

Dear Friends,

An irate parishioner once confronted her priest, asking why she had not been available to deal with a particular problem that had arisen in the parish. When the minister explained that it was her “day off” the parishioner retorted; “How can you take a day off! – the devil never takes a `day off!”

The minister replied; “Yes, and if I never took a day off, I’d be just like him!”

From the beginning of May until the end of July, I will be on sabbatical. In the Methodist Church ministers are “required” *not that it takes much persuading for most of us!*) to take a break after the first 10 years and then every 7 after that. This time is set aside for “renewal, reflection and recreation” (to quote the Methodist Church).

What may be a rest time for me obviously has implications for others in the Circuit who may have to take over some of the tasks I now do, including preaching. For this reason I would like to say a big “thank you!” in advance to the other preachers in our circuit for covering my absence from the pulpit. I would also like to thank the Circuit Stewards and anyone else who finds that they have taken on extra work to cover my sabbatical.

Thank you all for your support and encouragement through my first 18 months in the circuit.

Every blessing,

