

~Staying Connected~

A newsletter from the desk of Pastor Steve-Orono United Methodist Church

-Week of September 14, 2009-

~Consider This~

Well, I've finally done it. After a couple years of nagging, uh.....I mean, "gentle reminding" from my lovely wife, I have finally had some business cards made-up (see enclosed.) Frankly, I didn't sense much of a need for them, but over the past year in particular I have begun to see where they can come in handy. There are times when people ask how they can get in touch with me, now it will be convenient to be able to put a card in their hand. And sometimes when I drop-by to see someone either at home or in the hospital, they are either not there or not available, so it will be nice to be able to leave a card to let them know I was there, and leave them with my information in case they want to get a hold of me.

Having your name on a card followed by the title of your occupation kind of puts everything in black and white, doesn't it? Kind of makes it "official." When the person at "Jiffy Print" asked me what I wanted on the card, I initially had just included my name, the church I'm associated with, along with my telephone number and email address. But when I handed over my information to the woman handling the cards, she looked at the information and then asked me: *aren't you going to put "Pastor" next to your name?* "Oh yeah," I said, *that's probably a good idea.* Pastor has become part of my identity, which is a title I pray I deserve and live-up to.

I suppose one of the reasons it didn't remember to put "Pastor" beside my name is due to the fact that I really feel like a *co-pastor* with you, and a *co-pastor* with each member of our church family. After all, we are all pastors aren't we? A pastor is not someone who merely gets up in front of a congregation and delivers a sermon. Instead, a pastor is someone who ministers God's love to people in different ways; through encouraging words, through acts of kindness, through the sharing of money and food, just to name a few. I have been blessed by witnessing countless acts of "pastoring" by so many of you, and I'm sure if I was able to follow each of you around for a spell, I would witness more acts of "pastoring."

So, if you ever think of what your identity is, remember that along with being a son or daughter, mom or dad, brother or sister, teacher or nurse, carpenter or fisherman, remember that one of the titles next to your name should be "pastor."

~Sharing Scripture~

Please read John 15:12. What does this verse tell us about the most important part of our "pastor duties?"