

# God Sightings

February 2007

One of the things we often do as a staff as we open our meetings is to talk about “God Sightings” – where has anyone seen God at work recently? We get a chance to talk about how we have seen people respond to God in their lives, and how God has provided for us just what we needed and when. Sometimes God has nudged someone to do something, sometimes God has done more through us than we knew we were capable of.

At our recent Program Staff Planning Retreat, we followed up a sharing of God Sightings by talking about what sort of God Stories we’d like to be telling some time in the future. It was a way of expressing what we long to do for God, and what we hope we are opening the way for God to do for us. Some of the Hoped-For God Stories were very specific. We’d like to see a group actively at work to help us form the faith of all our members. We’d like to have the Health Cabinet doing marvelous things in the community with the gift of \$10,000 they received last year. Some of the Hoped-For God Stories were a big softer-focus. We wished for a Dreaming Team, that would gather to daydream about what the church might do for God. We wished for Hannah’s and James’ generation to grow up as enthusiastic about coming to church as they are now. Some wishes were just images, longing only for a way things would feel - for Yeast to make what we are doing expand and grow; for a sense of confidence and abundance from which to work as a congregation.

My own dream was to be standing in the grocery store, and overhearing some people in the next aisle, who I don’t even know, talking about First United Methodist Church and what a difference this congregation makes in the community, and saying something like, “They give churches a good name.”

Where have you seen God at work lately? And when you imagine yourself at some date in the future, what stories do you want to be able to tell about where God has been active and alive in your life, and in the life of your Family of Faith? Tell me about them. Tell each other too. And don’t forget to tell God about them – it’s a wonderful way to pray.