



2010 Deacon Report *Val Harbour*

2010 was a full year indeed. It is a privilege and an honor to be on the board of such a healthy and progressive church; one that is always moving forward to see how to serve God in a greater capacity and help to meet the needs of those in the church, our community and throughout the world. We have an incredible pastoral team with great wisdom and a wide variety of strengths that compliment each other. As a church we are truly blessed.

One of my roles on the board includes Emmanuel Advocacy, in which we have volunteers available to help those from the community who come to Emmanuel in need. Thank you so much to those who I have called on this year for help and for those who are willing to be available when a need comes up.

Another area I am involved with is marriage ministries. In that regard Tom and I led a Sunday School class last spring on strengthening marriages and communication. In addition, last June I had the privilege of being trained to lead a VantagePoint group, and I started facilitating a group in September. Although VantagePoint groups can be of any configuration of ages and gender, my group was focused on the spiritual journey as couples. It is an 8 - 10 month intense study that is a lot of work, but it has definitely been a high point of my year to facilitate this group. We have grown together as couples and as a group, and we have begun to learn and experience the necessity of building deeper relationships and community.

Looking to the future, mark October 14 - 16, 2011 on your calendars, as we are planning a marriage retreat at Rockridge's Wolf Creek Lodge. We are excited to have two speakers confirmed who have a wealth of experience and knowledge in building strong and healthy marriages. I hope many will be able to take this opportunity as a purposeful time out to strengthen their marriages.

As we start 2011, I am excited about where this year will lead us as a church as we get closer to "expanding our tent pegs." I feel it will be a great faith builder, a way for the church family to grow together in community and provide more opportunity and resource to reach out to the community.

Respectfully submitted,
Val Harbour