

“Spirit Day”  
Ephesians 4:1-7  
August 30, 2015 (Back to School Celebration)  
Rev. Dave Baldridge

Palm Harbor United Methodist Church, Palm Harbor, Florida

Today is a special day. I’ve had this day on my calendar for a long time. I’m ready, I’m excited, and I’m prepared and can’t wait for this special day. You see this day is the day where I’ll draft by Fantasy Football Team. Yes, tonight at 7 p.m. Sarah and I will be hovered around our computers as we have a family and close friends draft for our individual Fantasy Football Team. Now this is simply for fun, this is the second year we’ve had a family Fantasy Football Team.

There is also something else special about this day...I think it is the second time we’ve done it too....but I can’t think of what it is right now. Maybe it’ll come to me.

But while we are on football let me share with you how football and church use the same type of terms. Now in March around Basketball’s March Madness I shared some Basketball terms that are also church terms, so let me share with you now some football terms that are also church terms. If you have a really good memory this may sound familiar as I used these terms in September of 2010 in a sermon entitled, “Where are the People of God?” By the way, “Where are the People of God?” xxxxx

So here are the **Football/Church terms**:

**DRAW PLAY:** What children do with the bulletin during the worship service.

**BACKFIELD IN MOTION:** Making a trip to the back restroom or water fountain during the service.

**END RUN:** Getting out of church quickly without speaking to any guest or fellow members.

**BLOCKING:** Talking endlessly and complaining to the pastor at the church door and keeping everyone else from exiting.

**DRAFT CHOICE:** The decision to sit close to an air conditioning vent.

**ILLEGAL MOTION:** Leaving before the benediction

**2 MINUTE WARNING:** The point at which you realize the sermon is almost over and you begin to gather up your belongings.

**STAYING IN THE POCKET:** What happens to a lot of money that should be given to the Lord.

**SUDDEN DEATH:** What happens to the attention span of the congregation if the preacher goes “overtime.”

**EXTRA POINT:** What you receive when you tell the preacher his sermon was short.

**FUMBLE:** Dropping a bulletin, or offering plate.

**BLITZ:** The rush for restaurants following the closing prayer.

Ah, and there will be no need for a blitz to the restaurants because there are free hotdogs, hamburgers right after the service. You can go down the hall to the Multi-Purpose Room or when you can go out the east/Belcher road narthex doors and head over to the Cafeteria at Westlake.

Oh, I knew it would come to me.... that's what is also special about this day....it is Spirit Day!!!! Back to School day!

I guess Spirit Day, church and football can go together. We get fired up for football and our teams. How many Gators do we have here today? Seminoles? Knights? Bulls? Listen carefully....how many football fans do we have here today?

Football games have cheerleaders. A cheer that coincides with today is this one.... "I've got spirit, yes I do...I've got spirit how about you?" xxxxxx

We've got spirit, we've got excitement, but we have something much more we have the Holy Spirit.

Let me go back to one more football term. That is: goal. A football team wants to cross the goal line. Beloved our Goal is to be like Jesus. We "score" when we are one together and we show others Jesus.

Let's look at part of **VERSE 4: "All of you are part of the same body. There is only one Spirit of God, just as you were given one hope..."**

We are all part of the same body. We are one church. We have one hope. We have one purpose...to be like Jesus. Now although you showed spirit about different football teams there were many fans of football here.

Today we particularly celebrate our various education ministries that happen on this campus.

I want all Sunday School teachers (**His Kidz logo**) for our children and all children that go to Sunday School to stand. Yes last week over 100 students in our Children's Sunday School Program.

Our Soldiers For Christ Student Ministries (**Soldiers for Christ logo**) which also includes our College Age Ministry Reawaken....please stand. (Director, Carl Rinderle, Asst. Lynn Stevens, Middle High: Joel Figueroa) (Senior High Back to School event continues at 7 Glow in the Dark Volleyball)

Parents of our Preschool, The Robin's Nest (**The Robin's Nest logo**) to stand..... (Ann Martinelli, Director, Pat Rowe Asst. Dir.---over 140 students...more students than last year...with waiting lists in many classes.)

Now...listen carefully....if you are an alumni of The Robin's Nest....you went there as a preschooler....please stand.

All faculty, staff, parents and students of Stars and Comets and Camp Cubber Stand. (**Stars and Comets/Camp Cubber logo**) (Chris Steurnagel, Director. Rob Rowe Asst. Director...over 160 students...more than last year...with some age groups on waiting lists.)

All faculty, staff, parents and students of Westlake Christian School Stand. (**Westlake Christian School logo**) (Jayanne Roggenbaum, Head of School with the largest enrollment in the 21 year history...332 students enrolled.

And our Education Director, Dana Roeling who read scripture for us this morning.

What that means is that each week if you add up the number of students that come through these doors (yes, there may be some duplication.....but we are talking every week we have around 750 students come on this campus known as Palm Harbor United Methodist Church.

