



- by Lisa West, Youth Leader (from Sunday, February 7, 2010)

We still need volunteers for Sunday School classes, light suppers for the youth on Sunday evenings, WOW, children's church and praise. You can take advantage of these wonderful opportunities to serve the Lord by serving your church as we committed to do in our membership vows, and get a chance to interact with our young people. As members of this congregation we vowed to faithfully participate in its ministries by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, **AND** our service. Money is tight and we all know the church has had to tighten its belt. With the current loss of and delay in hiring a staff person for the children and youth programming, we either need to increase our giving so we can fill that position or take up the slack by increasing our volunteering. We can't have it both ways.

We have on average about 200 adults who regularly attend worship on Sunday's which means there should be no reason why every available slot isn't filled. You don't even have to do anything for some of the opportunities we have. There is no task too small or insignificant. If all you like to do is sit and observe, we have the perfect job for you. If you like to talk on the phone.....we have the perfect job for you. If you want to do something, but aren't quite sure what it is.....we have the perfect job for you to!

We have wonderful people in this church, but we can't wear the same group down or else we all suffer. Many are serving double and even triple duty in many areas. I was the member of a Methodist church for over 40 years where the average attendance was 25 on a good day. **EVERYONE** had to serve in **EVERY** capacity possible, **EVERY** week. Previously it used to have a large membership, a youth group of 30 to 40 on average, and had a strong children's program. Then they made the decision to cut back on certain programs, yet no one stepped in to take up the slack. They never recovered. It was slow in coming (about 20 yrs) , but now that church (which first opened its doors in 1889) is facing closing its doors permanently. This church (Wesley) is very blessed, don't take it for granted.

We **ALL** get tired and have the same stresses, pressures, issues, obligations, and lack of time whether it's working, taking care of our kids, taking care of our parents, taking care of spouses,

running here, running there or even all of the above. We all have our reasons why we don't want to commit.

I just wanted to address a few common ones we've all heard or even given:

**I'm too young or not experienced** – David was estimated to be 17 when he slew Goliath, and was a young man when he was anointed as king by Samuel. Josiah came to the throne at the age of 18. Read the stories in the Bible of Joseph, Joshua, Daniel and a very young girl named Mary and see how God used them in a mighty way.

**I'm too old or tired, already done my time, it's someone else's turn** – Noah was about 500 yrs old when God told him to build the ark. Abraham was 75 when God called him to leave his home and family and go to a strange land. Aaron was in his 80's when he became the first high priest. Read the stories in the Bible about Adam, Methuselah & Jared. Retirement has never been a Biblical principle.

**I'm just one person, what difference can I make?** – I've got one name for you.....Jesus. Also, read all about Isaiah, Elijah, and Paul. Too many others to list here.

**I don't know how or don't have the right skills** – Moses was not eloquent and had a speech impediment, yet he confronted Pharaoh and put all his faith and trust in God. Gideon felt he was the lowliest member of the lowliest family. Read what God did through him sometime.

**Romans 12:6** says ["We all have different gifts, according to the grace given us."](#) If you don't know what they are, maybe volunteering will show you.

**I'm just too busy, my plates too full** – King Solomon not only ran a kingdom, but had 700 wives and 300 concubines. I don't think anyone has the corner on that market. Each person listed in the Bible usually had other professions, had families, large households, etc. yet accomplished things beyond their wildest dreams. If your plates too full, look at what's on your plate. Maybe you need to clean some of the "junk" off of it and replace it with good healthy choices (as my mother used to say).

**Life is too hard for me, I have too many problems/troubles** – Anyone ever heard of a man named Job? Need I say more?

**I'm not good enough, not worthy, I'm really messed up** – Adam disobeyed God in person, Abraham lied, Noah got drunk, Moses committed murder, David adultery. And there's a little story about one of Jesus' ancestors name Rahab, read about her sometime. God can use anyone at any time, don't doubt that.

And the last one I'll mention here.....

**I just don't want to, or feel like it. I'm not happy with things** – Be careful.....look what happened to Jonah.

No one wants anyone to over extend themselves, jeopardize their health, or add to any stress in your life, and we understand that there are seasons in everyone's life when they can serve a lot and when they can only serve a little. Volunteer where your passion lies, if you don't have that passion anymore, find it again.....maybe it's in a different area. Does volunteering get you to Heaven or not volunteering mean you're not saved?....No, but we should desire to serve in love. It should be a privilege; we are the role models for every child and young person in this church. Be aware of all of the little eyes and ears that are watching everything you do.

Don't serve out of guilt, search your heart and listen to God's promptings. Don't do it for yourself or anyone else. Do it only for God.....to serve Him and further His kingdom.

### **Ephesians 6:7 says**

<sup>7</sup>Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men,

### **In Mark 10:45 it says**

<sup>45</sup>For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

And lastly.....

### **1 Peter 4:11 states**

.....If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

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