



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SEALY

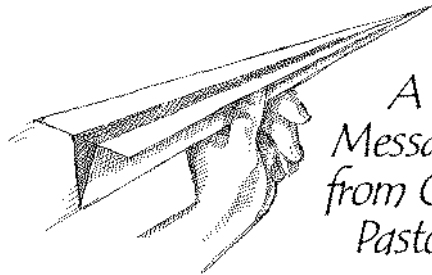
OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

200 ATCHISON STREET, SEALY, TX (979) 885-2223

THE SEALY HERALD

July 2010

Heralding the news to members and friends of Sealy United Methodist



*A
Message
from Our
Pastor*

You Are Loved

Many years ago while attending a seminar, the speaker asked all of us to search our pockets or purses for something which would identify who we were. After a few moments he asked for us to show the group what we had chosen and why. The results were pretty amazing. Most of the men, held up either their driver's license or a credit card or two. Sadly, that response is typical of our culture which encourages or perhaps pushes us to "become someone" identified by success and achievement. Most of the women in the room chose pictures of family, children, and loved ones as their source of identity.

Then our speaker challenged us to dig deeper within to see who we really were...for he said if circumstances took away your achievements, your success, your claim to fame...if circumstances took away your family...who then would you "be." ??? Who are you?

Jesus' closest friend on earth, the disciple named John, was identified in the Gospels as "the one Jesus loved." If John were to be asked, "What is your primary identity in life?" he would not reply, "I am a disciple, an apostle, an evangelist, an author of one of the four Gospels," but rather, "I am the one Jesus loves."

What would it mean, I ask myself, if I too came to the place where I saw my primary identity in life as "the one Jesus loves"? How differently would I view myself at the end of a day? Would I live my life any differently? Would my priorities change?

Being loved calls for a radical response. Jesus said, "This is my command, that you love one another as I have loved you." The mark of the faithful community is how it loves, not who are its members...or how many. To me that implies that the faithful community is focused on loving...focused on serving...on giving itself away as Christ Jesus gave himself for us.

I have been watching you loving and serving in this community...at the food pantry, the resale shop, at the nursing homes, visiting the homebound, and doing countless other acts of love in Jesus' name. There is still much to do. In fact, we must not grow weary in well-doing. The work of God's kingdom is our work. Daily we pray, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth." We are not there yet! Oh, you, who are loved by Christ, there is still much to do. Keep up your extravagant loving and giving!

Pastor Barbara