All The Robin's Nest, Stars and Comets, and Westlake Christian School are part of the same body. That body is Palm Harbor United Methodist Church. (**new PHUMC logo**) Look around and you will see different shirts and logos. What unites us together is the fact that we have one purpose. All Ages! All In! Loving God! Loving All! Ministries of Palm Harbor United Methodist Church. So let the body stand....that's everybody.....

"I've got spirit, yes, I do. I've got spirit, How about you?"

**VERSE 6: "There is one God who is the Father of all people. Not only is God above all others, but he works by using all of us, and he lives in all of us."**

We are one body....and did you hear that God works by using all of us. I said God works by using all of us!!!! Woo-hoo!!!!

Actually we can have many more Spirit Days! In fact each Sunday should be a Spirit Day where we allow the Holy Spirit to have His way. As the Apostle Paul says... "He lives in all of us."

Concerning the Holy Spirit we find scripture talking about the Fruit of the Spirit and the Gifts of the Spirit. Now the Fruit of the Spirit is mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23. It is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

It is interesting that love is first in this listing. For it is love that reflects the character of God. Joy....how can we not have joy if we are followers of Jesus. Peace is what happens we Christ dwells in you.

Patience helps us realize that we are following God's timing and not the world or even our own. Kindness...just like Jesus...showing love to all. Faithfulness....being consistently God's. Gentleness having that way and showing grace to others. And lastly self-control...the characteristic of allowing the Holy Spirit to help us resist evil and the temptations of this world.

Now it is sometimes difficult to remember the fruit of the Spirit. So I recalled an old song I sang at church camp. Boy and girls of all ages help me sing this song... "The Fruit of the Spirit" song... <https://youtu.be/DFumjSI68s>

"He works by using that fruit...which is what....xxxx. You see He uses all of us and lives in all of us regardless of which logo we may be wearing...we are part of Palm Harbor United Methodist Church we are part of the Kingdom of God.

The last verse that Dana, our Education Director read says this **VERSE 7: "Christ has generously divided out his gift to us."**

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Here are some of the gifts of the Holy Spirit mentioned by Apostle Paul in the book of 1 Corinthians.

### **1 Corinthians 12:4-13The Message (MSG)**

**4-11 God's various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all. Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful: wise counsel, clear understanding, simple trust, healing the sick, miraculous acts, proclamation, distinguishing between spirits, tongues, interpretation of tongues. All these gifts have a common origin, but are handed out one by one by the one Spirit of God. He decides who gets what, and when.**

**12-13 You can easily enough see how this kind of thing works by looking no further than your own body. Your body has many parts—limbs, organs, cells—but no matter how many parts you can name, you're still one body. It's exactly the same with Christ.**

And it's exactly the same here on the Campus of Palm Harbor United Methodist Church...it's body is made up of The Robin's Nest, Westlake Christian School, Stars and Comets/Camp Cubber, and Children's Ministry, our Soldiers For Christ Student Ministry. No matter how many areas of ministry you name we are one body at Palm Harbor United Methodist Church. All with the purpose of Loving God! Loving All! And yes, it's All Ages! All In! All adults have a part in helping, mentoring, volunteering, praying for our students. On our 1551prays Prayer team...Sunday at 1551 (3:51 p.m. we pray for Schools....lift up those here this morning.

We began the service with a video pep talk to teachers and students. (Kid's President's Pep Talk to Teachers and Students) I think it is appropriate for all of us. The kid president said, "What are you teaching the world? Teach the world what it looks like to be awesome." Friends we can do that by sharing the love of our awesome God. "No matter who you are somebody is learning from you." Let me say that again. "No matter who you are somebody is learning from you." Are they seeing Jesus in you? Do you reflect the Kingdom of God? Are they learning about Jesus? Get your learn on!

"What do you want to teach the world?" I hope it is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control. "Let's make some history together." As the kid president said, "Simple math...together, we're louder."

I've got spirit yes I do. I've got spirit, How about you? xxxxxxxx

Let me share some paraphrasing of some of the lyrics of Chris Tomlin song, "God of this City."

God of this Campus.  
You're the King of these ministries.  
You're the Lord of this facility.

We want all of our ministries to be the  
the Light in this darkness  
the Hope to the hopeless  
the Peace to the restless

We must realize that: There is no one like our God. There is no one like our God  
And I love this part.  
For greater things have yet to come  
And greater things are still to be done on this campus and in these ministries at PHUMC.

Greater things have yet to come  
And greater things are still to be done here....yes to be done here in the name of Jesus and  
through the Holy Spirit. We use the Fruit of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit using all of us as  
He lives in all of us.

I want our faculty and staff of Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, The Robin's Nest, Westlake Christian School and Stars and Comets/Camp Cubber to stand.

We have for you a "take away." Here on this banner you will find a word....many are Fruit of the Spirit. On the back of them is a prayer of blessing for you. Take them know that we are blessed to have you in ministry here at Palm Harbor United Methodist Church.

Let me offer a prayer for those standing. After my prayer I'm going to ask those standing...these Christian Educators...to come forward and take one of the words off the banner and return to your seat.

Let's pray.