

A Message from The Pastor



“But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God’s instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you- from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.” 1 Peter 2:9 from The Message, the paraphrase of the Bible by Eugene Peterson

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” 1 Peter 2:9 NRSV translation of the Bible.

Whatever words are used, the meaning remains: we have a special place in God’s kingdom and are called to do holy work.

Everyone of us, each person, has been given gifts from God and given work to do from God. Now, that may excite some of us with the anticipation of all that God has in store for us. Those words may frighten some of us, who may wonder what God wants of us and if we are capable of what God asks. Some of us may be wary and want to know more. Some of us are certain that God could not possibly mean us when we read these words; how could I be holy or part of a royal priesthood? Some of us may think and feel all those things- uncertain, afraid, a little worried, excited, joyful, empowered, These are powerful words! Peter is drawing from the image used in the Old Testament of a chosen people who are set aside by God for blessing and to be a blessing for everyone else. He is stating that all who follow Jesus are chosen by God for blessing and to be a blessing. The Holy Spirit lives within each of us and gives us the resources we need to do all that God asks of us. The Holy Spirit gives us gifts of being able to teach or to encourage others or to offer compassion or to do all the behind the scenes help that is needed to do anything or to be organized or many other gifts, (see Isaiah 11:2, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, Ephesians 4:11-13, Romans 12:4-8). Our confirmands, who became full members of Perry Hall UMC on June 2nd, discovered their particular spiritual gifts and are ready to figure out how God wants them to use those gifts and the skills they have and their unique personalities and perspectives to do the work God asks of them. I believe that we are all searching for ways to be useful to God. We seek for the meaning and purpose that doing God’s work can bring us. We want God to be able to say to us, “well done, good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:23). Let’s pray about it! Let’s all pray for God to show us each how we can do God’s work and how we, as the congregation of PUMC, can do God’s work!!

Blessings,
Pastor Margery