

THE PASTOR'S REPORT

Howdy,

Good morning. It is very early this day as I write these words to you, the singing of the birds has awakened me just past dawn. And except for those songs, there seems to be a hush over all the world as it slowly wakes from slumber. Time for a new day.

I've always found hope in the idea of the new day. The notion that with every pass around the sun we have another opportunity to do life all over again. Each day we set about our business with vigor: to raise our children, keep our home, work at our living, and be a part of our community. We make mistakes, we claim victories, we earn our keep. And when night falls we rest from our day. Then there is evening, and there is morning, a new day.

Its about rhythm. Something that many of you may already know: the cycles and patterns that make up the rhythm of our lives. The school year, the week day/weekend, morning/afternoon/evening, watching the weather report on the local news before we go to bed (or on our phones), coffee after our meal, and the changing of the seasons. Rhythm.

As June comes to a close and we move into July, I can begin to feel a different rhythm in the world. All around there is a change in the air: the birds, the trees, the flowers, the lawn which seems to always need a cutting. Children are full of energy

as school comes to a close, people finally come out of their houses to dig in the garden, you can see neighbors talking to neighbors as they stand along their fence. Summer is here.

I use my words this month to encourage each of you to notice this change, and to prepare yourself to dance to, and enjoy the rhythm of summer. Some will be fishing, or swimming, or boating; many will go on vacation. Special projects will abound, and with school out the kids will be around. There will be ice-cream cones and strawberries, fireworks on the fourth of July, sun burn and AAA maps, and a barbecue in just about every backyard. Ah, summer. A mix of frivolousness and earnest, a time of relaxation & vigor.

Summer is different for each person, for each family. What one calls long work in the garden, another calls rest for the soul among the tomatoes. Whatever your plans for this summer, be they work or play, may you enjoy yourself. On Sundays we'll greet old friends as their vacations lead them back to us, and we'll miss those who are at the lake or cottage, away visiting family, out on the road with the camper, or just sleeping-in for the day. Enjoy the different rhythm summer brings us. Rest, relax, and reinvigorate in this season we all love.

With grace (and a pair of sunglasses on), - Rev. Mike.



