



From Pastor Rachel...

Dear Trinity Church-Family and Friends,

With all the serious decisions we've been dealing with lately, I thought it might be nice for us all to relax for just a moment with a bit of old fashioned Methodist humor. This article was sent to me by a friend and I hope it tickles your funny bone as much as it did mine. Please enjoy it with my heartfelt gratitude and blessings, and feel free to share it with family and friends in case they could also use a church-related chuckle today.

#### GARRISON KEILLOR ON "METHODISTS"

We make fun of Methodists for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offense, their lack of speed, and also for their secret fondness for macaroni and cheese.

But nobody sings like them. If you were to ask an audience in New York City, a relatively Methodist-less place, to sing along on the chorus of "Michael Row the Boat Ashore," they would look daggers at you as if you had asked them to strip to their underwear. But if you do this among Methodists, they'd smile and row that boat ashore and up on the beach! And down the road!

Many Methodists are bred from childhood to sing in four-part harmony, a talent that comes from sitting on the lap of someone singing alto or tenor or bass and hearing the harmonic intervals by putting your little head against that person's rib cage.

It's natural for Methodists to sing in harmony. They are too modest to be soloists, too worldly to sing in unison. When you're singing in the key of C and you slide into the A7th and D7th chords, all two hundred of you, it's an emotionally fulfilling moment. By joining in harmony, they somehow promise that they will not forsake each other.

I do believe this: People, these Methodists, who love to sing in four-part harmony are the sort of people you can call up when you're in deep distress.

- If you're dying, they will comfort you.
- If you are lonely, they'll talk to you.
- And if you are hungry, they'll give you tuna salad.
- Methodists believe in prayer, but would practically die if asked to pray out loud.

- Methodists like to sing, except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four stanzas.
- Methodists believe their pastors will visit them in the hospital, even if they don't notify them that they are there.
- Methodists usually follow the official liturgy and will feel it is their way of suffering for their sins.
- Methodists believe in miracles and even expect miracles, especially during their stewardship visitation programs or when passing the plate.
- Methodists think that the Bible forbids them from crossing the aisle while passing the peace.
- Methodists drink coffee as if it were the Third Sacrament.
- Methodists feel guilty for not staying to clean up after their own wedding reception in the Fellowship Hall.
- Methodists are willing to pay up to one dollar for a meal at the church.
- Methodists still serve Jell-O in the proper liturgical color of the season and think that peas in a tuna casserole adds too much color.
- Methodists believe that it is OK to poke fun at themselves and never take themselves too seriously.

And finally, You know you are a Methodist when:

- It's 100 degrees, with 90% humidity, and you still have coffee after the service.
- You hear something funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can.
- Donuts are a line item in the church budget, just like coffee.
- When you watch a Star Wars movie and they say, "May the Force be with you," you respond, "and also with you."

- And lastly, it takes ten minutes to say good-bye!