

## ~Staying Connected~

\*A letter from the desk of Pastor Steve-Orono United Methodist Church\*

### -Week of October 12, 2009-

I was recently asked to speak to a group of people at the seminary about what it is like to be a "bi-vocational" pastor; that is, a pastor who has another job besides pastoring. One of the people inviting me to speak made a comment that meteorology and ministry duties seem to be at opposite ends of the occupational spectrum. I reminded this person that there are actually some strong similarities between the two jobs. Fact is, one of the most important part of both jobs is *communicating* a message. In addition, both jobs involve research, study and reflection before my message is communicated to a group of people. Therefore, I believe both of my jobs have much in common, especially in the area of being an effective *communicator*.

Think of all the other jobs which share similarities to pastoring. For people involved in the fishing industry, aren't we "church-folk" also practicing the art of fishing? Think of Jesus' words to Simon Peter and Andrew as he called them into discipleship: "*Come with me, and I will make you fishers of men!*" There are many in our church family who have, or have had positions as teachers. There are strong connections between teaching and ministry, since we strive to teach others about God's love and faithfulness through the generations. Those working in the clerical area can also point to similarities between their duties and ministry. After all, both jobs involve organizing and communicating important information for themselves and for others while making sure that information is processed most effectively. What about parents & grandparents? Moms, Dads, Grandmothers and Grandfathers are in the loving and nurturing business, just as we are to be as a church.

Fact is, every job I can think of includes performing a set of skills and gifts which may be applied toward making each of us more effective ministers within, and outside of our community. What are yours?

As we continue to grow, and as we continue to seek God's direction and plans for us as a church family, I pray that each of us will be willing to use our talents and abilities as we work together in this business of "Kingdom Building." Your gifts and talents are important, and appreciated!

### ~Sharing Scripture~

**"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." (1 Corinthians 15:58)**

### ~Looking Ahead~

\*Along with our usual adult study group which meets before worship at 9:30, this Sunday will bring our first Sunday School gathering for children during worship. We are so thankful for those who have volunteered to help-out one Sunday per month; would you consider helping as well?

\*A reminder that our church will be providing a shelter meal on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. Workers will meet at our church at 2pm; your help and food donations would really be appreciated. What a great way to put our ministry into action! Please see John Maddaus for more details.

\*Speaking of food; as you know we gather after worship each Sunday for refreshments. If you would be willing to sign-up to help organize and provide refreshments on a particular Sunday, please let us know! Thank you.

\*It's great to have the choir with us again each Sunday; if you would like to join-in, rehearsals take place Thursday evenings at 6:30.

\*SPPRC will meet this Saturday morning at 8am at the church, and the Church Council will meet this Sunday evening at 7pm.

\*Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> is an important date for us; please plan to attend our Charge Conference meeting with our district superintendent (Pat MacHugh.) The evening will begin with an SPRC meeting at 6pm, followed by a service led by Pat at 7pm.

\*For more about the life of our church, including the latest edition of "The Spire" newsletter, visit our website at [www.oronoumc.com](http://www.oronoumc.com).

***-Blessings and peace to you and yours during this beautiful autumn season-***  
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