

## A Note from Rev. Deb...

Dear friends,

I want to invite you to celebrate, to celebrate together!

And what shall we celebrate? 'Deb, have you seen the news lately!?' Believe me, I have. And we must continue on bended knees to prayerfully search for ways to uphold individuals facing untold challenges as well as the humble, small nation of Haiti, in desperate need of resources and help. And that is just the beginning as we look out upon life and God's world.

Here is what I want to share with you about celebrating. To celebrate means "to praise or honor publicly, to commemorate and to perform or solemnize with reverence." The opposite of celebration is to ignore and disregard, to overlook or dishonor, even to profane.

This is why we stop in the midst of life and celebrate. Consider the nature of our celebrations. We honor important milestones in life's journey, such as birthdays, anniversaries, graduations and marriages. We stop at the end of a busy week, at the start of a new week, to celebrate the Lord's Day in worship on Sunday. We publicly commemorate the seasons of Jesus' life when we celebrate the season of Lent together.

Here is what I want to share with you about celebrating today. As that part of the Body of Christ humbly called Knox Presbyterian Church, we commemorate 50 years of life and service together. And we pray for 50 more! It is no small feat in our quickly-changing and fractured world to be a family of faith for 50 years. Yes, it is a birthday party, but it is so much more. We celebrate not our own accomplishments but God's faithfulness and God's work through this family of faith over 50 years. We anticipate with joy what God will do.

Shall we ever stop celebrating? We honor our Lord's life, death and resurrection in our worship when we baptize new generations of family and celebrate God's Spirit of Life as we share in the Lord's Supper. We commemorate God's faithful call as we see again and again how God raises up leaders and teachers and servants. We see today that God is at work in our midst, calling forth new disciples who will teach here at home and journey to places like Haiti and who will stop in the middle of busy weeks to join in prayer for the world. And our job together continues to be one of prayer and service to individuals facing untold challenges and real-life situations in desperate need of resources, redemption and care.

Let us celebrate together this year of our Lord, 2010. Let us do so in gratitude with the gift of our lives—and our life together.

