



MATTHIAS MIDWEEK

Inspired by the life and compassion of Jesus Christ,
We are a church of action in our community, engaging in
Hospitality by offering bread for body and soul

REFLECTION FROM ANN+

I don't usually do this: talk about a book before I've read more than a few pages. But yesterday I picked up the book St. Matthias' book group is reading for our next meeting in the middle of February. It's entitled *The Road to Character* and it is by David Brooks, who is an op-ed columnist for the New York Times, and appears weekly on programs like PBS NewsHour and Meet the Press. Those credentials suggest that he is another liberal member of the press, but David Brooks calls himself a conservative and his interests and scope range far outside politics. I have long admired him and looked forward to reading his books. Before now, I have saved an occasional editorial or two, only to file them away weeks later and never see them again.

But I think I can keep track of this one -- not only because it's bigger and sturdier, but because it seems so profoundly wise. I was/am hooked by the first paragraph:

"Recently I've been thinking about the difference between the resume virtues and the eulogy virtues. The resume virtues are the ones you list on your resume, the skills that you bring to the job market and that contribute to external success. The eulogy virtues are deeper. They're the virtues that get talked about at your funeral, the ones that exist at the core of your being -- whether you are kind, brave, honest or faithful; what kinds of relationships you formed". (p. XI)

Brooks goes on (in the first chapter) to explore the two opposing sides of our nature that he finds in the 2 accounts of creation in Genesis, (ie. Genesis 1:26-31/ Gen. 2: 4-14) With that Biblical source in mind, he labels these two contradictory sides 'Adam I' and 'Adam II' (because Eve had yet to appear on the scene.) Adam I is "outer, majestic", while Adam II is "inner and humble". As a result we always "caught in self-contradiction".

It is Adam II which interests Brooks and in the rest of his book he describes a diverse group of people -- "black, white, male and female, religious and secular, literary and non-literary" -- who have managed to integrate their lives.

These are people who have built a strong inner character, who have achieved a certain depth. In these people, at the end of this struggle, the climb to success has surrendered to the struggle to deepen the soul. "After a life of seeking balance, Adam I bows down before Adam II. These are the people we are looking for."(p. XVII)

As I admitted at the start, I haven't read any further than this, but I intend to. And I hope some of you will join me. I think it will make for a good discussion as we head into this particular new year.

ANN+

HAPPENINGS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12:
6:30 PM: AA Meeting, Parish Hall
7:30 PM: Choir Practice, Sanctuary

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14:
9:30 AM: Vestry Meeting, Undercroft
11:30 AM: Morning Prayer, Sanctuary
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM:
Loaves & Fishes, Parish Hall

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15;
Celebration of Martin Luther King Day
Readings:
Isaiah 49: 1-7
Psalm 40: 1-12
1 Corinthians 1: 1-9
John 1: 29-42

10:45am: Fellowship & SOS in Parish Hall

11:30 AM: Rebirth Worship
1:30 PM: Renewed Minds Worship

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17:
6:30 PM, Parish Hall

FUNdraising Meeting. All are welcome! Bring your exciting ideas about how to raise money in 2017 & interact with our church & neighborhood communities.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18:
10:00 AM: Morning Prayer
10:30 AM: Wondering with the Word
4:30 PM: PEEL Meeting

OUR PRAYERS

Danielle Mamalis

Marcus

Mel Berk

Ellen Berk

Sylvia Hooper

Inauguration of a new U.S. President -
supporters and opponents