



The Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring
Pastoral Message
July 2010

A Time to Celebrate

One of the best loved and most widely known passages in the Judeo-Christian scriptures is the first eight verses from Ecclesiastes 3.

Musician Pete Seeger popularized the text. You know the words: “For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven...” A time for [this] and a time for [that].

If Qoheleth, the author of Ecclesiastes, were alive today, he would declare this time we are in at Eden as a time for celebration.

The summer months usher in a season of celebrations for many of us, including graduations, alumni/ae reunions, weddings, anniversaries, Independence Day, and more. Every week Stephanie and I find ourselves blessed to be invited to or attending some wonderful celebration with the members and friends of our church.

This past month we thanked our musicians and church school teachers, and celebrated our graduates on Sunday, June 6. We honored our 29 Jubilee Members, received three new members, and recognized all who have served as elected leaders this past year on June 27.

The opportunities to celebrate continue throughout the summer at Eden as we reach two important milestones in our life: our fifteenth anniversary as an Open and Affirming (ONA) congregation on July 1, and our 145th anniversary as a church on August 23.

Fifteenth and 145th anniversaries aren't occasions when people typically hire a band and uncork the bubbly, but they are still reasons to pause and give thanks—particularly given that 85% of our denomination has yet to embrace the ONA identity, and when most Fortune 500 companies die before their 40th birthdays.

Yes, for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. Now is the time to celebrate.

Party on,

Arlene