

# The Pastor's Report

Happy New Year One And All!

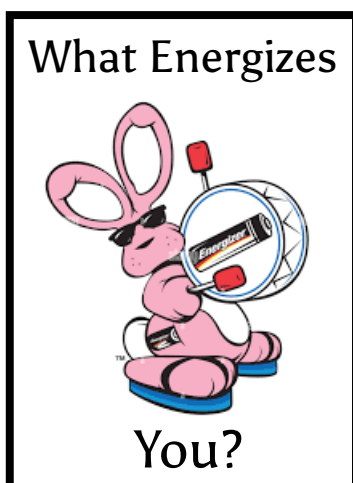
Here we go again, folks. Another year to love, laugh and give. Somehow, though, things seem *different* this year. I am not sure what it is but something is afoot...

Stop me if I've told this story before. No, wait, it is a good story so just indulge me here for a moment as it bears repeating. Once upon a time, many years ago, a young minister was endeavoring to discern his call to ministry; should he stay or should he go? Perplexed, he went to confer with the Executive Presbytery who suggested the consideration of this question, "What energizes you?"

The past few months (going on a year, actually) I have been feeling *ENERGIZED*. At first I thought it was some prolonged manic episode or just a phase I was going through. At a point, though, I had to just accept this seems to be the new normal. Not that it is a bad thing, quite the contrary. It is, however, more than a little surprising. I mean, you'd think that after so many years at the same church the shine would start to come off the apple, or boredom would set in, or one would simply run out of steam. Amazingly, this is turning out not to be the case. Whether or not it is a "late game surge" or the start of a crescendo to the big finale I cannot say. Rather than overthink it, however, I have decided to just going to *go* with it.

Now, when I say "Energized" I do not mean to connote some kind of frenzied approach. Instead, it more a sense of having the fuel to move forward, and to do so with

a sense of vigor and hopeful expectation. Regardless of what one calls it, I have chosen to receive it as a gift. Moreover, after considerable consideration I've decided it is a gift all of *you* are giving to *me*.



When I come to the church to find Doug has moved all the Ice Melt, when Patrick takes an entire morning to assemble the foosball table, when Andrea re-makes the pageant with creativity and "in concert" with the kids, when I put a call out for meals and Anna, Jim and Ellen respond in less than an hour, when people show up to set-up, break-down and help in every imaginable way, when I walk into the "Records Room" to find Christy spent the summer orga-

nizing a mess 20 years in the making, when families pack up the kids and bring them to worship, when I see kids from the community on the church playground, when I discover all the cards sent and acts of kindness offered unbeknownst to me, when I witness the incredibly generous response to our stewardship drive, when I see the depth of this congregation's passion for mission and helping our neighbors (the list goes on and on) how can I help but to be *ENERGIZED*?

As we begin a new year, **I offer my great thanks to you for all you doing and, correspondingly, what it is doing for me.** Now, let me ask you, **"What energizes YOU?"**

In the joy of living our lives together,  
- Rev. Mike

PS - As an aside, sometimes an eggplant is just an eggplant.

"We can do all these things through God who strengthens us." - Philippians 4:13