

## June – From the Pastor's Desk

2011

Scripture uses different words to describe the church and the relationship between Christians. We are often described as the body. The Bible tells us that, as Christians, we are many different parts working together to accomplish a common goal. Though we are very different, we are all called to work together to accomplish that which we could never do on our own. Each person is important in the body of Christ. The church cannot function properly unless everyone is doing their part.

Another word that the Bible uses to describe Christians and the church is family. This means that we are intimately held together by a common bond. This bond is our faith in Jesus Christ. Through Jesus Christ we have all been adopted into the family of our heavenly Father.

Bill Gaither stated the closeness of this bond when he penned the hymn *The Family of God* in 1970. He begins his hymn with a wonderful chorus. *I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God – I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by his blood! Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod. For I'm part of the family, the family of God.*

Being part of the body, the family of God, the church is a wonderful privilege. It isn't anything that we earn or accomplish. Instead it is a very beautiful gift granted to us through the blood of Jesus Christ. His blood joins us together in such a way that we are more than friends. We are bonded together. We are brothers and sisters with all those that believe in Jesus Christ as their savior. We are part of the church. This close bond allows us to share times of sorrow and times of joy with one another. When we join this family, we are never alone. What a joy it is to be part of Christ's Church in the Valley with Springs of Living Water.

This summer we will reflect on our roles as individual followers, as the body, as a family of believers, and as Christ's church in this place. In each area, may we be filled with joy and gratitude for the great privileges that Christ has given to us.

Pastor Scott