

## **PJ's Ponderings...**

**August 2016**

***I am me.***

*There will not ever be anyone like me.*

*I am special because I am unique. I am stardust and dreams.*

*I am light. I am love and hope.*

*I am hugs, and sometimes tears. I am the words "I love you."*

*I am swirls of blue, green, red, yellow, purple, orange,  
and colors no one can name.*

*I am the sky, the sea, the earth. I trust, yet I fear.*

*I hide, yet I don't hold anything back. I am free.*

*I am a child becoming an adult.*

*I am me, **and me is just right.***

*Beth Schooner, age 15*

With the beginning of school just around the corner, it seemed appropriate to seek wisdom from a fifteen-year-old poet. Her words speak God's truth: **each of us, created in the image of God, is just right.** This truth may seem so obvious to believers in the faith. We are taught that Jesus loves us; we know that we are precious in God's sight. We read that Jesus accepted all people, young and old; we believe that our God welcomes us equally.

Our parents spend our early childhood years reassuring us that we are loved who we are. Then, often with great fear and trepidation, they send us out into a world that can be cruel and abusive. Sadly it is true, there are those in the world who want to set particular standards for God's children. There are those who want to say YOU are OK but YOU are not. Suddenly, being loved for who you are is not enough.

Often in disbelief the world looks in at the church and asks, "Do you really accept everyone as being 'just right' the way they are? Do you truly accept all children of God regardless of their race, religious creed, gender, age or sexual orientation?" **With boldness, we declare, "YES!"** There is joy in God's heart when acceptance is known through the welcoming arms of the church.

**I invite each of you to believe that YOU are precious in God's sight.** I invite you to trust that Trinity Church is a place to know and experience the unconditional love of God. It is true, there is no one else like you; **You are special.** I look forward to celebrating your uniqueness as we join in the ministry together.  
***Grace and Peace – Pastor Jane***