
From the Pastor's Desk

Pastor Gerald (Jerry) Morris

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Pillars

We sometimes call people “Pillars of the Church.” You may have never thought about what that means, literally, but it would mean something like “people without whom the church would collapse.” It’s not my favorite expression. First of all, I simply don’t think any of us are that essential to the church. If we are, then something’s out of balance. Second, I don’t like putting too much emphasis on one person. The church functions well when everyone works together and shares the responsibilities, and so I prefer to talk about groups who hold the church together instead of individuals.

Having said that, though, there are certain tasks that don’t require groups. They just need one committed person who will take on a role as her or his particular gift. And, while the church may not collapse without these people, they certainly deserve to be recognized for the things they do, quietly and without fuss, that keep us running. A few examples:

Barb Hunger – I’ve been at this church eleven years (really!), and Barb has been treasurer for all that time and I don’t know how long before. As treasurer, she is the one who actually pays our bills. She comes into the office at least once a week, carefully compares the checks that Karen has prepared to their invoices or receipts, then – when she’s satisfied – signs them. Her role also makes her a member of the Finance Committee, the Ministries Council, and the Investment Committee, so it involves evening meetings as well (except during the NCAA).

Diane Zahn – For years now, Diane has kept our indoor plants flourishing in the Sanctuary (the peace lilies along the wall in front of the organ) and the Wesleyan Room. This has required at least two visits a week to the church. Diane knows every plant and has kept them beautiful. For many of us, walking through that indoor garden is an essential part of our worship on Sundays.

Nancy Flath – Nancy’s role is less solitary than those above, but she still stands in the center. Nancy runs the meals that we serve here for funerals, which involves organizing a team, shopping, cooking, setting up, serving, cleaning up, and maintaining all the financial records.

When families gather in their grief, Nancy provides them a safe and welcoming venue to mourn.

Gwen Carey – What Nancy does for funeral meals, Gwen does for most of our regular meals: our Wednesday night meals, our 5th Sunday Community Meals at First Presbyterian, and our twice-annual Project Connect breakfast for the homeless. Like Nancy, Gwen has a team of people working with her – and they’ll probably both chastise me for singling them out (I don’t care) – but also like Nancy, there’s no question to her team who holds it all together. Here’s the thing about pillars: we don’t usually notice them as long as they are doing their jobs. We walk by without wondering why things are running so smoothly. We simply take it for granted. But we shouldn’t. Sometimes one person really does make a huge difference. Thank you.



Openings for “Pillars”

As noted above, sometimes there are tasks that really only require one person, but it has to be someone who will be faithful. Two options open now:

Watering Plants - Diane Zahn has done this for years, but it requires at least two trips a week, and she lives near Merrill. She would love to show someone who loves caring for plants where everything is.

Podcast Editing - Every week, the Sunday sermon is posted to our website as a podcast. But this takes a few minutes every week, to edit the sermon out of the rest of the service. Interested in learning our computer editing program? Pastor Jerry can train.