

Smokey Mountain Reflections, July 2009

I am afraid that this will be the last month you receive one article from me. In the past few months I have found myself with things to say and no venue to express it because my monthly reflection has become an in-depth look into God, faith and scripture. I am really enjoying the research and production of that monthly bible study, but have found myself missing the regular opportunity to reflect on current issues. Because of this I have decided to produce two articles a month. What you are reading will return to the contemporary reflection that it was only a few months ago.

But I will also continue the bible study I have started as we have just briefly defined who God is and were just starting to get into the revealed truth of His word. I have decided to title this new article "*Smokey Mountain Bible Institute*". That series will continue under that title until I have exhausted my ability or desire to discuss that topic, beyond that only God knows.

So starting This Month you will start receiving two separate articles. That being said here are my thoughts for this month. I have often heard it said that 90% of the work is done by 10% of the people and I have observed some truth to that statement in my life. But I would like to take this opportunity to brag on the congregation of people I have been blessed to be the Sheppard for. As I thought about it I was convinced that over half our congregation is actively involved in some sort of activity that make's Saint Paul Lutheran Church the bright beacon of Gospel truth that it is in our community. I have on more than one occasion had perfect strangers complement me of the good our church does for Christ in this community. I have in the past bragged about all the ministries and services we support. I have also in the past bragged on the diverse geographical and cultural heritage our church family consists of. But what I have not bragged about is all the hard work so many people do to make this church such a lively bunch of servants for Christ.

Now I know we are not supposed to brag, and I also know that all the work people do here is to the glory of God and not for them selves, but how can people say thank you for a job well done if you do not know who did it, besides God tells us in His word to encourage one another. So the list that follows is so you can thank each other for a job well done. This list is alphabetical, this list is brief and incomplete and many are not on the list but that dose not mean they are not doing their part, quiet to the contrary, some have served God's church for decades and are in a different season of their life now. Others are new to the church and still discovering what it is God would have them do, still others are praying for and providing resources for God's work. And my final caveat your human pastor may have forgotten the great job you did for God's church because so many are doing so much. So here goes..... Donna Allen: The Seder Meal & recording engineer, Joe Assaff: President & Sunday School Teacher, Lavonne Berry: Secretary, Woman's care center Volunteer, Shaelyn Baggett: meal service, Keith Brandt: Elder, Webmaster, newsletter assistant, Susie Brandt: Newsletter & pastoral editing, Gwen Cody volunteer church secretary, Rick and Kelly Cheal: Food Bank & Woman's care center donation delivery, Pastor Dettmer pastoral care, visiting, & preaching, Pat Dettmer: Quilting, Donna Drelich: Fellowship committee assistance, Betty Lou Easterling: LWML president, Rachel & Jacob Emond: meal service, Gerald Frank: Elder, Sue Frank: Woman's bible study facilitator, Bill Grizzle: Usher, Larry Guerin: Usher, Dean Johnson: trustee assistance, Jerry Johnson: Elder, Judy Johnson: LCEF rep, Keith Jenkins: Head Elder & Adult Sunday school teacher, Dana Jenkins: Financial secretary & Sunday School teacher, Lauran, Rachel & Clare Jenkins: meal service, Betty Leiser: Trinity Hope volunteer & Sunday School teacher, Gary Liske: Trustee, Jill Liske: Treasurer, Tom Malinowski: Trustee assistance, John Marlow: Elder, JoAnn Marlow: Fellowship assistance, Jessica Marlow: Sunday School Teacher, Joe Mattern: Landscaping, Bob McMahan: Trustee assistance, Doris McMahan: planning committee, Rusty Miller: Choir, Gerda Portier, Thrivent, Chris Ramsey: planning committee, Penny Ramsey: Youth volunteer, Kriston Ramsey: meal Service, David Roberts: Head Usher, Steve Rosco: Vice President, Robert Rosco: acolyte, Ruth Salzman: fellowship assistance, Betty Stover: Alter Guild, Tony Stover: Lawn Care, David Taylor: Music, Debbie & Michael Trent; Sunday School Teacher, Jordon Butzine: Acolyte, Joanie Wagner: Discipleship Chair, Shirley Walker fellowship assistance. That is a lot of people doing a lot of good work for God. Now find someone you did not know was doing something for the church and thank them. In Christ, Pastor Portier