

Theological Reflection for Meeting of Session and Board of Deacons Gratitude for the Gifts of Fairfax Presbyterian Church Community

By Jessica Tate

We paused in a joint meeting of ruling elders and deacons to connect with active participants in the life of our church, to say thank you to them for their leadership and involvement. We made phone calls right in the middle of the meeting. The response was overwhelmingly positive, both from the leaders making the calls and the recipients of the calls. This was a simple and effective way to strengthen connections within the congregation and to practice gratitude.

Theological/Biblical Grounding of Gratitude

Colossians 3:12-17...*Be thankful.*

1 Corinthians 12:12-27...*give thanks for the variety of gifts*

As ones who have received God's grace, our proper response is gratitude. Gratitude to God and gratitude for the places in which we see God working in and through one another.

"In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" (Brief Statement of Faith)

Saying Thank You

Inevitably we spend time in our ministry areas getting things done. We move quickly and then we're on to the next thing. Tonight we'll take time to say thank you to people who lead and participate in our ministry areas.

Decide who you're going to call. Share names so that we don't duplicate phone calls.

Phone Calls 15-20 minutes....Each person makes 2 calls from their cell phone or nearby church phone.

Reflection

Ask the group to reflect briefly on this exercise (first individually and then collectively)

Making these phone calls makes me think....

Making these calls makes me feel....

Making these calls makes me want to do....