

Celebrating The Rev. Kevin Snow

at the Conclusion of his Clergy Residency at Community Christian Church, Kansas City, Missouri

offered by Dr. Bob Hill on Sunday, July 25, 2010

Kevin, try as we might to keep you to ourselves within our loving embrace, we know you are West Virginia bound. God knows you've heard plenty of us describe the superiority of ... Kansas City over Huntington, barbecue over white water rafting, the blessedness of KU and MU and K Staten over Marshall. But it's all been to no avail. On the other hand, we know that today, as you stand on the cusp of a great transformation, we *must* let you go. So we say "Go!"

"Go!" - to the next stretch of Holy Ground on your ministerial trek. Go with our deepest thanks for all you have meant to us, which is a forecast of what you will also mean to others:

- a smiling countenance when you greet others - "*Hey, good to hear your voice, what's up?*" (We can even *hear* your smile when you call on your cell phone!)
- a devoted pastoral heart and a steadfast spirit of encouragement.
- a treasure trove of stories - in sterling sermons, loving offertory calls, poignant communion invitations - told with care and wit and a resonance with the real places where real people live their real lives.
- Equal portions of commitment to social justice and compassionate mercy for all of God's children.

Kevin, as you go, please go with our blessings. You are more than prepared. You are more than ready. So it is easy for us to grant these blessings. As we bless you, we recall sacred scenes of your two-year journey here.

- You have modeled collegiality and partnership in your work and friendship with Melissa. You two have beautifully coordinated Mission trips, Artists Helping the Homeless meals in Mill Creek Park, Monday Night at Micah Ministries, Kerygma Bible Study, the Young Adult service, study and fellowship occasions, counseling at camps and conferences at Tall Oaks, and so much more.
- You have endured a broken wrist and a broken elbow - at the same time! - and you have intimate acquaintance with what Schleiermacher called *Gefühl*, that foundational sense of one's absolute dependence on God.
- You have imprinted your life on our souls - as indelible, as unforgettable, as impressive as a bold tattoo. And now the people of West Virginia will likewise be imprinted.

Rev. Kevin Snow - minister, colleague, friend, brother - we say "Go!" Go with our blessing. Go with the presence of the One who has walked with you throughout your entire life, who has implanted in you an abiding knowledge of the substance of faith, and, of equal importance, a sure grasp of the gospel's power, when tendered with Christ's love, to transform a world much in need. As you go from this place, also know you can never depart from the halls of our memories. You will soon call another physical address and another congregation "home," but you will always have a home in our hearts.

On behalf of a grateful congregation and our equally grateful Executive Committee and Administrative Council, and the unspeakably thankful ministerial and administrative staffs, we offer as symbols of blessing and celebration of your ministry among us a stole (hand-crafted by Conchita Reyes), a scrapbook (lovingly assembled by Rev. Donna Mueller), and an acrylic flame of commendation. By these symbols, you can always know that we love you very much.