

27 July 2008

Dear Friends,

I love Summer! Warmer weather and while it may still be busy, how good it is to be outdoors more.

Spirit-Given Gifts

A couple of folks have found me at the church office – surrounded by books, papers and curriculum, making preparations for Sep....well, it's still Summer and I don't think you want me to yet say that word! In any event, in months to come we'll have an opportunity to explore Spiritual Gifts. One of the beautiful mysteries is that God uniquely gifts each of us. Knowing who we are as God-filled people is central to our mission-focused organizational design. We do ministry out of where God calls us; where we find our Passions.

You may enjoy discovering your spiritual gifts as a spiritual quest during the summer. There's a great questionnaire online at <http://www.faith-elca.org/SpiritGivenGifts/splash.php>.

Or, if you'd prefer to print off a copy of the survey to say...fill out while camping or enjoying the back deck you can access a pdf file at http://www.bc.united-church.ca/Healthy_Congregations/Education/ssg.htm

Please let me know what you discover through the gifts' inventory (email is slavenne@telus.net). And keep your results for reflection and reference this Fall. I'm looking forward to hearing what you each discover.

Summer Reading

Joel and I will be packing up kids and tents to head to the United Church's Naramata Centre near Penticton. Everyone's signed up for their particular courses and all excited. One book I'm packing is *The Sacred Path Companion: A Guide to Walking the Labyrinth to Heal and Transform* by Lauren Artress. Also, I'm interested in Bruce Sanguin's book *Emerging Church*. Sanguin's a United Church minister from Vancouver that I heard speak recently. He suggests that we (as individuals, society, church) have slipped into passivity -- expecting someone else to come along and do the job. Yet, if we understand ourselves as God-gifted people who are a part of our universe – we realize we are the ones we've been waiting for. That's why knowing our Spiritual Gifts is important. You can find some of Sanguin's thoughtful sermons at <http://www.canadianmemorial.org/sermons.htm>

Blessings for a wonderful summer,
Shelley

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Minister