

I wrote last year at this time about how September always feels like the beginning of the year for me. It's probably because that's when school started (back in the day it always started after Labor Day). I spoke last year about how it feels like a fresh start--a new beginning. New pencils and clean notebooks and books, and no late papers or assignments yet.

It is very much a new beginning here in our recently blended church family. New buildings, rooms, fellowship hall and sanctuary for some. New ideas, questions, ways of thinking about church for others. Getting to know each other and blending groups. It's a bit like dancing with a new partner. One step this way and one step that. Watching to see how the other responds. Getting more comfortable as the dance goes on. But right now, there is the newness.

There's an energy that goes with that newness, much like the energy of a new school year. We don't know how the fall is done now in our church. As we come together to worship, it will not be the same as last fall. It's easy to become accustomed to routine, to the usual way we do things, and that can lower our energy for doing them. When the routine is changed, energy goes up. We're doing something different. Questions arise--how will that work? What will it be like?

Newness can not only increase energy, it can also increase interest. Things are different--I'm intrigued. I might want to get involved in doing that. New ideas fuel creativity, and creativity breeds new ideas. I might want to go to meetings that are done differently, or help lead a Sunday school class with a new format (see article in this newsletter), or participate in new events at our church, or give my ideas about changing the look of the church. This newness can bring out the ideas, the energy, the faith, the motivation, in each of us, whether we live in Prosser or Grandview or elsewhere, to grow in our faith and our worship.

What thoughts do you have? What questions do you want to ask? Are there things you've always thought the church should do or be? Are there ways of worshipping that you would like to see happen here? This is the time to have these discussions, because we are already having them as we blend together this family of God. Bring your energy, your creativity, your interest, and let's see how we will do fall this year, together.

Shalom,  
Bo