

I wanted to give you summary report on our church retreat in January. In the first half we broke into five working groups according to the ministry areas of the 5 Boards: Worship, Education, Stewardship, Missions and Deacons. Each group confirmed the work of each Board and area of ministry. Then they talked about plans for 2019. Then we broke into 5 different groups with the goal : what do you hope for Grace over the next five years. There was much spirited conversation. Then the next day the church Cabinet met and used what was said to make the 2019 calendar .

There were several calendar additions for 2019. First, the sermons will shorter for 2019. Just Kidding. Seriously, first, we had conversation about the need for our adults to get together and talk about matters of importance to us all. So every Quarter we will have all adult Sunday classes meet together and have conversation about a chosen topic. These Sunday's are : February 17, April 14( intergenerational for all ages), September 8, and November 10.

Second, there was conversation about helping our children be more involved in Sunday worship. So we are planning a Children's Time once a month in morning worship.

Third, we talked about more hands on mission work as a church. Doug Hendrix, Renee Keesbury, Susie Wiberg and I will meet with Patti at 5th Street about how we can be most usefully involved there.

Fourth, there was conversation about having a spiritual retreat of a more contemplative nature. We will plan a Fall Retreat, probably in October. To be continued.....Steve Shoemaker.