

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*Cheryl Punzalan, Council President*

“We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences we often cannot foresee.” (Marian Wright Edelman) The week of April 17-23, 2005, is National Volunteer Week. The thought crossed my mind that without all of our volunteers, each contributing as they are able, Salem could not do its various ministries...or at least not in the fashion that it does now. In case you Salem volunteer workers haven't heard it from anyone else, here are some of my “thank you's.”

I thank God for the folks who take the time to make sure the altar is set up for services...getting the candles, wine and wafers...and cleaning up afterwards. I thank God for those who teach our children...the catechists, the Sunday school and VBS teachers...and those who organize these groups. I thank God for the folks who made soup and bread for the Lenten mid-week suppers, as well as our other meal gatherings, and those who pitch in to set-up and clean up. I thank God for those who make, serve and clean up the coffee and tea after each service so that we can chat with our friends. I thank God for those who help with the mailings of the Fish Catcher, the quarterly contribution reports and the special letters. I thank God for the quilters who cut, sew and pack so that others may be warm. I thank God for the counters, the finance group and the A Team who keep our books in shape. I thank God for the unpaid singers and ringers, of all ages, who make our joyful noise to the Lord even more special. I thank God for the stewards and officers of this church, and the members of the various boards and committees, who give of their time, their ideas and themselves so freely. There are so many others who work at Salem, that I cannot list them all in one monthly column.

The American educator, Benjamin Mays stated, “Every man is born into the world to do something unique and something distinctive, and if he or she does not do it, it will never be done.” What is your unique and distinctive contribution to Salem? What is your passion? What is the heart-felt cause with which you can help? Join the ranks of those who see a job that needs to be done and do it. I thank God for all of you who hear this call to minister to others and I thank God for all that you are willing to do to serve the Lord here.

Shalom, Cheryl

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