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Ministry Jottings: How Will the Church Be Lighted?

Several centuries ago in a mountain village in Europe, a wealthy nobleman wondered what legacy he should leave to his townspeople. He made a good decision. He decided to build them a church. No one was permitted to see the plans or the inside of the church until it was finished. At its grand opening, the people gathered and marveled at the beauty of the new church. Everything had been thought of and included. It was a masterpiece.

But then someone said, "Wait a minute! Where are the lamps? It is really quite dark in here. How will the church be lighted?" The nobleman pointed to some brackets in the walls, and then he gave each family a lamp, which they were to bring with them each time they came to worship.

"Each time you are here," the nobleman said, "the place where you are seated will be lighted. Each time you are not here, that place will be dark. This is to remind you that whenever you aren't at church, some part of God's house will be dark"

This is a special story which makes a significant point about the importance of our commitment and loyalty to the church. The poet Edward Everett Hale put it like this:

I am only one, but still I am one.

I cannot do everything, but still I can do something;

And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something I can do.

What if each of our members served the church, attended the church, loved the church, shared the church, and gave to the church exactly as you do? What kind of church would we be? We are entering a season of acknowledging how important our church and congregation are, and what God is revealing to each of us for our roles in the months ahead. May Christ's wisdom and call to us as His disciples be our guide as we carry our lights forward.

In Christ's Grace,

Pastor Deb