



The Messenger

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Thinking out loud....

It's been a bit of a whirlwind of spring into summer. There were many mornings when I woke up and had to sort out where I needed to be or frankly just determine what day of the week it was! A combination of caregiving and other obligations had left my own life rather mismatched – an un-pretty pastiche of tasks interspersed with the occasional dinner out or coffee with a friend who got to hear the latest round of woes. Those interludes were nice, but still there was a restless feeling just underneath, as if there was always something being left undone, half-finished, even forgotten in the process.

Although my work in ministry continues to be joyful, I felt that my own spiritual life was taking a backseat, something I feared, if left unchecked would eventually lead to spiritual atrophy, or worse, complacency. Perhaps this is not what you expect a pastor to admit, but, in truth, there is no bubble of “protection” around people of faith, no matter who you are. No, we are equal in this: our faith is constantly buffeted on all sides by what life brings and requires our attention to remain a vibrant priority. So, in order to continue to be faithful we have to learn to recognize those “early warning signs” in ourselves, the ones that set off a little pinging sound somewhere deep within our souls telling us to stay awake to God's voice, stay awake for God's prayer spoken in our lives, stay awake for the direction of the Spirit!

Thankfully, even when we have muffled hearing there are others who may be able to get the cotton out of our ears and sweep the cobwebs out of those corners of our heart usually bustling with spiritual life and now eerily still. The most surprising thing may be who those “others” are – they may not be the ones you expect or appear at the times or places that seem most likely.



Photo by LaViera.com

Recently I had the chance to attend a writing workshop in New England. It was a welcome respite from the somewhat demanding schedule I was leaving behind for a few days. I wanted to be left alone. I wanted to think deep thoughts. I hoped I would have time for some meditative prayer. I got all those things to one degree or another, but the true gift came through the fellowship that I did not intend...the conversations I thought I wanted to avoid and a late night pastoral care session with someone from another faith tradition who came to me in pain when I thought I had nothing to offer her. It was the breakthrough we both needed but had not anticipated finding in this gathering. I don't know if I gave her good counsel, but I told her of her beauty and worth and preciousness in God's eyes and she helped me unlock the door that I had nearly shut to my own need for spiritual renewal and restoration amid the dailyness of responsibilities that had begun to feel overwhelming.

I tell you this story for no other reason than I think we all have to be reminded that being "need-ful" is not a bad or selfish thing. It is not the same as being "needy." Being need-ful is being open to what another person not only has to offer but what gifts you may have to give in return...we need to need each other...we need to be reminded that we are community and more than that, in Christ, we are family. It is good that we need that other person to see what we do not see and to listen to the words we aren't even saying out loud but are conveying in our every action.

Leave yourself open to the work of God through others – they are sent to us and for us so that we may also learn to support and nurture one another in faith...a lesson that the earliest disciples had to learn not only for the church to take root and flourish but for their own need for support and inspiration to persevere against persecution and rejection; a lesson we all need to learn in order to not only help the church continue to exist but also open that door for others to come in and be welcomed into our lives of faith and we into theirs, united together in Christ. I am need-ful, you are need-ful... Thanks be to God!

Hebrews 10: 23-25 (excerpted)

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together... but encouraging one another..

May you continue to be "need-ful" and stay awake to all that God offers us in one another!

~Grace and Peace, Pastor Nadine

*There is a Session meeting
this month...
Elders please plan to meet
Sunday, July 13th
after worship*

Prayer Requests & Concerns

We are called to be the body of Christ, therefore, we keep before us all those brothers and sisters who ask our prayers, all those whom we silently lift up in our hearts, and all who are forgotten in prayer by the world. Let us continue to pray for those suffering physically, emotionally, and spiritually in need.



(photo: tiquetonne via flickr)

Within the St. Andrews family we particularly remember:

Kiki Neale, Lenny Tellone & family (heart transplant) Barbara and Bob Beacon, David and Betty Ellsworth, Margaret Morgan, Danny Martin, Krystal Black, Barbara Blocker, Grace Daniels, Tina Eason, Fran Michaels, Heather Siebert, Linda Strickland, Kathy Stubbs, Thelma Thacker, Melda Burleson, Foy and Turner families, Sherrie Tolley, Ethel Guy, Mike Parsons, the Wingard family in Australia, the Presbyterian Church (USA), as well as God's Church in all nations, those in leadership and all who are called to minister, serve, and protect others.



The next meeting of the Charlotte Presbytery will be held **Saturday, July 19th** at Amity Presbyterian Church.

For a synopsis of the recent GA meeting in Detroit, please follow the link below:

<http://www.presbyofcharlotte.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/GALetterFrom-POCLeadership-July2014.pdf>



Service of Holy Communion

Sunday, July 13th

Bread and crackers for our communion services continues to be provided by Jennifer Fields of Garner, NC. Jenni lends her special gifts as a professional baker to our worship by creating breads that reflect elements of the text such as salt, seeds, or spice, lemon for brightness or light, and other creative expressions of the scripture.

We are reminded by her offering to us each communion that the Bread of Life is to be savored and enjoyed!



Church Yard Sale - October 4th

Never too early to start cleaning out those closets!

Stay tuned for more details!

Space available in the Fellowship Hall (stage area)
to store items for the sale prior to that day
(please mark your items so we know what belongs to who!)



Supper Church is coming!!

Experience VBS in a new way!

August 3rd & 4th

This year's VBS experience promises to be lots of fun for all generations of our congregation and is also open to anyone in the community who would like to attend.

We will be exploring why we do what we do in worship: what it means, where the tradition came from and why it's important...

We'll also be singing, eating, and generally having a great time!

So mark your calendar and stay tuned for times and additional information!!