

As I was sitting down to write my last newsletter column I decided that it was time to name names. So many have no idea what has really been going on – yes I intended to let you all know. I would name the name of one who has been in worship most every weekend for the 25 years I have stood in the pulpit. I would name the name of this one who has from the beginning been so important to what has happened here. But before I could even type that name another name came to mind, and another and another. Some have been receiving recognition all along but so many are serving in quiet ways. I think of one couple that the folks who count the money would know about but most all of us would have no idea that they who live in such a modest home would support the congregation so well. I think of some who are in the building when no one else is here, doing the work that all of us are blessed by. I think of those who have supported changes that they at first opposed but who supported those changes because they became convinced that the changes reflected God's will for the congregation. I think of those whom others mentioned to me, how their love and caring lifted the spirit of one who was suffering. I think of some who have been treated poorly by others yet who did not withdraw. I think of how much I do not see and know – that only God knows – how much listening and praying and calling and caring and sacrificing has happened in the body of Christ. How I wish I could name names – it could give me great joy - but I cannot. Only God knows how great the gift that so many have been to this congregation and to me.

One day all will be known. What a day of surprises that will be when the last are first and the first last. What a surprise it will be when the one who has been in the lowly place all along will be asked to come to the place of honor and the one who has known much honor and attention shall be asked to take a lower seat.

Until that day I hope that you will seek to see things as God sees them – that you will have in your mind of Christ who though he was in the form of God did not count equality with God as something to be exploited but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave.....” Philippians 2:5-7.

Peace be with you.

Pastor Schlessman