

PASTOR'S REPORT – CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

April 23, 2017

Of course, the big news this past 6 months was the announcement of my retirement. Many have been asking me what Shirley and I plan to do after my retirement. As of now we are planning to stay in the area and Shirley plans to continue with her substitute teaching for at least a couple more years. Even though I don't plan to do pastoral ministry, I still plan on serving the Lord in whatever he leads me to do. There are many opportunities for retired pastors to serve. And with a second granddaughter on the way, we are hoping to spend more time with family.

Although I am retiring from pastoral ministry, I am excited that Mark Murchie has decided to enter the licensed ministry. Mark has been serving as our combined youth director for nearly 10 years now and is doing a great job. As you know, Mark and Ashley have a ministry that extends beyond our youth to our community and to others in the church family. I pray that the Lord may continue to open new opportunities for them to serve Him.

Our congregation once again had a very active outreach ministry through giving and serving during the Advent/Christmas season. Thank you to all who participated and led these efforts.

I have enjoyed participating in and helping to plan the Windber Community Lenten services during my years as pastor here. I would like to see more people attend, as attendance has declined over the years. These services give everyone an opportunity to gather with other members of the community for worship, and also to experience different styles of worship. It is also an opportunity to show the community that, even though we are from different congregations, we are joined together as one in Christ Jesus.

It is great to have 6 new people joining our church family, five of whom are being baptized. Three or four other new people have been worshiping with us over the last few months. I pray the Lord's blessing and guidance as they seek his direction on how he may be calling them to serve. Let's try to get to know them and give them our encouragement.

It is a joy for me to participate in the children's Easter musical this year. I have been practicing with the children and look forward to the presentation on Palm Sunday.

Pastor Ron