

# From Pastor Karen's Desk

November 2008

## Could You Imagine...

### **Early November.**

**Last year at this time, I could not have imagined the ways my life was about to change.**

- I could not imagine that within weeks, I would undergo many hours of surgery and spend 10 days in the hospital.
- I could not imagine that I would undergo six months of chemotherapy.
- I could not imagine that I would have to come to terms with a cancer that has a five year survival rate in the single digits.
- I could not have imagined all this.

**Last year at this time, I could not have imagined the ways the church would respond.**

- I could not imagine that I would be carried on the prayers of seven continents.
- I could not imagine that I would receive cards with words of encouragement from hundreds and hundreds of people.
- I could not imagine that I would be fed from your kitchens for months.
- I could not imagine that you would give me rides and movies and journals and games and books and tiaras and prayer shawls and prayer shawls and prayer shawls.
- I could not have imagined all this.

**Last year at this time, I could not have imagined the ways you would be church for each other and the world.**

- I could not imagine the ways you would step into leadership.
- I could not imagine the ways you would care for each other's needs and sadness.
- I could not imagine the ways you would carry the year to a financial surplus.
- I could not imagine the ways you would pray without ceasing.
- I could not have imagined all this.

**On the threshold of another year, if I cannot imagine**

- how we will weather the economic crisis
- how we will pay our fuel bills
- how we will reach beyond ourselves to touch others with our care
- how we will rise to the occasion and be God's People

...it is simply because I have not challenged my imagination by remembering the year just past.

As we plan for the coming year's ministry by planning to pledge our time, talent, gifts and service, do not be discouraged. We belong to a God who, by the power at work within us, can accomplish far more than we can ask or imagine!