

Pastor Randy's short devotion for Tuesday, February 7th:

"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (1 Corinthians 12:7)

Apostle Paul is talking about a communion of saints, a gathering of brothers and sisters in Christ. We often think of congregations as these gatherings of saints. But families and friends can be a communion of saints as well. Paul tells us that all of us have received the Holy Spirit, when we were baptized into Christ. The Holy Spirit knows you. The Holy Spirit gives you gifts that fit you. You are an intricate part of bringing God's love and grace to one another. Through your words and deeds, you give opportunities for the Holy Spirit to create faith. This week, I presided over two funerals. As I listened to the family share stories about their loved one and how they shaped their lives with their love, making time for each other, taking time to listen, taking time to encourage. I saw people give hugs, listen, cry together. They prayed together and promised to be present for each other. I was witnessing a whole communion of saints share the gospel and encourage one another. They walked together through the years. The Lord has placed his love within you. The Lord has given you his Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit calls us together, to worship, to share God's love, to share burdens and to bring hope. You are a child of God. You are his beloved saints, who bring the kingdom of God into the midst of one another.