

December 10, 2008

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings of peace and waiting in this season of Advent; may you find and create moments of rest where you can receive the gentle rhythm of these days.

We write to offer information about the abrupt cancellation of the 6:00 service. We are aware that it displaces worshippers who seek the gifts of contemplative worship and those who cannot attend at other times. Please know that this decision was not made lightly.

With Pastor Pat unable to preach due to severe voice strain, an extra burden was placed on Linda and Rick to preach each week while keeping all their current responsibilities. To ask them to do the fourth service was just too much. Preaching four services is exhausting; Pat's voice strain is an indicator that it is too much for one person to do, with the other responsibilities of the office of pastor. We couldn't risk putting Linda and Rick under additional strain.

Currently Pat is on voice rest until at least December 21<sup>st</sup>. She will be present in worship and is keeping regular office hours where she uses her voice sparingly. E-mail is a good way to communicate during this time: [pliberty@firstchurchsouthington.org](mailto:pliberty@firstchurchsouthington.org) She is available for a limited number of appointments, if you are in need do not hesitate to ask. Rick and Linda are also available.

The Board of Deacons will be assisting during worship for the next few weeks to support Rick and Linda in the three services. We are grateful for your patience and understanding during this time.

Please express your thanks to the Board of Deacons and to Rick and Linda for their second mile ministry in these days.

Grace and Peace,  
*Rev. Patricia L. Liberty*  
Interim Senior Minister  
*Jean Anderson-DeVito*  
Chair of the Board of Deacon