



Rev. Janet E. Smith-Rushton

12 Dove Avenue
East Wareham, Massachusetts 02538

June 27, 2010

Dear Members and Friends of Old South United Methodist Church,

Brian Wren penned these words for a time like ours when he wrote, "*Christ is alive and goes before us to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.*" (UM Hymnal) The Spirit is stirring, can you feel it? I am ready and excited to begin this new journey as your pastor and eager to meet God's people at Old South UMC and the Reading community.

Please join me in worship on July 4th at 8:30am or 10:00am for my first Sunday with you. I'll let you in on what happened when I said, "No, never!," to God in the sermon, "**Make Mine a Double, Please!**" We'll discover how in the midst of our fears, doubts, grief, confusion, and anxieties God is eager to give us a superabundance of what we need for the days ahead. I look forward to sharing God's abundant gifts with you as we celebrate our first Holy Communion together.

Come the following week, July 11th, for "**Faith Heroes and the Legacy of the Mantle,**" where we will explore the passing of Elijah's mantle to Elisha – the symbol of leadership and legacy of serving God in powerful ways. The children will hear the story of Olivia, a child who picked up the mantle and is making an amazing contribution rescuing wildlife endangered by the Gulf oil spill. I'll be giving them clues to find out just how huge a contribution she is making. Included will be a ritual of passing the mantle of leadership and the celebration of our new ministry together. The Staff Parish Relations Committee is hosting a special time of welcoming following the service. I do hope you can be there for me to meet you and introduce you to my husband, Bob.

"**Join the Wild Goose Chase**" on July 18th and discover what this Celtic expression really means as we get caught up in Jesus' great, joyous adventure. There will be a special reward for children who tracked down the amount of Olivia's contribution and a gift for all the children.

I am so looking forward to meeting the people God has sent me to serve. Please do not hesitate to contact the church office if you have special pastoral concerns that need attention and I will try to meet you as soon as I come to Reading.

Deep Blessings,

Rev. Janet Smith-Rushton