

Ordinary Time; Extraordinarily Busy

In an earlier edition of the Chapel Chimes I wrote about how the season we call "Ordinary Time" is actually anything but ordinary...in fact, it is extraordinary. It is the time of the liturgical year when we are to ponder all we learned and experienced in the great holy seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost and apply those lessons to how we live our daily lives, letting it inform our relationship with ourselves, our neighbors, and our God. Now, as we begin to wind down the church year with the final phase of Ordinary Time, we also remember that it is an extraordinarily busy time as well.



It all begins with Homecoming Sunday on September 24th when we welcome back those who have called this Chapel their home in years past and celebrate those who continue in the faith today and are challenged to propel this Chapel into the future. As is our tradition we will have activities throughout the weekend and a covered-dish fellowship meal following worship. May all of us welcome and thank the saints that return to their "home" church on this day of celebration.

The following Sunday is World Communion Sunday and gives us another chance to celebrate as we join in the Sacrament of Holy Communion with our Christian brothers and sisters all over the world. It is the day of the year when all Christians, regardless of their differing nationalities, perspectives, and theologies, are joyously united as the one body of Christ.

Following this time of global awareness, we begin to turn inward to the particular needs of our local church. On October 15th following worship we will all join together for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. The Chapel By-Laws...the foundational document of our church...explicitly gives all power to our Board of Directors but also insists that certain matters must come to a vote of the congregation. Electing members of our Chapel Board and the Nominating Team, approving the next year's budget, and any amendments to the By-Laws are congregational decisions and must be addressed at our annual meeting.

Just a reminder: Members of our Chapel automatically have voting rights and if not able to attend may request in writing that another member be given their proxy then allowed to vote on their behalf. Also, anyone who considers themselves to be a "Friend" of the Chapel...meaning someone who worships at the Chapel or serves God through the ministries of this Chapel but is not a formal member...may request voting rights in writing to the Board and will automatically be granted that right.

Also, the very next Sunday, October 22nd is Pledge Sunday, when our gifts of time, talent, and treasure will be pledged for the coming year. Each of us will be invited to bring our Pledge Sheet and our Time and Talent Sheet and place them on the altar to be dedicated to God as an act of worship and as a symbol that we sacrificially give of who we are and what we have to the glory of God and for the continuance of the ministry of our Chapel.

Then on November 5th we will pause to take a deep breath and lower our heads in prayer to remember and honor all in our community of faith who have passed away during the last year. Family members and friends of our dearly departed will be present on this day that we call All Saints' Sunday and we will be flooded with memories of what they meant to us and to our Chapel. But, we will leave the sanctuary that day with a renewed hope that through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ all these who have died and all of us who live today will one day be welcomed into the eternal kingdom of God.

Finally, we will cap off the observance of Ordinary Time with our worship on Christ the King/The Reign of Christ Sunday on November 26th. On this final Sunday of the liturgical year we will reaffirm that Jesus is the Lord of our lives and that knowing this, we will respond with our loyalty to his kingship, faithfulness to his teachings, and our love for God and for all humankind.

So, in summary, let me say, "We're going to conclude Ordinary Time with a spiritual bang. It's going to be extraordinary and extraordinarily busy."

Thanks be to God!
Pastor Paul