

From the Minister's Desk – Jan 16, 2019

With consideration of our January theme for Grace, I invite and encourage reading of the Touchstones monthly theme newsletter. Please see the link usually in the first or second informational box of the weekly Enews. As always, there are thought provoking stories, articles and ideas to support our understanding about the monthly theme.

Using our monthly theme as consideration, I would like to offer my sincere appreciation for the grace I have been the recent recipient in receiving. My personal news of transition this coming June, while initially a shock of unexpected, quickly so many of you have been gracious and kind to offer understanding and support. This is indeed grace; please know this is warmly received. As is often stated, the only constant we can truly hold to during this journey of life is change! That said, there are many steps for us to journey together between now and June I look forward to walking alongside Beacon in the coming months. It is anticipated we will all together see the emerging new Beacon spaces begin to rise in April. Please be sure to follow along the building expansion team (BET) updates here within the Enews in the coming weeks, they will be keeping us all apprised of the updates and scheduling as information comes to them.

I wish to also share advance appreciation for the care, consideration and grace I know all members and friends of Beacon will be holding in the upcoming Stewardship Drive for the annual funding of Beacon. Beacon is not, nor has ever been solely its minister. Beacon is the collective of the individuals who gather and make this community. Beacon will be as strong as the commitment made by all members and friends to seeing Beacon Thrive. Your stewardship team is presently hard at work developing this year's campaign. Please keep watch for upcoming information, and when asked to support your beloved Beacon community, be ready and willing to support as best you can. I don't know what the campaign theme or message will be yet this year, but it's never a bad thought to encourage us each to remember, "give five (5) to thrive." If every member and friend of Beacon looked to move towards the liberal tithe of 5% to their faith community and 5% to the programs of their heart (other non-profit or community groups); I hold wonder and curiosity that Beacon's budget might actually rise to fulfill the mission and ministry of the community. Stewardship support outreach is coming shortly; please do not let ministerial transition keep you from believing in the strength of Beacon. Beacon is you and you are Beacon!

Lastly, I wish to acknowledge and share the good news of your deep generosity and once again grace in supporting your beloved Beacon. The minister's discretionary fund (*for use in times of congregant and non-congregant need, and for events which arise outside of annual budget cycle*) is replenished periodically historically the primary opportunity is the Christmas Eve offering. This year, with five Sunday's in December your Board of Trustees also acknowledged this fund with the special gift from the 5th Sunday. (*note: all share the plate community groups receive four Sunday's collection over the Beacon hold of \$300 monthly for Beacon budget*) The financial gifts in December replenished the minister's discretionary fund, quite healthfully, with just over \$1,300.00 in contributions received. THANK YOU!

In Community,

Rev. Kevin