

## **Pastor's Report**

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13*

*"Joy is the serious business of Heaven." ~ C. S. Lewis*

### **STATISTICS:**

**10 NEW MEMBERS**

**2 BAPTISMS**

**4 WEDDINGS**

**5 FUNERALS**

This is my second Annual Pastor's Report to the congregation here at St. John's. I remember that I was quite new when I rendered the first Annual Report and I did not feel I had a whole lot to report. At that time I reviewed the tenants of our Interim Contract together in order to be clear about what we might expect of one another. I vowed then to stick close to that outline.

To that end, I have preached regularly, taught bible study, provided pastoral care, done my best to invite back some members who had gone away, as well as encourage new members to join us. I have attended to my reporting to the council and attended the Synod Assembly. I have performed the pastoral acts of weddings and funerals, and administered the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion and I am teaching Confirmation class.

I have worked with others on various activities to encourage growth and vitality in the congregation such as summer program, outreach, creation of promotional materials, mission retreat, youth activities, new members' classes, publication of the EAGLE newsletter, maintaining the website, etc. I have supported the various ministries of the church such as food pantry and Women's Group activities.

What an exciting year it has been! The St. John's community is a great place to work. This is a diverse and vibrant mission field. So much has happened, is happening and promises to happen. I appreciate the support and the work ethic of the Church Council and many members. It takes a lot to keep everything going. It takes many hands to do God's work.

As I write this report I am filled with the joy of the Lord, because attendance at our 146<sup>th</sup> Anniversary worship on Reformation Sunday was 66 adults and 9 children. I am still basking in the glow of that, a day later. It was a perfect day with great music, high spirit and fellowship over a meal. The church is growing on multiple levels.

Now of course, there are some misgivings, lest anyone think that I am unaware of these things. However, I think that our forward movement is largely owed to a positive and hopeful outlook. Of course, in a sinful world, on any given day, there is always a reason to lament, and misunderstandings, as well as conflicts that arise. But, we are constantly reminded in scripture that even Jesus had to face these kinds of things. We do best to follow His example and stay the course, for God's sake, with not only weapons of the Spirit, but also with fruit of the Spirit among us. We are well-equipped and so we must rejoice! We must give thanks for what God is doing in our midst! Notably, a church just a few blocks away will close its doors for good in January, while St. John's seems to be renewing its mission in

this neighborhood. It seems that God wants us to continue on and so we will! I pray that we are resolved to overcome anything that would take us off of the course we are on.

The Highlights of my Year:

Mission Retreat, Palm Sunday Procession, Easter Sunday Worship, the Festival of Homiletics in Minnesota, my vacation times, Crossroads Day Camp at St. John's, our weekly bible studies, playing Bible Challenge on Central Avenue, and of course, I never tire of hearing what a great, exciting church we have here and how impressed people are with this ministry. St. John's is looking good. AND it feels good more and more.

I hope you will take a look at the PowerPoint highlights, I have put together, because a picture is worth a thousand words.

To God be the Glory!

*Submitted by, Pastor Mona Fitch-Elliott*