

# The Pastor's Report

The warmest of greetings to all of you in these very frigid days!

This first Sunday in February following worship we will be holding our Annual Meeting of the Congregation which, in the business world, might be understood as a meeting of the shareholders and investors. Though a church is first and foremost a spiritual abode and community founded on faith, we are also an entity composed of stone and mortar held together by financial realities and concrete concerns. The Annual Meeting is the intersection of these two aspects of our lives together into one common and shared reality or truth.

I had intended to use this month's Pastor's Report to articulate a "State of the Church" address which would recap where we have been as an organization in the past year and, having done so, look forward to the new year and the direction we will hope to travel. Upon further reflection, however, I have decided this is either an oversimplification of a very complex reality or, conversely, an effort to overcomplicate that which is in actuality a fairly simple situation. On this I waver.

Of course, our perspective on any issue, object, or idea correlates to one's current context. That is to say, our understanding of the world around us is a function of where we find ourselves standing within it at any particular moment.

Though not necessarily atypical, the days leading up to the composition of these words were particularly "multi-fold." In plain speak, the context within which I found myself saw an awful lot of a great variety of things all going on at pretty much the same time. Were I to rattle off a list of what is happening at the church on any given day (such as this day) it might include things such as: furnace repairs, doors being installed at the manse, chronic (bulletins and NL) or acute (park use, annual reporting) administrative tasks, meeting with candidates for the Choir Director and Pianist position(s), conversations with community members, numerous emails and text sent/phone calls made. Then it was time for lunch.

All these "necessary" things can be objectively seen and measured. That said, the most important stuff we do as a church is hardly ever seen and can never be measured. They exist nonetheless and (usually) are *extremely* serious. When you are part of a church this is your current context as well, regardless of if you know it or not.

The "State" of our church isn't any *one* thing which can be easily or wholly articulated. Instead, it is a fluid flow of life's unfolding in each new day. It is only and ever all things at once, made richly manifest in our ordinary moments. As it should be. - Rev. Mike