

## Pastor's Reflections

by Jeffrey Frantz

I am using my Pastor's Reflections column to reflect on different aspects of my Sabbatical leave, coming up in April. Last month I reflected on some general concerns.

This month I want to spell out the different roles of our church staff and leaders.

**My Sabbatical leave.** Just to keep these dates before you, here again are the dates for my Sabbatical leave:

**April 13 – August 13**

The three phases of my four-month leave are: (1) six days at a *retreat center* in Los Altos, CA for a time of decompressing and spiritual reflection; (2) eight days of special times with my three siblings—Buffalo, NY, Minneapolis, MN and Peoria, IL; and (3) fourteen weeks in Aix en Provence, France.

Upon my return, my first Sunday in the pulpit will be on Sunday, August, 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Who to call for what?** Maggie Schneider, the Director of The Growing Place and a long-time church member, will be in charge of the church staff, in consultation with Mariliz (Director of Christian Education and Program Coordinator) and Berta (Administrative Assistant).

For any church-related questions/ concerns, during office hours (M-F, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), call Berta at the church office. She will either answer your question/ concern directly or refer you to Maggie who will spear head the necessary follow through.

For any questions/ concerns during *non-office hours*, call Ruby Holihan. Ruby will be the acting chairperson of the Clergy Renewal Support Team, taking over the reins from Arlene Brett who will most likely be in Georgia during most, if not all, of my Sabbatical leave. Ruby will then decide what course of action to take for any follow-up on your question/ concern.

Beyond all of this, Nancy Stander, as the Church Moderator, is the over-all person in charge. She will be informed and updated on a regular basis by some combination of Berta, Maggie and Ruby and will be the ultimate arbiter of any major decisions that need to be made. Actually, this is all standard operating procedure. I never make any major decision at the church without consulting the Moderator and make every attempt to keep her/him informed about happenings at our church on a regular basis.

Rev. Dr. Paul Veliyathil will be the Interim Pastor for the seventeen weeks I will be gone. Many of you met Dr. Paul on Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup> when he spoke, both at our Women's Fellowship breakfast/ gathering, as well as for a few minutes during the worship service. Paul has been a guest preacher at our church during many of my vacation Sundays in recent years and has always been well received.

Dr. Veliyathil will be available to do weddings, baptisms and funerals during my absence and do hospital visitations, upon request. He will be in charge of the Sunday morning worship service, have office hours two days a week, attend the monthly Church Council meetings and, in general, be available to provide pastoral leadership for our church as needs arise.

**Good communication is the key.** The key for all of this to function as smoothly as possible is strong communication. Keeping the above roles in mind, let us all do our best to communicate with the appropriate person noted above.

Again, communication is the key. Never assume that people know anything about whatever. Give them a call or email them to better insure that they are well informed.

Between now and when I leave, if any of you have any questions/ concerns, please do not hesitate to let Maggie, Ruby, Nancy or me hear from you.