

From the Pastor. . .

In my sermon last Sunday I mentioned that it is not just pastors who are called into ministry. Every Christian is. That is, every Christian is called to offer the vision, the love, the grace, of Jesus Christ. No matter what kind of work we do, no matter what stage of life we find ourselves, whether young or retired, we are called. Even the most secular of occupations becomes sacred when we allow the Spirit of Christ to be at work.

One of the special joys of being pastor of Ann Street United Methodist Church is that I perceive this sense of calling all around me. You are a congregation that is involved in vital ministry and mission in areas too numerous to mention.

And, the sense of call is quite evident in each and every one of our paid staff. None thinks of his or her work as "just a job," but all seek to do their very best, not for their own sake, but for the sake of God's kingdom.

Speaking of staff, Harriette Kirk is going to be retiring, at the end of April. From the moment I first had contact with her, I have appreciated the sense of call that has guided her work at the church for all these years. She has been for me a friend and a confidante, and more than that, has been a wonderful assistant in all the ministries of the church. It is only fair that I rejoice with her at her retirement. It is only natural that I will miss her greatly. . . not that she will be gone; it's just that she will be fulfilling Christ's call on her life in ways that won't find her here at the church every morning!

I think I'll keep her cell phone number on speed dial, though.

— Eric Lindblade