

A Note from the Pastor for June, 2010

It is wonderfully "Spring" outside as I type this. The temperature is supposed to reach the mid 70's today, some rain is in the forecast, and farmers and gardeners alike have been busy planting vegetables and crops.

In 2 Corinthians 9:6-10, we read about the process of sowing, about giving and the abundant provision of God that results from our obedience to His calling. And so I compared all of this Scriptural insight to *this* church of God, this beautiful body of Christ. I thought about the financial report we received at the recent Congregational meeting. I thought about the words I hear in discussions and prayers and plans for the church; words that talk about reaching out, about helping those in the community, about finding ways to touch the lives of people beyond our church family. The words and discussions and prayers are all about sowing those seeds of unconditional love, grace, mercy, and compassion into the lives of those whose hearts perhaps are barren, those for whom life is one continuous dry, dusty struggle.

And those words say something else; they talk about a vital faith community. This is Grant Reformed Church, to be sure, but it is also a faith community of depth, resilience, and prayer. It is Brothers and Sisters of faith and perseverance. It is a family of God in which Love not only exists, but from which Love flows. Consider the compassion in the hearts of those who do so much volunteer work in the Grant/Newaygo/Bailey area. From working and praying with little kids to senior citizens, to the poor and sick and disabled and numerous people groups in between, this church family is reaching out to others. And even more exciting, it is seeking *additional* ways to show the Love of Christ to those in need! God will continue to bless those efforts!!

Grant Reformed Church, a faith community that continuously longs to follow the way of Christ and is doing so by sowing seeds of His love. Thank you for that! Thank you for loving the folks down the street, down the gravel roads, even down those hidden two tracks. Thank you for loving folks in the fancy houses and those in houses with broken windows outside and broken hearts inside. Please keep finding ways to gently step into those lives, touch those hearts, and walk with them into a relationship with Jesus.

And, as always, we praise God and thank you for the love and care you simply lavish on Polly and me. How wonderfully *blessed* we are to be part of this church. I spread such praises everywhere I go! Our prayers and gratitude follow you throughout each week!

Captured by His holy calling,

Pastor Mik