

by the Rev. Kathy Brawley

**Sermon presented on
the 100th anniversary of the
Universalist Church in Eldorado, Ohio
October 11, 2009**

I fear I neglected to let Robert know that I promised Wells I would only take 2 minutes and that he could have 6!

As many of you remember, last week's assignment was to come up with a memorial or monument that would symbolize for you this time of celebration - of 100 years here. And to represent what might be to come in the future. I was coming with my grade book in hand. And yet I'm not the one to make a final evaluation on that, am I!?

We're here to celebrate 100 years in this place. That's wonderful.
And, what's next?

Jesus is recorded in Matthew 5:12-14 saying:

Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt seasoning that brings out the God - flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.

Here's another way to put it. You're here to be light, bringing out the God - colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you lightbearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand-shine! Keep open house, be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God. (The Message)

It's through our behavior and activity in the world that the divine is seen and understood. Jesus knew that - and called us to an integrity of life that reveals the loving, accepting generosity of God.

We celebrate today 100 years of that loving acceptance in this place. Accept now the challenge to another 100!