

CUMC NEWS
September 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On August 4 our church received 5 new members! In the past 7 years our church has been so blessed with individuals, couples, and families who not only attended regularly but also have decided to plant themselves in our church and grow alongside each of us, their new church family. In total, since 2012 we have been blessed to have received and welcomed 97 members!

God is the one who has blessed us with our church, with each of you who have and continue to support our church with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. From how you greet one another and new people and visitors to how we worship and serve in and outside of our church have all been a part of God's work in caring for one another and those who visit, regularly attend, and choose to join our church.

When I ask individuals and families what led them to decide to join our church, they give various answers. And one of the most common answers is how they were welcomed and befriended by the church. They often remember the individuals, couples, and families, including youth and children, who not only greeted them warmly, opened the door for them, handed them a bulletin, sat with them, greeted them during worship, but also then remembered them and their names the following Sundays!

So I write this with a very grateful heart because of your support of our church, whether you are able to attend regularly or not at all, because your prayers, your gifts, your support, and your love enable us to do the work of God...you are members of the Body of Christ, the Church, no matter the circumstances because we are connected to one another by the love and Holy Spirit of God. I thank each of you who make it a point to welcome newcomers, who grab a welcome bag, and even if you didn't know that a new face was actually not so new (which I admit I have done when someone attended on a Sunday I was away or it had been a long time since I had seen them). But even that is a good thing, to reintroduce yourself rather than not welcoming them and not saying hi at all.

I end with encouraging you to continue being a welcoming ambassador of Christ, and not only on Sunday mornings at church, but all throughout the year, everywhere you go, and with everyone God puts in your path.

In Christ's Love,

Taek