



# Springfield United Methodist Church

*Leading People To Follow Christ*

February 22, 2010

Dear Church Family,

Every United Methodist pastor knows (and dreads) when he/she comes to a new appointment that the day will come when you have to write this letter. As those of you who were here Sunday already know and most others probably have already heard, Bishop King, after much prayer, has asked me to take an appointment as the District Superintendent in the Statesboro District. Susan and I have prayed diligently about this call upon our lives, family, and ministry, and have come to the conclusion that we should answer that call. We have been blessed to spend nine wonderful years here serving Christ with you. During that time you have graciously received us into your lives, provided us with love, support, and prayer, and amazed us with your commitment to Christ and the Church. It is hard for us to imagine not being here in Springfield and for that matter, not being in a local church as a pastor. But, we feel that God has raised up an opportunity to sow into the lives of other pastors and churches what so many churches and pastors have sown into our lives over the years.

I am confident that God who has called us into this new ministry did not do so in the absence of a plan for the church here in Springfield. Already God is at work through the Bishop and Cabinet to bring to Springfield a new pastor and family who will bless your lives, and be blessed by you, as we have. While this change will not occur until the middle of June, the PPR Committee will be contacted within the next month about the projected appointment here in Springfield. After that is confirmed, it will be announced here.

During the next four months we will have ample time to continue our work together, to remember the past and give thanks for what God has done, and look forward to the future and what God will do. As we move through these last months here, I know that I will cherish this time and you more than ever. However, during these months I have some added responsibilities that will require a great deal of me as I continue to serve as your pastor, give leadership to the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, and sit in on the Cabinet meetings to learn the process of appointment making for my new position. We are blessed to have a wonderful staff here that will be able to fill the gaps as I juggle all these responsibilities.

We covet your prayers for our church, my family, and the pastor and family who will be appointed here. I look forward to seeing you in worship on Sunday as we continue our journey together along the "way that leads to life".

In Christ,

Ben C. Martin

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