

1 CORINTHIANS 12:3-7

*No one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit.*

*There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.*

*A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.*

## **A LETTER**

### **FROM THE PASTOR**

SO WE HELP EACH OTHER

*Among all the theological and philosophical thinkers Saint Paul described the most complete sense of community. He expressed his understanding of community using body image; not body image as we understand it today, but the experience of the body working in a completely coordinated and harmonious manner.*

*For our bodies to function that way we have to have our head in the right place, so that it can organize everything for the benefit*

*of the whole body. For our body, Jesus is the head and everything he does is for the benefit of the whole body and all its individual parts.*

*Saint Paul begins this conversation by speaking about how the Holy Spirit works in our lives and in our community. In 1 Corinthians 12 his particular observation is that God blesses each of us with gifts that will benefit the whole community.*

*We often speak of spiritual gifts, as does Paul here and elsewhere; and those gifts are a result of the changes which have affected our hearts. The same language is also related to what we might describe as our natural abilities.*

*Over the last few months I have been observing a body which is making every effort **to help each other**, for the benefit of everyone. We have been working together to help Light and its five doors serve Christ as a community of believers, even in the event that a pastor is not among us as a shepherd.*

*Not everything has turned out as we had been planning, but we continue to move forward. Our efforts have revolved around Worship, Spiritual Care, and bringing Christ to our extensive community. The Committee of Management, the Call Committee, the Spiritual Ministry Team, the Worship Committee and Worship Planning Team have all made significant steps forward. And the important skills that our office secretary brings to the table have been critical in our efforts.*

*I was stunned last night to watch people with a wide variety of skills working side by side with encouragement and enthusiasm, even if there was some confusion. It was glorious to see.*

*We are facing a lot of change and the resources and abilities that we each bring to the table will play a bit role in strengthening this body of believers.*

*Your shepherd-servant and brother in Christ.*

***Pastor Geoff***