

~Staying Connected~

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

-Week of September 28, 2009-

On Christmas morning of '07, Judy surprised me by giving me a guitar. I have never played a musical instrument other than a trumpet, and I had often thought that I might enjoy learning to play a guitar. I happened to mention this to Judy one night, and despite what you might think, I was *not* trying to drop a hint to her about what to get me for Christmas that year-I simply made an innocent comment about being interested in playing the guitar. Sure enough, Christmas morning rolled around, and I found a shiny, black guitar under our Christmas tree.

Here's what I've learned so far about playing the guitar. First off, it is better to have skinny fingertips than fat ones. Mine are not too fat, although one of my fingers is broken and kind of misshaped, which makes it kind of difficult to place that fingertip in the right place. Second, playing the guitar is a lot harder than it looks. Third, you can make some pretty strange faces while trying to twist your fingers in the proper position. And finally, if you don't have each fingertip in exactly the correct position, or if you leave one of your fingers off a string at the wrong time, strumming the strings will produce a pretty awful noise. Each finger is a critical part of the operation; it is important to have all of your fingers working together at the same time if you are going to produce any music worth listening to.

In the same way, each one of us is an integral part of our church family; each of us has the potential to make a positive impact on our future together. Think of yourself as one finger on the bridge of a guitar; each one of us plays a crucial role, and beautiful music is produced when we work in harmony. We all bring special talents, gifts and abilities to our church. Without you, without *each* person in our church family working together, we are less effective in extending ministry to each other and to the world around us.

Sometimes ministry is easy, yet just like playing the guitar-sometimes ministry is not as easy as it looks. But one thing is for sure; our work is much easier and more satisfying when we're all working together to create a "beautiful noise" as we seek to be God's faithful church.

~Sharing Scripture~

"There are many kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men." (1 Corinthians 12:4-6)

~Looking Ahead~

*One of the most important things we can do as a church is to provide day care and Sunday School classes during worship for families with young ones. I am happy to report that important progress is being made in this area, with more good news to come. Please be in prayer about your interest in helping out with this important ministry!

*Our first "Games & Grub" night was fun (and tasty!) Thanks to all for sharing your delicious food, along with the games. Pictures from the night will be posted soon.

*The Sunday morning adult study group is under way; we are exploring the Lee Strobel book "The Case For Christ." Feel free to join in, even if you can't make each meeting, and even if you haven't been reading the book. I believe you will still enjoy and benefit from sitting-in on the conversation. We meet at 9:30am.

*Our contemplative prayer group is meeting at church each Wednesday morning at 11:00. All are invited to join us for a wonderful, peaceful time of prayer.

*Choir is underway, and you are certainly invited to join in! Choir rehearsals take place Thursday evenings at 6:30pm. For more, see Barb Smith.

*Over the next two weeks, I will be meeting with a few student groups on the U-Maine campus to invite interested students to come visit our church family on Sunday mornings. I would appreciate your prayers as our church seeks to connect with these students.

*Reserve this date: Tuesday, November 24th. This is the evening for our Charge Conference meeting with our district superintendent (Pat MacHugh.) The evening will include a worship service led by Pat, along with looking ahead to the coming year and sharing reports from the past year. It is important for as many as possible to attend, hope you can join us!

May this week bring many reminders of God's love for you!

Peace & Grace to you, Steve (866-2144, email: ch2wxman@msn.com)