



From the Pastor's Desk

Today as I write February's article for "The Beacon" it is January 20th. Today is Inauguration Day, the day in which our country's 44th President is sworn into office. As this was happening, as the presidency was being transferred from George W. Bush to Barack H. Obama, I was struck by the number of times that the newscasters talked about how peaceful this 'change' of power was compared to some of the other areas of our world. Of course they were right as the Obama's and the Bush's embraced and said their goodbyes after the ceremony. There was laughter and well wishes not bullets and bloodshed.

This got me thinking about the Pairs and Spares Sunday school class I taught this past week. It dealt with the change of power from Moses to Joshua and how God was with both men. This also got me thinking about change in the church.

Let me ask you, "How would you define change? Are you for it or against it?" As with the presidential election change came; whether you are for it or against it, it has happened. That is the beauty of our Declaration of Independence and our Constitution and the wisdom of the founding fathers of our country. Every four years we have elections for president but the core values of the country do not change. We still believe in the truths that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." So some things change and some things don't.

It is the same with the church. Because the church is an organism, a living breathing body and change is inevitable. Interestingly, one of the definitions for change according to Webster's dictionary is "to undergo a modification of" something. In last month's article I wrote about what I see as the modification of our church governing body. As we move

forward toward this goal my hope is that the modifications we make guide and direct us to become the church God wants us to be. This can only happen if we are open to God's lead, committed to our core values as United Methodists and willing to modify what needs to be changed.

My prayer is that not only will our church undergo positive modification, but that we also, where need to be, are modified for the better for Christ's kingdom.

Till next month.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Rich