



The Mustard Seed

Saint Bartholomew's Episcopal Church ~ Reverend Nina R. Pooley, Rector ~ February, 2012

Photo: David Elliot

Letter from the Rector

Thoughts on Faith and Christian Unity

(A reflection written for January 15th, 2012, as we celebrated the week of prayer for Christian Unity. I was ill that morning, and several people have asked that I share the reflection I had prepared for that Sunday.)

We know from our own experiences, from our own faith journeys that God is persistent, patient, insistent, always present, sometimes rather blunt, often subtle... all of the above. In her travelogue about her spiritual journey, (Traveling Mercies) Annie Dillard talks about God's desire to be in her life, as a kitten winding around her ankles, persistently asking to be picked up, and taken in. I like that image, for me it seems that God has always been present, quietly, and sometimes not so quietly, pushing me to find my way. And offering me a myriad of people to guide me.

I was raised in a Unitarian Universalist household and my spiritual journey was one looking for faith – what was faith? Why did people believe what they believed? For they most certainly believed these things we learned about in Sunday school when we talked about the religions of the world. People believed in things they couldn't see or prove and their lives were shaped by these beliefs. And I knew from experience there was something to that.

My first memories of faithfulness were not Christian but Hindu, through my Indian grandmother – who prayed everyday. She honored her gods and would dress the images of them in spices and flowers. And she never wore her shoes in the room in which they were, out of respect. Her faith was part of her life, every day. From which I learned that faith gives shape to daily life. And I took this lesson with me as I began to explore Christianity.

I want to share five aspects of Christian faith that I've learned on that journey (so far). 1) Faith walks hand in hand with action in the world. I was four when we went to visit friends in Nicaragua and joined them as they served at make shift Red Cross hospital camps in remote parts of the country. Gus was a doctor, his wife a nurse like my mom, they certainly had gifts that were needed by the Red Cross, but they went because they were Christians. He was a Baptist minister as well as a doctor, and medicine was the avenue through which they lived out their service to God in the world.

2) Faith creates a certain culture. The families who took me in time and time again, in the states, overseas, in one military base to another, on the economy in Germany... they were Christians. Sure, different kinds or flavors of Christians: Lutheran, Mormon, Catholic, Methodist, traditions we know can be markedly different – yet to me they seemed a lot the same.

Spirit of Love

O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the Spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Services and Events

Sunday, Feb. 5 : Epiphany V

Holy Eucharist 8 & 10 w/healing & shared thoughts on service in the world

Sunday, Feb. 12 : Epiphany VI

Holy Eucharist 8 & 10 am w/shared thoughts on service in the world

Sunday, Feb. 19 : Last Epiphany

Holy Eucharist 8 & 10 am
Bishop Lane's Episcopate Visit

Sunday, Feb. 26 : Lent I

Morning Prayer at 8 am service
Fourth Sunday at 10 am service

These families lived in a culture that was different than other people. They were open and caring, and they knew to hold tight to what really mattered in life, and let everything else go. They were kind to me and to one another, they stood on a firm foundation even in difficult times, and all were willing to talk to me about their faith and to bring me with them to church. I went to church in all of those traditions.

3) Faith has a shape and rhythm. The way people pray is not willy-nilly, but has distinct shape and rhythm and form, that often seemed to me to be more alike than folks realized. So by the time I got to college and was finally allowed to find my own faith tradition – it was easy to say yes when I was invited to go along to church my first weekend there. Again, I was asked, included, and brought there. And it was easy to fall into the rhythms of the Catholic student worship services on campus, and good to be welcomed into their midst. I went to catechumenate classes for a year before I was baptized. And I was baptized on Easter Eve, with a group of faithful friends in attendance who stood in as my family.

4) Faith allows for expansive possibilities. The priest leading that student community was Father Zahn. Much to my astonishment, he took me seriously and eventually we started talking about call. That I might be called to do this kind of work with God's people, and that once I left college, I might need to find a slightly different path to walk the path God seemed to be inviting me to walk. It was with Father Zahn's help that I found the right path, this particular Christian tradition that fits me well. But I have a deep love and appreciation for the many Christian traditions through whom I had been welcomed and shaped.

5) Faith is multifaceted. I am such an Episcopalian – which is to say that this tradition suits me body mind and spirit. But I know that God is not an Episcopalian! God is God, and my way to worship God and live out my faith is through this particular branch of Christianity. I have a great deal to learn from other branches, and know that together we are better able to serve the world, to worship God more completely through all of our facets. To find our way to victory over the brokenness of this world – to work toward peace and justice by living out mercy and compassion rather than getting hung up on our differences.

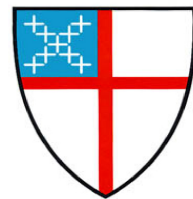
As we pray for Christian Unity, we pray not that we all become one particular tradition, rather we remember what really matters, the Gospel and the salvation of God's people. And we recognize how much more we are together, and all that is possible when we lay aside our differences and serve the world together.

Brene +

Loving our Own Story

“Owning our story and loving ourselves through that process is the bravest thing that we will ever do.”

