Reflection for Monday, November 6, 2023

When friends or fellow clergy come to visit the church, they invariably comment on how large our church campus is—and how attractive. I really enjoy O.C.C. as a community resource that draws in all sorts of people. There’s a couple from Orinda Senior Village who do Tai Chi in the breezeway every day. Once a week Frog Hollow Farms delivers local organic produce. Wednesday nights a robust A.A. meeting uses the fellowship hall while Voci rehearses down in the music room, and the Boy Scouts meet not just in the fellowship hall but also up on the hill.

As you may know, TOPS has been operating a preschool on the property since 1938. I often hear people talk about having gone to preschool there themselves and then having their children or grandchildren go there as well. Anna and I sometimes have the pleasure of overhearing bits of conversation as little people walk by with their parents. My favorite might be the child who spontaneously said to a parent, “You know what? I love you.”

And there’s nothing quite like walking into the sanctuary in the afternoon and hearing a drummer jamming from the basement of Holden. I am so glad that we have folks of all ages as part of our larger community, and I love it when we get to celebrate them. So get ready for Holden Sunday on November 12. This is a Sunday when we get to hear from Holden students, parents, and staff and give thanks that Holden provides a safe and nourishing educational haven for people navigating the challenges of youth.

I always look forward to Holden Sunday, and so I’m sorry to say that I will miss it this year while I am on vacation. I give great thanks to Kurt Sunderbruch for preaching the two Sundays I will be away—with some surprise guests on the 19th.

Blessings to you during November. I like to think of the whole month as a time to reflect in gratitude and I am certainly grateful for you.

In faith,

Elizabeth

Announcements

During the next two weeks, centering prayer will continue to meet on Monday mornings at 9:30, but without Elizabeth. Anna will be unlocking the chapel.

On Wednesdays for the next two weeks, the contemplative service will continue to go out in Eblasts, but Elizabeth will not be present in the chapel at 10:00 a.m. Instead, Anna will unlock the chapel and bring paper copies of the service for any who attend.