



Monday Musing: October 7, 2024.  
Memories...

Have you ever noticed that when Facebook gives you one of those memory posts, of something you did or posted 5 or 10 years ago, you suddenly find yourself headed down the memory lane of photos reminiscing that part of your journey? Or perhaps you go to a friend's house, and they bring out a photo album, those old book-like things people use to keep for photos (and yes, I have a great number of them, organized, labelled and dated!). I find photos are like a stitch in the past, and when we pull one, the thread gathers together others, and off I go on a memory adventure. That's what happened the other day. Facebook reminded me of Bianca, my favourite goat on the farm I worked on for 5 years. Those 5 years were important to me. They changed my life. And they are part of my life story.

What places in your history are an important part of your life story? How did they, or do they still, impact you in such a way that they did or are changing your life, that is, maybe your beliefs, dreams, trajectory?

Sometimes, I find it is not the pictures so much as the stories the pictures tell of another time and with whom I share the stories. The farm is the place that Karen and I share and have pictures and stories to tell of all that we experienced - five years of making memories, doing things we never thought we'd do, learning and growing, becoming close friends too.

For those of us who have had a life, or part of our lives, in churches, we have stories to tell. We have stories and memories of times we have shared. We have pictures too that trigger the stories and the memories. Not all stories of our lives are happy stories, but they are what make up the journey and they are a part of what make us who we are today.

My earliest childhood church memories, about three memories only, are not happy ones. My high school church memories mostly are. That was quite a time learning about life and death. My Mom-years of church with the kids are fantastic memories and stories. And since 1998, when my journey into ministry began, the memories and stories are like everyone's, with good times, sad times, frustrating times, blessed times too. All the memories, the pictures and the stories make us who we are and tell the history of our time.

St. Andrew's United has been my church home and family since March 2023. SAUC (!) is approaching 190 years. We're celebrating this milestone of history on the weekend of October 25, 26, and 27. We're getting our house in tip top shape. We have activities planned. We have a video of faces before and now. We have old photos ready for the tables and other memorabilia too. We are looking forward to sharing our memories and our stories together and, of course, lots of food too!

So please look for your invitation for the celebration, or call the office, or me to get one. Plan to share some time together. Bring what you can, show and tell style, to the various opportunities we will have to do so. You're a part of our story. And we are part of yours.

We have a great story to tell together. We have much to be thankful for through our years together too. Friends, family, faith, laughter, tears, service, songs – it is all who we have been and who we are. It's what we carry into the future.

Won't you join us?

Peace always,

Rev. Deb Foster, Minister, St. Andrew's United Church, Markham

905-294-0351

[minister@standrewsmarkham.com](mailto:minister@standrewsmarkham.com)

Prayer

God of the story, God of the memory,  
You journey with us through time,  
Through our lives, sometimes near, sometimes far,  
Yet always there.  
You are part of our story.  
We are part of your story.  
With those of the past, with the stories of the scriptures,  
and the stories we have to tell,  
The stories paint the pictures for our minds,  
Of what it is to know faith, to know love, to know home.  
In what was, and is, and what will be,  
You are God of the story.  
Amen.



Scripture this Week

Joel 2:21-27	Do not fear, O soil, for God will provide.
Psalms 126	Those who sow in tears reap in joy.
1 Timothy 2:1-7	Offer prayers for everyone.
Matthew 6:25-33	Do not worry about what you will eat or drink.

TR Question (theological reflection)

Where has God been throughout your life story? Have you always noticed?