

## **Devotion – Fifth Week after Pentecost**

**Rev. Jeanne Simpson**

We came, we ate, and we went home and took naps. What an incredible experience it was to have our first meal together in over a year! It was my first meal with Philadelphia ever, and now I know why the Pastor Search Committee talked a LOT about eating together. You folks sure know how to cook! I didn't get to taste everything because there was just too much to take in, but I tried. Fifty-five folks chowed down, including Luis and Angelica Mendes, our Hispanic church's pastors, and several guests. Thanks to Connie McWilliams, Beverly Johnson, Ray Morgan, the Phillips, the Rohrbachs, and the Randolphs for cooking the burgers and dogs, heating the food, decorating, and I don't what else. And if I missed anybody in the setup and cleanup, I apologize!

I can't wait for the next lunch – it will be July 25, and we are asking everyone to bring school supplies to help Kinship Care. Bring sandwiches and a dessert, and we'll have a great time eating together again. We will try to collect something for a mission project each time we eat together from now on.

The music Sunday was incredible. Thanks to Verena and the choir for a rendition of "Total Praise" that rocked the building. And it is so refreshing to hear people sing the hymns, and to do so with gusto!

I thought about table fellowship yesterday. It was so important to Jesus – important enough, as you may recall, that he didn't mind eating with folks who the Pharisees didn't find acceptable. There is a lot of eating in the gospels – either Jesus eats with others or he arranges miraculous meals. Table fellowship is a time where we can sit together and really share – we can check in on families and health issues, we can discuss gardening successes and failures, we can pass on wisdom related to home repairs, and we can hear each other's stories. I found out a lot Sunday – both Cathy and Danny Morris being in the army in the Vietnam Era, Jim Phillips being asked to re-up and go to Tehran (he said no and went to work for Delta), and Eliot Lawrence's mother being a supply pilot in WWII, among other military stories.

I sat down at a table while we were winding down clean-up, and saw Angie Tharp standing there with her walker. I offered her my chair, and she said she preferred to stand – she'd been sitting a while. I offered again, and she said that she was just fine, and at age 92 she believed in doing exactly what she wanted to do! One feisty lady and thank God for her. These feisty ladies keep the world running, if you hadn't already figured that out.

I can't wait for the next luncheon so I can hear more stories while we have table fellowship. It's a time to treasure our church family while we eat good home cooking. Jesus would certainly approve, although I'm not sure the Pharisees would!

Have a blessed week and hope to see you on July the fourth for some incredible patriotic music from our choir.

Jeanne