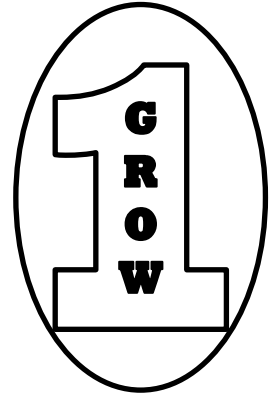

LITHOPOLIS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Inviting all to seek and learn together to serve Christ



October 31, 2011

Dear members and friends of Lithopolis United Methodist Church (LUMC),

Prior to my arrival at LUMC, I visited the church's website. The website helped me learn many wonderful things about the church, but the one item that really caught my attention was a series of videos that were simply labeled, *Grow One*. There in those videos were all sorts of people, in all sorts of goofy situations, singing that really silly song ... "Seek, learn, serve, growing one now ... G ... R ... O ... W!" I clicked on video after video and after watching them all I thought, "What a crazy church ... I can't wait to get there!!" And now several months later, I find myself in some new videos, singing the same silly song.

You know, the *Grow One* event is filled with all sorts of fun ... which is fantastic!! But more than anything else, *Grow One* is an opportunity for each of us to **grow one step in our faith**. And the way that we grow one step in our faith, is by trusting God more.

While we were planning this year's *Grow One* event, I asked some of the organizers what *Grow One* has meant to them. Here is what Don Sutton had to say ...

"During last year's "Grow One," my wife and I decided to grow one step in our giving and committed to an increased amount. Rather than writing a check each week, we set up with our bank a monthly automatic contribution to LUMC from our checking account. Our thinking was that this would keep us consistently faithful in not only the amount of our offering was but also in its regularity.

You see, if it had remained up to me, there were a couple of times we would have surely been tempted to postpone or lower our contribution. Through it all, however, I learned to trust and obey. Through my experiencing God's faithfulness to me, my faith in Him has increased tremendously and caused me to seek out even more ways to serve Him."

You see, that is what *Grow One* is really all about ... challenging us ... one step at a time ... to grow in our faith and our trust in God.

I pray that this year as we reflect upon our faith journeys, we will allow ourselves to once again be challenged, not only financially, but in other areas as well. I pray that as our trust in God grows, each one of us will experience not only a more generous heart, but a mind that is filled with new and exciting ways to better serve our God.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Russ