



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 LINDA

Last Sunday, Rev. Ann spoke about "woo-woo moments" in the Bible that make hyper-rational people very uncomfortable because they talk about "touchdown moments", moments when the glory of God is certifiably visible, moments when the holiness of God touches down in our midst and changes everything. Sunday's readings talked about two touchdown moments. The first was from the book of Exodus. At Mt. Sinai, Moses came down from the mountain with two tablets of the 10 commandments. He did not realize that his face was aglow -- his whole being had taken on an amazing translucence because he had been talking with God, face to face. The second was from the gospel of Luke. Peter, James and John were on a mountain top with Jesus. As Jesus prayed, his face and body became dazzling. Another touchdown moment.

Rev. Ann quoted from 2 Corinthians, "All of us...seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another." When she quoted that passage, I missed the implications of that quote. I didn't realize what it meant until I had two experiences that reflected God's glory "as though reflected in a mirror" and as a result, I was transformed into the same image.

First, my day began with worries about going on a remote vacation with our twin 4 ½ year old granddaughters and 6 ½ year old grandson. My worries ranged from the effects on Geoff, and concern that the sitters we hired from the small town might not show up, to the water leak that we discovered that was gushing and making our lawn a swamp. I pushed myself to go to the gym where I had a conversation with a woman whose face shone. She shared her story with me. Her only child, a son, had died last March. Her husband had died when the son was 11 years old and she raised her son by herself. In the midst of that, she developed a heart condition and needed a procedure. Because of her health, in June, she moved, after 45 years, to Oakcrest. And, as if that weren't enough, she fell and had to have her hip replaced in April. When I looked concerned for her, she patted me on the arm and said that her daughter-in-law and her grandchildren were helping her through all of that -- and she added, God is good. Her face glowed with the certainty of God's presence. I felt transformed. A touchdown moment.

Later, I had lunch with a friend who is considering becoming a deacon. As she related her experiences recently where she felt God's presence, I felt an intense peace, a sense of calmness and awareness that the Holy Spirit was with us as we talked. Another touchdown moment.

I doubt that I would have been able to appreciate those moments had Rev. Ann not talked about touchdown moments. My sense is that they have been happening all of the time and I just haven't noticed. What a gift it was for me to feel them and experience a transformation in what I would have called "ordinary" in the past. Do we allow ourselves to savor and experience our touchdown moments? Or do we just rush on, trying to get our chores done. God is with us in our daily lives. What if we tried to look for and enjoy our touchdown moments where God's glory is reflected. It just might change our lives.

LINDA

THIS WEEK

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12:

11:30 AM: Noonday Prayer, Sanctuary
11:00 AM- 2:00 PM: Loaves & Fishes, Parish Hall

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13:

10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
9:30 AM: St. Matthias Worship

11:30 AM: Rebirth Worship

1:30 PM: Renewed Minds Worship followed by
Brotherhood Fish Fry

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15: 7:00 PM:

Renewed Minds, 'Healthy Exchange'

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16

No Morning Prayer/Wondering with the Word
On hiatus until August 30

COMING UP:

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20: 9:30 AM

Guest Preacher - Rev. Josh Rodriquez

OUR PRAYERS

Marilyn & Pat Prescott

Leon Harper

Ann Morton

Carlton Moore

Otis Cutler

Sylvia Hooper

Bill Vickers - Sandy Ashe's brother

Sue Small's Aunt Lois, who just turned 100

Marge, who is homeless

Peace in East Asia

MELVIN BERK MEMORIAL FUND

I would like to announce that the proceeds of the Melvin Berk Memorial fund have been given to St. Matthias to help fund the cages that are being fabricated and installed around the new air conditioning units on the Parish Hall roof to discourage vandalism.

We are so pleased because it's exactly the kind of project that would interest Mel. He was so essential to the maintenance of our Buildings & Grounds for so many decades. We are grateful for Mel's family's generosity.