

## ***Still Transitioning?***

November is an obvious month of transition. We have watched leaves change color in October. Now they have faded and are falling from the trees. The air grows noticeably colder. Morning frosts blanket the ground. Winter is fast approaching.

This isn't meant to sound depressing. Each season has its own appeal (I happen to like winter...and I can hear you responding, "You say that now!"). It's just that November gets us out of denial. Transition has come.

You may be getting weary of the "T" word. You've heard it all year, since Dr. Kent Millard announced his retirement last December 27. We have labeled this change of senior pastor leadership as a "transition," but my arrival just means transition now has a face and name. The past several months have made it obvious. Now we are in the process of transitioning to a whole new beginning.

Part of that process has involved intentional opportunities to connect me beyond Sunday mornings with as many people in the congregation as possible. Along with meeting many community leaders and committee and ministry groups in St. Luke's, I have also held listening sessions with our leadership. These have been outstanding as I get to hear what they love about their church along with their hopes and dreams for St. Luke's.

Now, it's your turn! In a letter dated October 17 to our congregation, our Leadership Transition Team announced small group gatherings you can attend that will give you a chance to share much of the same information with me. These gatherings are targeted for people who have not had this chance. If you are part of a ministry group that will be meeting with me over the next few months, you will not need to sign-up for another one.

We will stretch these over the next three to six months. If you aren't able to attend for a while, don't worry! There will be opportunity. As my friend Linda McCoy keeps reminding me, "This is not a sprint!"

So, yes, we are still transitioning, but as Bishop Coyner said when he preached here in July, "Won't it be wonderful when it's all completed!"

Have a blessed Fall,



Rev. Rob Fuquay  
Senior Pastor, St. Luke's UMC