



The Pastor's Report to the Congregation

The Feast of St. Beronicus + October 19, 2014

This is the Feast of St. Beronicus, of whose life little is known other than that it ended in martyrdom for the faith in Syria. The Syria of today is witness to much death. Our faith proclaims hope, freedom, love, forgiveness, and life. May we be **ever-mindful of places**, a world away or nearby, are **in need of God's healing and restoring grace**.

UniLu is healthy place, with a number of opportunities open to us. You'll see in this book of reports from Ministry Areas, committees, and others, the health of this shared ministry.

- **Justice** work, at the heart of who we are as Christians, invites us to live our faith, individually and together, through service, giving, & advocacy for all who are in need.
- **Christian Education/Spiritual Formation** invite our reflection on our faith, and offer times of worship, prayer, Bible study, and baptismal living in everyday life.
- **Hospitality** is the way we welcome one another and new-comers into the life of this community, keeping up the tradition of faith-gatherings around table and food.
- **Invitation & Evangelism** is working on a Mission Statement, branding, and new ideas for sharing the Good News of God we know in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
- As I wrote to the **Property Stewards**, "A significant part of the ministry here is the place itself – a quiet, off campus place for students, a peaceful stop for neighbors, a reminder of the world around us for all of us who spend time here. Your stewardship of the place is not just cosmetic ... it is actually a vital piece of the ministry..."

Our role as a **campus ministry congregation** continues to be vital, contributing to opportunities for prayer, service, fellowship, study, and pastoral care. This work was recently affirmed by the synod, our grant holding steady despite budget decreases. Canterbury's part-time call to Rev. Andy has been extended, and he's added a Eucharist.

Our role as a **neighborhood church** is strong – a hub for meetings, worship, fellowship, and service – though there is still lots of opportunity. We have four **50th Anniversaries** coming up! People met at Escondido School in '65, established University Lutheran in '66, broke ground here in '67, and dedicated buildings in '68. Celebrations begin next year!

Important **staffing changes** this year were maternity leave for Office Manager Julie, the completion of Vr. Maggie's internship, and Kay Marie's resignation as Children's Ministry Coordinator. Mary Wisnewski is filling in for Julie, Pr. Gwen is filling key roles while we are without a Vicar, & Melissa Gonzalez is our new CMC. (Still reading? [Send me an email.](#))

Let's do the **numbers**. Worship attendance and leadership are healthy, and many new people are worshipping with us. 1 adult was **baptized**, 3 people will begin baptism prep, and 6 or so are planning to join the congregation. 3 are almost ready for confirmation, VBS was a success, and Adult Forum is swelling. **Service** to and through the congregation is increasing, a Bible study group was active, pastoral care remains important. Income and expenses were both lower than anticipated. While this means a balance, it also means **underspending** on ministry we planned. Stewardship & Mission will be important ahead.

Within a few weeks of today are my 38th **birthday**, 9th **wedding** anniversary, 38th **baptism** anniversary, 7th anniversary of **servng here**, and 10th **ordination**

anniversary, and I continue to discern **doctoral work** – all reminders of my various vocations. I love this ministry and all of you and pray God bless us all with faithfulness to our callings to be Christ's hands, feet, and voice, bringing good news, healing, wholeness, life, and justice.

Peace,

Pastor Guy Solofon