



Rev. Dr. Daris S. Bultena, Pastor
Minister of Word and Sacrament

April 3, 2009

Doing a New Thing

Dear Readers,

We have been doing something new following our weekly worship service. In the past we have finished worship and headed to our fellowship room where we rush the table and feast on delicious desserts, swanky snacks, and mmm so many munchies. But now we are doing something new. We have abbreviated our post-worship food fest. We have made it brief and then we are gathering again in the worship space.

When we re-gather we have been doing a 20 minute experience that I've titled: "Deep and Wide." I got the title from the Sunday School song that goes: "*Deep and wide, deep and wide, there's a fountain flowing deep and wide. Deep and wide, deep and wide, there's a fountain flowing deep and wide.*" In fact as we start the 20 minute experience we have even been singing that little song as sort of an opening exercise.

It is not the song, however, that stands out. In planning this experience I had envisioned that it would be part of our Lenten discipline and that what we would do is "*deepen our understanding of the scripture and widen its application to living today.*" It sounds like sort of a lofty goal, but—here's the astounding thing—that is precisely what is happening. There is a consistent group of us coming together to reflect theologically on what we hear in the Biblical text that was proclaimed that day as part of the sermon.

It is not Sunday School. It is not worship. It is both combined, and more. It is a fairly deep and highly theological exercise that causes all of us to really consider how it is that God is in relationship with us and how it is that God desires that relationship with us to be deeper and wider. It is 20 minutes where God is palpably present with us. I have to say, it is a powerful meeting of disciples who all interpret the journey not only for themselves but also in community.

It says in Isaiah 43:19 "*I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?*" God is doing a new thing.





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God is doing a new thing in us each time we gather together and open those ancient words and hear how they are fresh and new on our living today.

That 20 minutes has been so meaningful to me. As Lent draws to a close, I'm going to keep on going with Deep and Wide! Our values as a congregation are "*Spirituality, Openness, Transformation, and Joyful Service.*" All of those values are alive in those 20 minutes. We also conclude our time with prayer. And each week I pray over those attending that they will truly grasp the reins of discipleship in this age. After all, isn't that what doing a new thing is all about? That our old ways of being are in need of the transforming God's movement to incredible re-make us and make us new!

Think about all the 20 minute increments that we have in a day...what new thing is God doing in you in those increments? Consider it, and know that you are welcome to join us for Deep and Wide too!

Blessings,
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