

Making passionate followers of Jesus. EverGreen is all about following the call of Jesus in Matthew 28 to make disciples or passionate followers of him. Central to being a passionate follower of Jesus is finding a way to serve in the church and in God's kingdom. Indeed, God gives us gifts just for this purpose. Paul writes in Ephesians 2.8*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9not by works, so that no one can boast. 10For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.* And later in Ephesians 4 he says, *11It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.* As God has gifted us and prepared good works for us to do so we respond by using our gifts to serve him, his church and his kingdom.

The insert in this mailer gives a large number of opportunities for us to serve using the gifts God has given us. Please take the time to look, search, and pray where God is calling you to be involved in this coming ministry year as you seek to increasingly become a passionate follower of Jesus.

In Christ and for his kingdom,

Pastor Larry