

# The Pastor's Report

Greetings fellow travelers! This month I have a missive of modest means, but not without merit (Yes, I *am* a fool for alliteration).

At last night's Session meeting (which went very well, generated a great deal of laughter, good vibes and gratitude, and which ended on the hour) I was informed that there was a group photo from the C&CP Bowling to which we did not have access when we initially created the May Newsletter (see pages 13 & 14). Sent later that evening, we struggled to figure out how to rearrange all the other photos (8 pages of them) so as to accommodate this additional photo. Frankly, it seemed an overwhelming task.

It was at this point it dawned on me that I had not yet written the Pastor's report so why not add the photo to *that* page? While it solved the short-term problem, brilliantly so, it also pointed me in the direction of a larger truth: this is OUR church and WE can do what we what.

It would seem an odd thing to finally realize, but how many of us go through life thinking the world, and all the individual pieces of it, some how belong to others and not to us. I think this especially true of most churches where tradition (and habit) rule supreme. As if 200 years of

Presbyterians on the Park were somehow looking down on us (ok, perhaps a *few* were looking up) and judging all of our actions with regard to the building, the worship, the theology, the practice, the mission, and every other aspect of church life....including the Newsletter. Which, of course, is crazy talk.

Take a good gander at this month's edition of "The View From The Park." What you will discover here in these pages is a grateful group of people who are living with joy in community, supporting each other in ways small and large, and doing a whole lot of good (i.e., the Gospel) along the way. Not necessarily what one would come to expect of a church. I mean, aren't we supposed to be serious people?!? Indeed, we *are* serious people but we are anything but a somber bunch.

While there are certainly many reasons and forces which result in who and what we are as a congregation, one of the most significant is that we have caught on to the fact that this church (the building, the organizational structure, and the worship) is ours to create and enjoy. We are beholding to only our God, each other, and ourselves. Beyond that, everything is on the table, open for discussion, and in the realm of possibility.

How cool is that!?! - Rev. Mike



"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." - Ecclesiastes 3:1