



Monthly Letter from our Minister ▪ July 2009
A Thought & A Prayer: Extraordinary Times

This week an extraordinary young man, John Wood, celebrated the completion of a Rite of Passage, a spiritual development program that asked him to hone his awareness of God in body, mind, spirit, and community. In designing such a program, one never knows the impact it will have upon oneself.

Last week an extraordinary congregation voted to empower its Board and Ministers to sell a portion of its property. In moving toward such an event, one never knows how one's own being will be affected.

According to John Petersen, author of *A Vision for 2012: Planning for Extraordinary Change, 2008*,

In the face of almost certain uncertainty, our job is to rise to the occasion, to evolve – in our thinking, our perspectives and in our commitment to make this transition as positive as possible (Contact, V 41, I3, 8).

John Wood demonstrated a way to embrace change by asking to evolve, and then putting his learning into action in his presentation and his community outreach work. Will we as adults be as open, flexible, and engaged?

When major change comes, three scenarios come to mind for ways in which to respond or react. First is that it can be so shocking, all systems fail and the infrastructure is lost.

A second way is that the system is seriously impacted, reels from the change, but most familiar processes and functions remain.

A third response is to decide to live differently; to experience a paradigm shift and quickly embrace fundamental change that is broad-based, allowing a new set of priorities to emerge.

Unity Christ Church stands at the crossroads of opportunity. This is not the first time the congregation has had a large fund with which to work. These past few years are not the first time the church has had financial challenges. The question is how will the congregation of Unity Christ Church manage this change.

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it," as written by George Santayana, in his *Reason in Common Sense, The Life of Reason, Vol. 1*. This nation's finances are in flux, there is a global recession, there is war and threat of more widespread war, and yet we know that God is the Source and endless Supply of all of us on planet Earth. The second part is the call to be good stewards of that Supply. We can LOVE wastefully, AND we are called to use great wisdom in the distribution of the Supply that is God. God is Source, Substance, and Supply. How will we respond to this opportunity? What priorities will emerge?

Will we create exciting differences in the programming of this church to make it vibrant and attractive to people under 40?

Are we willing that the person in the chair next to us look different from us?

Will we reach out to the community with extraordinary service?

Your Team of 8, now known as the PEP team, has been pondering these questions for months with the input it received from all of you. What will Unity Christ Church look like in 2012? Only you can decide.

*God loves you, and so do I,
Martha*