

During Vacation Bible School, a particularly grace-filled moment occurred when two brothers emptied the entire contents of their piggy banks into the “Boys” offering bucket. The adults present knew they were witnessing an act of faith and joy as they emptied all they had into that bucket. The other children followed their example and gave an awesome total of \$283.09 that week! Yes, they were caught up in the competition between the boys and the girls—but they also understood and enthusiastically supported what their money was going for, namely, to help persons through the Tree of Life Ministry at the Crow Creek Reservation, South Dakota. In like manner, a Fairview member gave a sizeable donation to help offset the cost of running the VBS program.

Other occasions of God’s Spirit moving through our congregation occur regularly. Six families stepped up to purchase handmade bread baskets from Guatemala for use in Communion. Four women donated handmade crafts for the Backstreet Mission silent auction at the county fair. A number of people regularly print out the E-Connect prayer concerns, or they write them down as they are named in worship, in order to pray for those individuals daily. A liturgist begins our worship in a way that moves us to open our hearts to encounter the risen Christ. Other persons use their musical gifts to lift to God the praises of the congregation. Some keep in touch with our shut-ins or take food to the infirm. We have only to have “eyes to see” (to use Jesus’ phrase) to know God is with us all the time.

Every day the wind of the Spirit of Pentecost blows among the people of God. Even in ordinary time, the extraordinary happens.