



THE TRUMPETER

for September, 2009

The Newsletter of the

JAY GOULD MEMORIAL REFORMED CHURCH

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MINISTER'S COLUMN

Dear Friends,

September is almost here and with it, the changing of the seasons. As September starts, so does our schedule of church ministry activities.

As we move into it, I wonder how many of us look at the church as the place where we go to worship and have our needs met. Or how many of us look at the church as a place of where we can help meet the needs of others? There is a huge difference between seeing the church as only a place of worship; it is something quite different to see the church as the body of Christ coming together for worship *and then* as a group offering ourselves in ministry for God's kingdom.

When St. Paul compared the church members to being the body of Christ, he said that each member is gifted by the Spirit, and *each member is equally needed* for the body to work. He didn't imply that only a couple would be able to carry the rest. Each and every member is needed for the body of Christ to function. Read his words in I Corinthians 12, and see how he phrases it.

What we need is more of our members being involved in the ministry of our church. We need more volunteers to make things happen. Whether it be as a teacher, server, worker, leader, singer, usher, greeter, etc, we need more of our members helping and serving.

I recently heard a member say, "if we don't get more people involved than the seven or eight people already doing everything, our church won't have a future because there will be no one to do it." He makes a good point, even if that group of doers is larger than seven or eight, because there are times when those who wear so many hats in our church feel they are carrying larger loads than they want because others aren't volunteering.

As you read this newsletter, look at the list of opportunities that lie ahead. Some of those are opportunities that help you to be nurtured and encouraged in your faith, but others are there for you to grow in faith by serving others. Both are important in the Christian walk of faith.

Please read the newsletter and get involved! I'll see you on Sunday- and a few other times during the week as well!

Your Pastor,
Richard Dykstra

Here's a quote worth thinking about:

"I have now disposed of all my property to my family. There is one thing more I wish I could give them, and that is the Christian faith. If they had that, and I had not given them one shilling, they would have been rich; and if they had not that, and I had given them all the world, they would be poor."

- Patrick Henry (1736-1799)