

From the Pastor...

Last Tuesday (June 22), Pastor Anne and I began our fifth year of ministry at Ann Street. For me, the time has flown by, and these have indeed been the happiest four years of my entire career in the ministry. I cherish the relationships we have formed, the privilege of preaching here, and I especially cherish the ministry you folks accomplish. Here's a snapshot of what is happening among us.

Just last week our Outreach Committee prepared and served supper for the hungry folks in our area. Our Soup's On luncheon continues to be a vital ministry, as does our involvement in Meals on Wheels. (By the way, Meals on Wheels is in great need of volunteers . . . please call Jackie Ezzard at 726-6472).

Our YAH (Young at Heart (older adults)) Club is off for the summer, but what a great year they had.

This week, our Young Adults will be selling ice cream for the Old Homes Tour. It is wonderful to see these folks grow in mission and service.

In the past few weeks we have had baptisms, weddings, and welcomed new members. These are all signs of a vibrant church. We have also had more than our share of deaths and funerals, but again it is wonderful to see how our congregation offers support and solace to those going through difficult times. With the death of my father, I have been the recipient of such grace and caring; I appreciate such compassion more than you can imagine.

We have a great Sunday School program with dedicated and talented teachers leading the way. Many of our adult Sunday School classes report that they have added new members recently.

As our Choirs prepare to take its July vacation, I want to thank them for their continuing dedication. The gift of music enriches our worship each and every Sunday.

Our UMW had a great time at their luncheon and they continue to be a vital force for mission. Our United Methodist Men are off for the summer, but they themselves had a great year, reaching out in many ways, including the Handyman Ministry.

Earlier this year we completed another wonderful LOGOS year, as we ministered to more than 50 kids. Our UMYF is going strong, with 16 of our youth at a lock-in last week. This fall, we will be dividing the UMYF into Junior and Senior . . . and by the way we are looking at starting a choir with our young people.

Our preschool continues its vital ministry to the youngest of the next generation. The preschool also runs our Summer Camp, and it is off to a great start. And, I can't wait for Vacation Bible School (begins Monday, June 28 at 8:30.) At last report, we already have 120 registered.

So, I want to express my appreciation for the ministry and mission of Ann Street Church and my privilege to serve as your senior pastor . . . and I want to challenge you again to see yourself as a vital part of this ministry and mission we share; we each have a part to play, for Christ has called us, all of us, to be his disciples, to be his ambassadors, to be his missionaries, to be his witnesses, to be his people!