

From Our Pastor – JUNE 2017

DELIGHTFULLY DISCONNECTED

By the time you read this, my vacation will be over, and life once again will return to its normal routines. But at the moment, Deanne and I are spending a few days on Catalina Island, and even though it is only twenty-seven miles off the coast of California, it is delightfully disconnected from the daily routines that often keep us running in different directions.

I can imagine that if I were to stay here much longer than a few days I might grow restless and start to miss the routines from which I have now escaped. In the moment, however, it feels good to be here:

- Here where the quaint takes the place of the familiar.
- Here where relaxation is more important than busyness.
- Here where signs of yesterday awaken shades of nostalgia.

Yet, as important as these moments of disconnect-tion are, they also help us to realize that our spiritual connections are not at all diminished by our island escapes. As a matter of fact, they help us to appreciate the many ways in which we are sustained by the spiritual community that God has provided.

Those spiritual connections nurture and comfort, care and provide, inspire and encourage, even to the point where we wonder how we would ever manage to face the challenges of life without them! It is also fascinating to note that that spiritual community of support not only encourages us to grow toward maturity, but also matures right along with us as it responds to the influence of our Lord upon it.

I was in need of an island escape, if only for a few days, but as I said, by the time you read this we will all be back together again in our familiar summer routines, and even this island escape will be but a cherished memory.

Our summer worship will be in Swain Hall. Let us all have fun just being together again with God in worship. Summer blessings,

David