

WEEKLY MEDITATION - May 27, 2009

by Rev. Teri Lubbers

The Manifestation of Spirit

God's various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God is behind it all. Each person is given something to do that shows who God is; everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! All these gifts have a common origin, but are handed out one by one by the one Spirit of God. God decides who gets what, and when. - The Message, I Corinthians 12:4-7, 11

I have been reading a book about how emotional systems work in churches. How well a church functions reflects the functioning of individuals in that community. It reflects the nature of our maturity and motivation, and also what our response (and sometimes our reaction) is to challenge or change. All living things grow and change. They are not static and there are seasons of sameness and seasons of transformation.

We stand at a threshold of transformation as a church. We are making decisions about who we will be in the coming years, what kind of manifestation of Spirit we will be to one another and to the world. My hope is that the foundation of all these decisions will be listening intently to what Spirit is saying to this church.

Take a deep breath because I have an assignment for you. Here is a list of questions to reflect on as you continue to pray and seek Spirit's guidance in our discernment process (How Your Church Family Works, Steinke, p. 54). Please print them out, pray about them, and then write out your responses and bring them to our Open Forum on June 14th:

1. What would it look like if you were happy, satisfied?
2. What is weakening your resources and strength?
3. Write a sentence to define your problem [if any, with our church]. Then redefine your problem without reference to a single issue or person.
4. Who are the most motivated people in the congregation?
5. Where's your plan? What's your vision?
6. What would it take to have a pastor stay here ten years, twenty years?
7. What would be your own signs of a healthy congregation?
8. Can you imagine this congregation in five years being alive, thriving, etc.? How would you know it happened?
9. How would you be willing to invest yourself in the process of creating the image you defined above?
10. How do you understand what is happening here theologically or biblically?

We have three more small group meetings scheduled and then an Open Forum meeting:

Wednesday, May 27, 2009, 7:00

Saturday, May 30 at 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, June 3, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 14, Open Forum following worship

Prayer: *Spirit, thank you for the many ways you choose to manifest in the world and in me. I want to be more open to you and to your purpose for me. Help me to hear you today. Amen.*