

Rummage Sale Reflections

You may remember that last month we revived our annual rummage sale after a two-year hiatus. I think it was a success, with over \$8500 in receipts so far, and money still coming in. As I reflect a bit on the time spent preparing for and doing the sale, I realize there is a lot to learn from such an endeavor—especially when a church does it! Here are a few things that come to mind about treasures, shoppers, and volunteers.

I've heard that rummage sales are like garage sales—full of junk you didn't know you needed. But, I have a few observations about the many treasures that are donated:

- On person's trash really is another person's treasure. Things sell quickly that I never thought would even be wanted.
- Sometimes one person's trash is just that. We had to throw away untold numbers of dumpsters filled with the unusable and broken leftovers of better days. Kudos to our sanitation dept. for always being willing to empty our dumpsters.
- Other times it's not trash at all. We had some very valuable donations that were given to the church out of the sheer generosity of the givers.
- There are always leftovers. No matter how low the price—even if you are giving it away.
- One church's leftovers really are another church's treasure. You're welcome, St. Gall's....

I've never been a big garage sale person. But I've got to admit it was fun going through the outside merchandise—that's where all the tools and sporting good were. I noticed a few things about ourselves when we shop at a rummage sale:

- We love to come see what we might need but didn't know it till we get here.
- We don't like to pay full asking price. Whatever the listed price is, it's not a good deal unless we get it for less. I think department stores have been manipulating me with "good deals" for years.
- Prices get cheaper with time. This seems to be a universal phenomenon, except for real estate.
- Sometimes you can't even give away good stuff to people who really need it. Again, you're welcome, St. Gall's....

Before I became pastor here, I had never participated in a big rummage sale like we have at CVUMC. Of all that goes into and comes out of our sale, I am most impressed with the volunteers that pull it off.

- People look forward to working on the rummage sale—especially after two years. It must be like when moms talk about how they'll never have another baby, but then amnesia sets in and they forget about how bad it was.
- Volunteers have a lot of fun working on it. I'm not sure if it is the just being in good company or the chance to get a first dibs on the good stuff, but we had a lot of fun.
- Volunteers get tired of working on it too. Before it's over, I'm pretty sure we all swear that we'll never work on another rummage sale.
- It's good to have separate volunteers to handle the cleanup and leftovers. That's right, you're welcome St. Gall's....
- We get amnesia—I'm already looking forward to the next one.

All in all, it was a great rummage sale. Thank you to everyone who helped, donated, shopped, and cleaned up. Especially thanks to Maggie Allen—our chairperson! You know, it would be a relatively small investment for us to fly Maggie out here from Texas, so she could lead our next sale....

See you at church, -pastor tony