

Pastor's Message—August 2018

A Little Story

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done!

I love this little story. So many times in our churches things slide through the cracks because none of the 'body' family members are stepping up to do what needs to be done. As members of the church community we are **all** responsible for getting things done. We are also responsible for training others to do what we do so that when we are no longer able to do, it still gets done.

Ephesians 4: 12-13 "for equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

God has given his church an enormous responsibility to make disciples. As we read and study commentaries most of them will speak of growing those disciples in preaching, teaching, healing, nurturing, giving, administering, building, and many other tasks. I would like to address the many other tasks for a moment. I would invite you to stop reading at this point, get a pencil and paper and make a list of



all the tasks that are important to the life of your church. (While you are making your list pretend you are hearing the Jeopardy theme song, do do do do do do do).

Does your list include: mowing the grass, painting, washing windows, dishes, or the kitchen linens, cleaning out refrigerators, stoves or ovens, wiping up spills, picking up trash on the grounds, making pies and apple dumplings, waiting on tables at spaghetti dinners, cooking the spaghetti or sauce, purchasing supplies, making desserts, volunteering in the office, getting everything ready for the church picnic, helping with Bible school, training others to do what you do, giving someone a ride to worship, visiting or sitting with a sick friend? This list could go on forever but I think you get the idea. Many of these tasks aren't even thought of as being important to your church but they are. They are all a part of keeping your church healthy. You may not think so but they are the work of ministry in which we all should be involved.

This simple quote from John Wesley takes Somebody, Nobody, Everybody and Anybody out of the process. Wesley wrote: Do all the good **you** can, by all the means **you** can, in all the ways **you** can, in all the places **you** can. At all the times **you** can. To all the people **you** can. As long as **you** ever can. All of the names with "body" in them were removed and replaced with "you".

We are so blessed in our church community to have so many "yous" that work very hard. Please keep in mind that there is always room for more helpers and the "yous" who are already doing are willing to train new "yous".

Blessings to all,
Pastor Lynn