

## *You can't help but notice the changes...*

### **Newsletter**

First of all, this page you are reading looks different. *Where did they put the worship schedule?*, you're probably wondering. Turn the newsletter over, it's on the back cover now. And then turn to the inside pages – they are a little different, too. We've grouped our newsletter information differently. All the items are gathered under the headings **Worship, Faith Formation, Care, and Outreach**, with a page for Resources for Ministry. Are those first four words starting to sound familiar? I hope so. We are trying to apply them to everything we do together. They are the four core practices that make us church, and we want to make sure that everything we do fits into these priorities. Making them our newsletter divisions is one way the staff can do a spot check every month – are we at work in all four ways? If this activity or announcement doesn't fit in any of those categories, is it important for us to be doing?

### **Staff**

We've put these words in the job descriptions of the staff, too. All the program staff have had their job descriptions re-written to reflect which of these four core practices have priority over their time, and yet how they will still support the other three. You might not notice that change, since you don't probably read job descriptions for fun. But you will notice the changes in our staffing as two new staff come on board: Faith Formation Coordinator and Music Ministries Coordinator. In case you're wondering, here is where we stand in filling our two new positions as of the newsletter deadline – we have had one candidate for the Faith Formation Coordinator position and one candidate for the Music Ministries Coordinator position come spend several days with us, meeting with not only the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, but many members of the congregation as well. We have more interviews scheduled, and hope to have new people starting on our staff before the school year begins. Keep watching for more news.

### **Meetings**

We have changed how our ministry teams meet too, to reflect these four core practices. We want the teams that address the four core most directly, the *Program Teams* – Worship Design, Faith Formation, Welcome and Communications, Health Cabinet and Missions – meet the same evening so they can coordinate plans. This way they can share ideas and new programs and calendars. We also thought that those ministry teams that *support* the program of the church, the *Resource Teams* – Finance, Trustees, Staff -Parish Relations – should meet the same evening so they can share financial updates and budgeting plans. There will now be two main Meeting Nights each month – the Resource Team Night on the second Tuesday of each month and the Program Team Night on the third Thursday of each month. You will see these words again and again: **Worship, Faith Formation, Care, and Outreach**. We are planning to focus our services, classes, projects, and Ministry Team life around them in the coming year, beginning with a focus on Outreach through Radical Hospitality in September. I hope soon you will start saying them along with us.