

Reflections on the Shared Journey-

Years ago – in my first full time pastorate – a wise woman said to me, “Some people will do it and others will let them.” Mrs. Weiden was identifying a reality within the life of every church: there are people who are involved in doing the work; there are people who aren’t.

Whereas Mrs. Weiden identified two kinds of people in a church, I identify five:

the *doers* - those who get involved, giving freely of their time and ability and energies. Often, they carry more than their load. Church growth experts indicate that 15% of the membership does 85% of the work. (When I began ministry years ago, the percentage was 20%-80%.)

the *my-child-doers* – those whose involvement follow their children, moving from age group to age group as their children grow. When the kids graduate, their involvement in church ends – often with the statement “I did it when my kids were young.”

the *willing* – those who are willing to help but don’t know what to do. These people – not knowing what needs to be done - ask “What can I do?”

the *hesitant* – those who hold back, “sitting on the sidelines” rather than getting involved. Their reasons for not getting involved are endless.

the *takers* – those who have no intention of getting involved in doing. They attend for what they can receive, not give.

The workshop that is scheduled for this Sunday - *What Can I Do? A Gifts and Graces Workshop* – was designed for all of these:

for the *doers* to help them identify their strengths and passion so that they move beyond busy activity to focused, Spirit-directed ministry;

for the *my-child-doers* to help them discover a passion for Christ-centered (not my-child-centered) ministry;

for the *willing* to help them identify the unique ministry that God has equipped them to do;

for the *hesitant* to help them claim their God-given gifts for ministry and how to use them;

for the *takers* to help them discover the joy of serving.

Good things happen when people discover the joy of serving in an area of passion for which they are gifted.

The person who gives also receives – joy, a sense of purpose, fulfillment, spiritual growth, spiritual depth.

Lives are changed as others experience God and grow in grace.

The church grows – in ministry, in spiritual depth, in joy, in commitment, in numbers.

The Kingdom becomes more visible in the world.

God is glorified.

I look forward to experiencing more of the good things God has for us as more of us discover the joy of spending ourselves in ministry. I’ll see you Sunday in worship as we begin the last half of the Lenten journey.

Grace and peace, Steve