Brene Brown



**Office Hours: Tues.– Fri.
9 Am - 3 Pm**

Phone: 846-9244

www.stbartsyarmouth.org

Rector

The Rev. Nina Pooley

Email:

nina@stbartsyarmouth.org

Administrative Assistant

Angela Millington

admin@stbartsyarmouth.org

Music Director

Jonathan D. Pelletier

2012 Vestry Officers

Senior Warden - Joe Michaud

Junior Warden - Bob Bower

Clerk - Anne Ball

Treasurer - Anne Berg

Asst. Treasurer - Susie Soule

Vestry Members

Barbara Barhydt

Holly Mitchell-Chapman

Scott Jensen

Bill Macleod

John Perkins

Rick Ramseyer

Heather Sylvester

Pastoral Care Committee

Imelda Schaefer 781-4093

Eleanore Irish 846-5059

Nursery Care

Mackenzie Pooley

Food Pantry

Maggie Nason 846-7936

Buildings & Grounds

Joe Michaud, Don Massey

Memorial Garden

Liza Chandler 846-9432

Margaret Betts 784-5676

Eagerly Seeking God: A Lenten Quest of Experience

In Sewanee this past summer I took a course from The Rev. Martin Smith in Spiritual Direction for the Parish Setting. For my final project I developed a Lenten course for St. Bart's and I'm hoping we can experience it together this Lent.

The course is called, Eagerly Seeking God: A Lenten Quest of Experience, and a great deal of it is experiential. Having a guru like Martin look over it all and tell me that it's a good program gives me enough confidence to offer it! Themes include: Baptism and Seeking, What do we want Jesus to do for us?, What gets in the way? Reluctance and Resistance, Laying Aside Worry, Boldness and Reception, Walking with Jesus during Holy Week, and Experiencing the Risen Lord.

We will meet weekly on Wednesdays, and I'm willing to offer two sessions to accommodate both those who prefer afternoons and those who work a traditional workday. (With a minimum of 4 participant signed up per session.) The first sessions will meet on Feb. 29th, should enough people sign up for them. We will meet for 7 weeks, through Holy Week, and have our final meeting the week of Easter.

Afternoon Session 4:45-6pm
Dinner with the choir 6-6:45pm
(if you would like to have supper here)
Evening Session 6:45-8:00pm

As you can see from the schedule, we have been invited to join the choir for their dinner hour, and we'll arrange that week to week with the others who will be eating.

Please email me to let me know that you're planning on attending (and which session). **I will need everyone to register so I can have enough supplies on hand for each week.** Nina@stbartsyarmouth.org

I'm looking forward to it!

Nina+

Loving the Questions

“Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves. ... Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer.”

Rainer Maria Rilke

Fat Tuesday Anyone?

Joe, Jonathan and I were wondering if anyone's up for a Fat Tuesday Celebration? It's been a while since we've celebrated on Fat Tuesday and it sure is fun. If you're interested, please email the office and let us know. Before we jump in, it'd be good to know we had folks interested in attending, cooking and eating, and entertaining! Sign ups will be in the Narthex of the church, or you can email the office and ask Angela to put you on the list. **Please see the note in this week's e-bulletin and reply with the following info:**

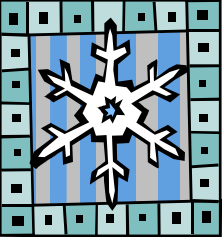
Yes, I'm attending! (Number of people in your party)

Yes, I'd be willing to cook (we'll be making Jambalaya with accompanying salad, bread, desserts and something as an alternative main course, maybe mac and cheese)

Yes, I'm offering talent to the evening as well!
My talent is _____.

Thanks everyone. I hope we get enough folks to do this – it will be good to get together and just have fun!

Nina+



February 2012

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
			1	2 Pastoral Care 12pm Knitting 2-4:30pm AA 7:30 pm	3	4
5 <u>Epiphany V</u> Holy Eucharist 8 am & 10 am w/healing & shared thoughts on service in the world *Adult Ed. 9am Youth 4:5:30 pm <u>J2A w/ Nina</u>	6 Office closed VESTRY 6:45pm	7 Men's group- Royal Bean 7:30am	8 Choir 6-8:45 pm	9 AA 7:30 pm	10 Nina at Diocesan Clergy Gathering →	11
12 <u>Epiphany VI</u> Holy Eucharist 8 am & 10 am w/shared thoughts on ser- vice in the world Youth 4:5:30 pm <u>J2A w/ Nina</u>	13 Office closed	14 Men's group- Royal Bean 7:30am	15 Choir 6-8:45 pm	16 <u>On This Day...</u> in 1923, the burial chamber of King Tutankhamen's recently unearthed tomb was unsealed in Egypt. Knitting 2-4:30pm AA 7:30 pm	17	18
19 <u>Last Epiphany</u> Holy Eucharist 8 am & 10 am Bishop Lane's Episcopate Visit *Adult Ed. 9am	20 Office closed	21 Men's group- Royal Bean 7:30am FAT TUESDAY (time TBA) Cancer Support 7 pm	22 Ash Wed. Imposition of Ashes, 12noon and 6pm Choir 6-8:45 pm	23 AA 7:30 pm	24	25
26 <u>LENT I</u> 8 am Morn. Prayer; 4th Sunday at 10am service	27 Office closed Alzheimer's Support 7 pm	28 Men's group- Royal Bean 7:30am	29 <u>Lenten Program</u> Session 4:45-6pm Dinner w/ the choir 6-6:45pm Session 6:45-8pm (must register) Choir 6-8:45 pm			