

Steepleviews Article: March 2009

A Word from the Associate Pastor:

After all the newsletter articles I have written over the past five and a half years, it seems hard to believe that this is the last newsletter article I will write as the associate pastor of this congregation. As my time serving as your associate pastor is coming to an end, I appreciate the ministry that we have shared together in Christ's name. I am also grateful for all of the many positive relationships and friendships I have developed here.

When I first arrived in Martinsville, I was overwhelmed with how you reached out to get to know me. I still remember how many of you went to my ordination service in Raleigh in 2003. Many of you went out of your way to welcome me to this community. In my first few weeks here, many of you invited me into your homes, which formed the basis for strong relationships. Now that I am leaving, I once again have appreciated those of you who have made an effort to speak with me, have stopped by my office for a visit, or have broken bread with me over lunch or dinner.

As I was thinking back over my beginning and ending here in Martinsville, I realized that we, or at least I, tend to act as if we have all the time in the world, but the truth is that our time is limited. So my advice, now that I am aware of how my time here in Martinsville is limited and wrapping up, is for us to cherish the moments we have. Do not wait for a major change or crisis situation to spend time with the people you love. Give a hug to your children. Call a friend you have not spoken with in a while. Go to lunch with someone you want to know better. Do not put off relationship building: make that a priority for today.

As I move onto the next chapter in my life, please know that I will always remember Martinsville and the people of this church. I will leave you with the words from a favorite hymn, *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*. I think this hymn summarizes my thoughts so well, "Blest be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love: the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above. . . From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free; and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity." The ties that bind us together through Christ help us to rise above the sorrow, toil, pain, and sin of this world. I believe it is true that we can find comfort and strength in the love and friendship we have through Christ.

In Christ's Peace & Love,

Jody Moore