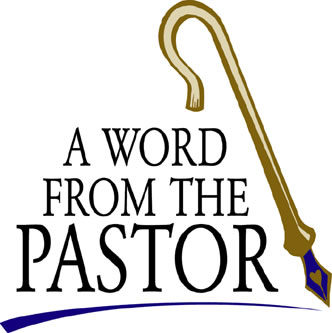
*“Never lag in zeal and in earnest endeavor be aglow and burning with the Spirit serving the Lord”*

Romans 12:11



Maybe it is because we are deep into summer and recognize there are few weeks remaining before fall or maybe it is the drought in attendance at church this past year, but I have come to realize that I need to hear this verse more often. I admit to being a little melancholy myself of late. I appreciate our lackadaisical nature and the need for reconnecting with family, relaxation and vacations. I understand we have to take time off from everything once in a while. That is why the words *aglow* and *burning* generate such fire and warmth in my heart and remind me that these are Paul’s words warning his brothers and sisters to not adapt to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of their minds as they discerned the will of God.

Hopefully, we each, can find ways to be fed so that we will hear and know the will of God. Hopefully we find spiritual nourishment in ways that will boost our spirits, empower our prayers and supersize our service to God. Whether or not it is during the allotted Sunday morning or elsewhere, giving up an hour or so for God each week is a relatively small request. I find that I need to seek the face of God more earnestly and more eagerly so that my soul can be replenished daily. If I “lag in zeal” how can I lead this community of believers or evangelize to those who do not step foot in our sanctuary?

You know I am always looking the WOW factor in everything we do at Trinity. Coming together for worship, a community picnic or a finance meeting are all great ways to reinforce and encourage one another so that we do not “lag in zeal.” Gathering for any reason, even if it is to weed the gardens and trim the bushes around the church, our passion, enthusiasm and zealousness – all words for ardent – reflect our love for Jesus Christ while simultaneously filling us with the richness of the Holy Spirit. I am confident God quietly takes our small gestures and multiplies them. I am sure that, though we work hard and don’t always see the desired results, God has other plans for us and is already working to make those plans materialize. It is with this assurance I pray we continue to stretch our arms high enough and wide enough to realize the **extra** in the ordinary and turn **tri**als in to triumphs.

Sometimes all it takes is a reminder that God is in, under, and around *all* things...like the beautiful sunset last night. The arrival of dusk parted the clouds just in time to reveal a glowing enflamed sky full of promise reminding me of the One who gave His only Son for us, the One who loves us, and will always love us, more than we deserve. It is in moments like these that I sense God gently touching my shoulder saying “Trust in Me always.” Or as Paul put it... *“Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persistent in prayer”* Romans 12.12.

***Pastor Cheri***