

Seasons

There's a season for everything and a time for every matter under the heavens. (Ecclesiastes 3:1, CEB)

It's interesting how seasons of ministry come and go. Just like the weather, at times, we experience an overlap of seasons, and this appears to be one of those times.

I begin my devotion this week by sharing words of deep gratitude for the way our congregation has stepped forward to meet a very obvious need - the repair of our roof and the replenishing and building up of our 'rainy day' funds. As I write this article, we have almost achieved our goal of raising \$150,000 through pledges and cash gifts. It has been my joy to work with Capital Campaign Chairperson, Tom Hiller, and his team on this project. An update will be shared in church this Sunday. Thanks for your support!

I also want to let you know that Tony Walsh, our Youth Ministry Director and Kindling Worship Leader, has shared with us that he will be moving on to a new place of ministry by the end of this month. Tony has been presented with a tremendous opportunity to serve on staff at Church of the Lakes UMC (in the Canton area). I know that Tony has prayed about this change and clearly senses the call of God to this new place, where he will be able to focus his time and energy primarily on being worship leader in several contemporary worship services. As I've been serving as Tony's field study mentor this past year during his studies at Ashland Seminary, I've encouraged him to continue to discern and clarify God's call on his life and ministry. This appears to be one of those steps for him and so, I invite you to celebrate that fact as we send him forth with our blessing in the weeks to come.

We were blessed to have Tony join our staff team last summer at a time when we were greatly in need of new leadership. I believe that as we move forward, God will provide new leadership for us as He has done before. Our Staff Parish Relations Committee will be meeting this evening to talk about our next steps for both staff positions. We ask for your prayers in addition to ours to seek God's wisdom as we accomplish the mission of making disciples for the transformation of the world here in our backyard!

Part of the beauty of living in this part of the world is that we get to enjoy the change of seasons. Many places only have "brown" and "green" seasons. And yet, sometimes, it's hard to let go of one season and embrace the next one that comes along. In the midst of the change of seasons, we trust that God has something beautiful in store for us

Being Jesus' Witness,

Pastor David Rittgers