

A Few Thoughts From Dave:

I am deeply impressed by the spirit and the accomplishments of our congregation during our recent work week. For a congregation whose expertise runs more toward the professions than the trades, we have some impressive building skills! It took many people, many hours, and lots of commitment for the new wall, the new bathrooms and the “renewed kitchen” to take shape. I commend the energy and commitment of everyone who took part, including the work of all who fed this hungry bunch!

A note about a couple of upcoming opportunities. On **Saturday morning, May 1** we'll be hosting a **discussion about worship** at NBMC here at the church. This is for everyone with an interest in worship, whether you are a leader of worship and music or not. Our purpose is to talk about two big questions: “What is the purpose of worship?”, and “What kind of worship forms people into maturing Christian disciples?” Worship committee will lead the conversation.

Two more invitations. In the coming weeks I'm ready to organize classes **exploring church membership** one for youth and one for adults. The youth class will likely meet during the Sunday School hour. The adult class might meet on a Saturday, or if people prefer, on some evenings during the week. This class is for you if 1.) you are a regular attendee and are thinking of transferring church membership to NBMC, 2.) you have recently made a commitment to Christ and have not formally belonged to a church before, 3.) you are just curious about Christian faith and Anabaptist/Mennonite faith, and you'd like a place to explore and ask questions.

This week I'm beginning a series of sermons on the **Parables of Jesus**. It's fitting that immediately after Easter, and the event that turns our worlds upside down, we look into the parables, a series of stories meant to turn our thinking and faith upside down. Check the church website to see which parable will be the focus each week and, of course, listen on line if you miss a Sunday!

Finally, many, many thanks for the extra hospitality that many of you extended to me during the three months that I was with you *sans* spouse. It is wonderful to have Anita here, to talk with her in the evening, to eat meals with her, to slip an arm around her during church. I am grateful in a new way for the great life partner God has given me.