Lessons I have learned during 18 years as a pastor:

1.  When you ask a yes/no question in a Children's Sermon and know the children will answer 'yes,' someone will inevitably yell, 'no!'

2.  Taking pictures of youth while competing in sports and posting them in the church works much better in outside daylight sports than inside or evening sports.

3.  If you always provide the orange fruit and jello salad for funerals, your children quickly learn not to eat it before asking, "Oh,no, who died?"

4.  Thank you notes written to congregational members mean a lot!

5.  Keeping a spare pair of boots and a spare pair of sandals in your office is practical when you live in Montana.

6.  Glitter Sunday school projects keep on giving for months, much to the dismay of  the janitor.

7.  Youth are wonderful at shopping for food baskets, until you decide to add vegetables.

8.  Two people with bifocals cannot share one worship bulletin.

9.  It us a huge success when no child picks their nose during the Preschool Spring Program.

10. Never give a Christmas Eve candle to someone who is on oxygen.

11. I just can't smile at you if you call me a 'pastorette.'

12.  Being a single woman pastor in a parsonage means that people help you shovel your driveway.  Yay!

13. I use the sentence, 'I don't know' way more often than I would have ever guessed.

14. Does anyone really have a good explanation for the Trinity?

15. Never announce, 'Everyone knows this hymn,' if you are a new pastor.  They probably don't.

16. If it's 30 below zero, don't put the treats you hope to serve for a meeting in the back seat of the car and forget them till the meeting is over.

17. Kids loves to adopt pastor puppies.

18.  Just love your people.  Even if they are grumpy.  They all need love.

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