

Kevin's Korner

I trust that you all have been joining me in prayer for our church. I've been praying for God to guide us through our discernment and discovery efforts this past month, including the work of the Vision to Action Team, which led into our Vision to Action Retreat with Rev Dale Matherly, our Interim Regional Minister.

Wasn't that a fabulous retreat?! We accomplished so much on Saturday morning that I, for one, was exhausted by the time you all developed actual "Pilot Projects" on Sunday and then presented them to the larger group. If you haven't taken time to look at the artwork in the Fellowship Hall, you should observe how the various small group pictured, or symbolized the work that they feel God is calling us toward at First Christian Church. I have traveled around the room at least 3 or 4 times to revisit and appreciate the work that was accomplished. I must say that I'm proud of our church!

I am certainly grateful for Dale's willingness and his expertise in the processes with which he led us to imagine together a new future for FCC and then look around our church and our community to develop specific "Pilot Projects" which match up our gifts and talents and interests as a church with specific needs in our community. Dale helped us to claim these projects as inspired by God. And clearly, they are inspired as I witnessed the elevated spirit of excitement and energy among the Pilot Project groups who are dreaming and planning and calendaring great ideas for new small groups, Bible studies, prayer events, outreach efforts and evangelism opportunities. It took my entire morning on Monday to return calls and visit with leaders of these groups about questions, resources, and advice.

A few asked for my blessing or approval. My response was to remind them that all of you are the leaders of our church. The pastor is not "the" boss. Like Dale, I consider my role as being advisor, encourager, and resource person to enable you to be the church that you hear God calling you toward; and then stay out of your way while we journey together into God's future.

We all set a goal of reporting back to the congregation on April 6th, so that you all know what is being planned and is already in the works. That way we will all know how and what to be praying for and getting involved in as we continue down the path of faithful service to God and God's people. Prayer is the first step. The second step is to be a willing answer to prayers. There will be a place for everyone to be involved; praying, listening, communicating; perhaps reading, making phone calls, or sharing hospitality, which you all do so well.

Again, I am proud of our church, all of you. And I am excited to see so many of you excited about serving God and the people God loves all around us. Come hear the early results on April 6th and ask how you can help. Maybe we'll all witness some resurrection even before Easter this year!

God bless you!

Pastor Kevin