

## Using Abilities for God

How has God uniquely SHAPED you to serve other people? That's the main question we are considering during our 6-week series, called SHAPE. This Sunday, we focus on our Abilities (A).

Unlike our Spiritual Gifts (S), which we receive from the Holy Spirit at our spiritual birth when we put our faith in Christ, our Abilities are God-given strengths we have had since our physical birth. These might also be referred to as talents. So how can we use our abilities, or talents, for God?

I'd like to highlight two members of our church staff who use their abilities every week to glorify God and serve others, allowing us to do God's work here at Trinity UMC. Lana Kennedy and John Gregory both serve in a similar role for us as our custodians. Their heart is to provide a clean, welcoming space for people to come and encounter God, live in community with each other, and serve their neighbor.

But even as we spoke with Lana and John this week during our annual goal setting meetings, I realized that they have a different set of abilities - ones that compliment each other quite well, by the way. Do they both clean and take out the trash? Yes. However, Lana especially enjoys the interior work of deep cleaning rooms, waxing floors, and attending to the details of what needs to be done to prepare our facility for upcoming events. John especially enjoys outdoor work (mowing, leaf removal, snow plowing) and attending to fix-it projects. This is a great example to me of how two people with a set of different abilities can serve together as part of a team and make a powerful difference for God!

What are your God-given abilities? You probably have a lot more than you realize! Have you ever thought about dedicating them to God's purposes?

In Christ,

*Pastor David Rittgers*

