

FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART.....

Every congregation, like every organization in general, struggles to overcome the 20-80 Rule. This rule states that 20% of the members do 80% of the actual work of the organization. Healthy churches are those who increase the involvement of their members and constituents beyond the steadfast and stalwart 20%. Every member is a minister in a vital congregation. Each person has found a place to plug into the ministry of the congregation based on their passions and gifts. Are you truly involved at APUMC? We want you to have a part in the risk-taking mission and service of our church. Although we are always asking, don't wait to be asked. Become one of the ministers of our church.

I am happy to share with you this excellent thought by Rick Warren titled "Your Service Is Desperately Needed in the Church."

"Today thousands of local churches are dying because of Christians who are unwilling to serve. They sit on the sidelines as spectators, and the body suffers."

One reason why you need to be connected to a church family is to fulfill your calling to serve other believers in practical ways. The Bible says, "All of you together are Christ's body, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it." (I Corinthians 12: 27)

Your service is desperately needed in the body of Christ—just ask any local church. Each of us has a role to play, and every role is important. There is no small service to God; it all matters.

Likewise, there are no insignificant ministries in the church. Some are visible and some are behind the scenes, but all are valuable. Small or hidden ministries often make the biggest difference.

In my home, the most important light is not the large chandelier in our dining room, but the little night light that keeps me from stubbing my toe when I get up at night. There is no correlation between size and significance. Every ministry matters because we are all dependent on each other to function.

What happens when one part of your body fails to function? You get sick. The rest of your body suffers. Imagine if your liver decided to start living for itself: "I'm tired! I don't want to serve the body anymore! I want a year off just to be fed. I've got to do what's best for me! Let some other part take over!" What would happen? Your body would die.

God calls you to a service far beyond anything you could ever imagine. He created YOU for a life of good deeds, which he has prepared for you to do (based on Ephesians 2: 10). Whenever you serve others in any way, you are actually serving God.

See you in church, APUMC!

Pastor Carl