

## From Our Pastor – May 2017

### TAKING A BREAK

What fun we had in Lent exploring some new ways to use chancel space in worship! I am grateful for the gifts of imagination and devotion that you provided to make it work as well as it did. In the months of June, July and August we'll go back into Swain Hall for Sunday worship so we can enjoy the intimacy that that setting provides. If you have any ideas about how worship is done in other churches you visit, please know that I am always looking for new ways to make worship refreshing and spontaneous.

I will be gone for three weeks in May, and my pastoral colleagues will lead worship in my absence. The first two weeks will be continuing education, and the fourth week will be a vacation week. I did not take my educational leave last year because I didn't want to be away that long in the first year of our interim transition, but I am reminded daily that I need the break.

The first week will be at the conference center at Zephyr Point and the theme will be on interactive models of sermon delivery. I imagine that I might have something to offer in that regard, and I am always willing to learn more. If I like it maybe we can try it during our summer worship. The second week is an intensive training for the Presbytery on mediation skills, and this will prepare me for some new responsibilities entrusted to me by the Presbytery. All in all, a chance to relax and learn, to be taught and trained, and hopefully in it all a chance to grow.

The week of vacation will be spent on Santa Catalina Island with our daughter Heather. It's a quaint place to relax and create memories, and a perfect spot to reflect upon all that I have learned. For those of you who will slip away to other places you call home, please stay in touch with our church family on our website and with *The SPIRE*. We miss you when you are not here, but we delight in looking forward to your return.

With every blessing,

*David*