



Simsbury United Methodist Church
2016 - 2017 Charge Conference Report
Monday, December 5, 2016, 7:30 pm

Pastor's Report

By Woody Eddins
Pastor

Pastor's Report to Charge Conference

Every so often I take the time to read through one of the Gospels in its entirety. Feeling somewhat discouraged about the world's situation recently I read Mark. Every time I read I learn something new. This time what stood out for me was that Jesus never seemed to be discouraged or feel that he was fighting a losing battle. It was as if his motivation, his mission, and his loyalty, was rooted not in the things he did or the way people responded to him, but in his faith that all things were ultimately in the hands of God. So no matter what, he knew what he was called to do and who he was called to be. His life was lived as a part of that Kingdom of heaven.

We live in a time when it is easy to become discouraged. Wars seem to continue without end and the helpless suffer the most. Changes in the climate threaten our world with floods and droughts and fires. Even in our own country the uncertainty of coming political changes can be frightening. What are we to do with our fear, discouragement, and uncertainty?

Mark's portrayal of Jesus suggests that the most important thing we can do is to realize that we are part of something larger than we can currently see. Doing God's work means doing what is at hand, what is before us, what we feel called to do today.

SUMC has been blessed with many opportunities for ministry. Wonderful things are going on through Stephen Ministers and Church School Classes, in small groups that knit prayer shawls, study scripture, discuss books, pray, support causes, and support one another. Capable people work on committees to insure that staff and buildings and finances function in harmony. The music program for all ages inspires and celebrates God's presence among us. Food is taken to the hungry in Hartford and to families in our community. Volunteers do mission work from West Virginia to Africa. Homebound members are visited, holiday gifts are given to those in need, new members are welcomed, and the community gathers for three worship services each week. All of this is inspiring, uplifting, an experience of grace and hope.

I am not sure what the future holds for us, but I do know who holds the future, and I feel blessed to be among a group who participate in that Kingdom that Jesus says is even now, all around us.

It is a blessing to be serving in my ninth year as your pastor.

Woody Eddins

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors