

Plan to participate in the “Living with Strengths Workshop” this summer.

Being God’s church together is more than a seasonal investment in an assortment of mission projects! We all know that. What is less obvious is how we understand and accomplish this togetherness in the complexity of weekday living and weekend worship life. Simple it is not. However one way through to experiencing this gift of being part of the ONE Body of Christ is learning how our unique/individual gifts impact, influence, encourage and support those of other participants.

Interpreting gifts as strengths immediately turns our attention to ways our contributions to ministry together is **do**-able. Interpreting gifts as strengths also suggests that the arena of contribution is inclusive —no one is left out, and no one needs undertake the burden of “doing everything.” Serving in a community in which strengths are engaged for ministry certainly opens the conversation about what we can do **together**, so that our ultimate choices reflect our real-time capacity, rather than idealistic dreams that can propel us into achievement anxiety.

This summer, we are offering a workshop that allows us to investigate these “strengths” by means of a friendly assessment tool. Notice that “strengths” is the only column heading offered here. This is NOT a psychological measure to determine what failures you need to confess. Chances are you already know that without help. This assessment tool allows you to discover and claim a capacity for service that you may be aware of only superficially; or it may identify for you an aptitude or competence that others have seen but not really affirmed by your own self confidence.

Stephen Blackmore will lead the workshop that follows our independent work in taking the assessment, using the *Strengths Finder 2.0* product. Each participant will need a book* that includes a *unique access number* for one participant only. We invite you to let us know in advance of your interest in this workshop. *There are no numerical limits to participation.* In fact, the more people who sign on to this plan the better and more exciting the workshop discovery will be. **Let’s do this!** Let’s enjoy the new things we learn about each other; and join in joyful celebration of what that will mean as we continue to mirror the love and grace of God in our community.

*If you have not already taken this assessment, books are available for purchase through the church office.