

Polly's Pondering

Do you hear the music... "His Oath, His covenant, His blood support me in the whelming flood. When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. On Christ the solid rock I stand. All other ground is sinking sand. All other ground is sinking sand."

Have you ever encountered a time in your life when you were trying frantically to get a solid footing under you? When nothing seemed safe and secure? When you felt a bit like you were running in place and getting nowhere? Or that the foundation under you was giving way to the storm that was brewing?

I have a picture image of my dad in a swimming pool on top of a huge log, working frantically to stay balanced and out of the water. Weird I know. It was an advertising thing to draw people to my uncle's mobile home sales lot. The image was captured in a picture printed in the local newspaper. I have another picture image in my mind. This time it is an image of Peter desperately trying to get his footing as the waves are growing stronger and the boat is being tossed around. His face carries a bit of the fear and uncertainty that is rising.

Paul Dailey writes in his article entitled "Stepping Into Your New Season" that Peter was very much like my Dad struggling for footing on the log in the midst of the water. He notes that Peter had a choice to make at that moment. He could either stay in the boat in the only place of security that was known to him, even though it seemed to be in an unsafe situation, or he could step out of the boat onto a foreign foundation built on trust in the one who was calling him out into the raging waters. You can't do that sort of thing "half-way" says Dailey. You must be all in! Trust requires that sort of thing.

Our District Superintendent is retiring this Annual Conference. She will be stepping out of the place of serving where she has found secure footing and following Christ into yet again new and unknown places. There is always a bit of fear in those transitions. I know you will be offering up prayers for her as she moves on to discover the new adventures that God has waiting for her.

We, to are preparing as a denomination to move into uncharted waters. To seek a way out of the storm that has been raging in our denomination for more than 40 years. Our Annual Conference is being held at the end of May and there are decisions to be made. Will the conference continue to be associated with the United Methodist Church as it moves in a new direction, or will we decide as a conference to step out in faith to a new chartered course that will more closely align with our understanding of the authority of scripture and the Wesleyan heritage we have come to love? Our Texas Annual Conference needs to be bathed in prayer and I am asking every member of this church family to begin praying for God's guidance for not only The United Methodist Denomination as a whole, not only for the Texas Annual Conference to which we belong, but for our own church family as well. There will be a bit of fear and uncertainty involved. We may feel a bit unsteady struggling to find our footing. And yet we as a congregation are determined to step out of the boat with confidence to follow our Lord where he calls. We will not do it half-way. And I trust that if we will pray and listen carefully for God's leading, we will discover, just like Peter did so long ago, that it is when we leave the security of the boat that we find we are stepping onto the solid rock, Jesus Christ, who is our sure foundation.

So let me ask you again, are you running in place getting nowhere, are you frantically trying to get your footing? Step out of the boat. And when you do you will discover as Paul Dailey writes, "God will never allow you to utterly fall when you are living by faith." He will reach out and pull you up and place you on the solid rock.

Do you hear the music..."You call me out upon the waters, the great unknown where feet may fail. And there I find You in the mystery. In oceans deep my faith will stand. And I will call upon Your name. And keep my eyes above waves. When oceans rise. My soul will rest in Your embrace. For I am Yours and You are mine...."