



December 11, 2023

FAITH MATTERS

Maybe you can identify with this one. Preacher Fred Craddock says, "My mother took us to church and Sunday School. My father didn't go. He complained about Sunday dinner being late when she came home. Sometimes the preacher would call, and my father would say, "I know what the church wants. Church doesn't care about me. Church wants another name, another pledge. Right? That's what he always said. I guess I heard it 1000 times. "Another name, another pledge.""

One time he didn't say it. He was in a veterans' hospital, and he was down to 73 pounds. They had taken out his throat and said, "It's too late." They put in a metal tube, and X rays burned him to pieces. I flew in to see him. He couldn't speak, couldn't eat. I looked around his room, cut flowers all over, a deep stack of cards beside his bed. All the flowers and cards were from persons or groups from the church.

He saw me read a card. He couldn't speak, so he took a Kleenex box and wrote on the side of it a line from Shakespeare. He wrote: "In this harsh world, draw your breath in pain to tell my story." I said, "What is your story, Daddy?" And he wrote, "I was wrong."

I think there is a feeling that anything is possible because Jesus is in our midst at St. Andrews. The Spirit is stirring at our church for all the possibilities ahead for us. So, let us dare to yearn, to plan, to pray, and to work for the birth of the kingdom in our midst. There is a light that burns within us to keep us keeping on. It focuses our energy like

a magnifying glass focusing on the sun. Some days it's dim, some days bright, but always deep within our lives, is that which makes each of us do what we do as individuals and as a church. It is called hope.

~Written by Rev. Pamela Pendexter

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