

Samuel, don't think that Eliab is the one just because he's tall and handsome. He isn't the one I've chosen. People judge others by what they look like, but I judge people by what is in their hearts. 1 Sam. 16:7

Let's apply this to congregations. I've seen many "what makes a congregation healthy" lists, and have written several myself. Margaret J. Marcuson's list below ignores appearances to focus on what's going on inside. Marcuson is an author and conference speaker on church leadership. Her website: margaretmarcuson.com.

- ❖ *Mature leaders*, clergy and lay, who know who they are and what they are about in their lives and ministry.
- ❖ Leaders who can *articulate their vision and direction*.
- ❖ The ability to *tolerate difference*.
- ❖ Leaders who can *take a stand with people* (staff or church members) *who are not functioning well*.
- ❖ The ability to *take the long view*. (Most things of value in church take time to happen.)
- ❖ *An appreciation for the past without being bound by it*.
- ❖ *A lightness of spirit* - people who don't take themselves too seriously.
- ❖ *Resilience* - the congregation can recover from setbacks.
- ❖ *Genuine spiritual maturity*, growing out of the prayer and worship practices of the leadership and congregation.

Which are in place at Shalom? Which need our attention?

Looking Ahead: "The Spread of the Gospel"

Oct. 23 9:30 a.m. *It was in Antioch...* Acts 11:19-30 Gary

Oct. 23, 24, 26, 30: spiritual gift discernment in small groups

Oct. 30 9:30 a.m. *Why are we here?* Acts 13: 44-52 Gary

Nov. 5 Retreat: *spiritual gift discernment, part 2*

Nov. 13 11:00 a.m. Congregational Dialogue: *Mission Statement*

Gary's projected in town schedule: Oct. 23-26; 30; Nov. 5-6