

October 2008

Saints Wanted

We are looking for a few good saints. No, we're not looking for the kind statues are made of, ancient or medieval religious superstars like St. Francis. We're not even looking for the more recently deceased heroes that we have looked up to, like Martin Luther King. As a matter of fact, we're not looking for saints of the past at all, but saints of the present.

The first Sunday in November each year we celebrate All Saints Day by having our congregation's Memorial Service. In a powerful and emotional service, those who have died in the past year are remembered, and candles are lit in their honor. We will do this again this year, celebrating the saints who have gone before us.

But what about the saints who are still with us? This year, we'd also like to name and honor those who are living among us who draw us closer to God. Who is a saint in your life? Who, by word or example, embodies God's holiness in a way that reveals God's love to you, or makes you want to imitate that person? Will you tell us about her or him?

St. Beverly is one of my saints. Yes, my mom. She has always modeled for me a faith that continues to grow and learn, a faith that is not afraid to ask questions, and yet a faith that is always active and loving, even in the midst of things that don't make sense. And of course, in her love for me, I have come to understand the love of God.

There. I've just shown you the kind of thing we are hoping you will share with us. That's all there is to it! Name your saint. Write a paragraph about what makes that person a saint to you. Just a few sentences is all we ask. Bring your Saint Story to the church office, or hand it to one of the pastors. We will be using these as part of the worship service on November 2 (so we'll need to have them a week ahead, by October 26).

"For all the saints, who from their labor rest.. .." And for all the saints, who continue in their labor - we give God thanks.