

Change

by Paul Behrens, Glen Mar Lay Leader

Change. It's a word that we've heard a lot lately. Change has been a popular theme in national politics, but it has also been a frequently heard word at Glen Mar. Sometimes we openly embrace change and welcome it. Other times we resist change because we're not quite sure what the "change" will bring.

Over the long-term change occurs and it is unavoidable. We all know that over the years our lives, families, and communities change. Glen Mar is no exception. Over its 56 years Glen Mar has changed tremendously. Glen Mar is no longer the small country church it used to be primarily because the community around Glen Mar has changed. Glen Mar has grown from a small church with limited ministries to a much larger church with a wide range of ministries that Praise God, Grow Disciples and Serve The World.

Change also occurs over the short term. At Glen Mar we will be experiencing change in the form of several staff members leaving. Andy and Ruth will be retiring, and Al and Mandy will be taking on new assignments at the direction of the bishop. Beyond a doubt we will be sad to see these people leave because of the impact that they have had on the people and ministries of Glen Mar.

But despite the change in staff positions, it is very important to remember that nearly everything that Glen Mar is and does is not changing. Glen Mar is a laity led church and because of that most of the ministries at Glen Mar will not change. We will continue to worship and be blessed with top-notch music. Glen Mar will continue to offer Sunday School for all ages, an active Children's Ministry, various bible study groups, and a varied youth program encompassing the Youth Group and Scout groups. Our Caring Ministries has just been bolstered with the addition of new Stephen Ministers. Glen Mar's strong presence in mission work will continue. Short term mission projects like Carpenter's Kitchen, Habitat for Humanity, Springfield Hospital, and Grassroots will not change. Youth and adult mission trips will continue to be offered. Just about everything at Glen Mar will continue as usual.

And the reason why so little is changing is the time, effort and equipping that the staff has done over the years to make Glen Mar the laity-led community that it is. Because of the strong laity involvement in ministry, very little will change. Although we will be sad to see Andy, Ruth, Al and Mandy leave, we will owe them and the rest of the staff much for their work to make Glen Mar a laity-led community.