



Monday Musing: September 21st, 2026.
Dizzying...

I've always loved to spin in my office chairs, no matter where I've worked, and at home too. Feet tucked up under me, I spin first to the right, then to the left to unwind the dizziness. As I was spinning the other day, my eyes landed on this picture on my bookshelf. It's me. According to the tiny black print on the side, it was 1961. I was 2. And look at that! Purse, pose, and now what about the shoes?

As I waited for the dizziness to subside, I began to wonder what I might have been thinking back then, and what I might have imagined about the world and life ahead. Have you ever looked into the eyes of your younger self in a photo and wondered, "What was I thinking? What did I believe?"

That little girl had no idea what lie ahead in life, in learning and growing up, and all the experiences she was about to have. She had no idea of how the world would shape her and how she would have to adapt through the years!

Last night I watched a documentary on the making of the 1960s sitcom *Bewitched*. This charming comedy of a suburban family with a witch for a wife and an ad-man for a husband, first aired in 1964 and it lasted till 1972. I grew up on Samantha Stevens, the lovely, charming, beautiful witch. I also grew up on Glynda, the witch of the North from the *Wizard of Oz*. So, my life long desire to be a witch and make things better in the world comes from my childhood. I just never grew out of it!

As the documentary took the viewer through the years of *Bewitched*, it also spoke about the happenings in the world. The sitcom was one of the highest rated and most watched during the 1960s when family sitcoms were popular, when families would watch them together. They were wholesome, reflecting the American Dream, and they were comfortable. But by the 1970s, the reality on the news was a dizzying display of the horrors of the Viet Nam War and social issues from smoking to women's rights to racism. Television began to change. *All in the Family* addressed these issues. While Gloria and Meathead challenged Archie on his prejudice and mean treatment of Edith, the writers of *Bewitched* tried to shift similarly, but the underlying story of the suburban family of the 1960s just wasn't going to make it. Without being able to shift gears, respond, adapt and change to remain meaningful to the next generation, the beloved *Bewitched* programme went off the air.

Looking at our own lives through the decades, each of us has had to learn and grow and experience changes in television and music, from major furniture pieces to ipods

and streaming services. We've changed our hair styles, clothes, shoes and cars. Oh, it isn't easy sometimes, when we love a particular time, or way of life. But without changing, well we either stick out like a sore thumb, or we become a part of the past – a reflection of time gone by.

Obviously, I still watch *Bewitched* episodes because they bring back really sweet memories and feel-good moments like some of those clothes still hanging in the back of my closet. I don't like how Samantha kept trying to give up who she really was in order to accommodate the expectations of her human husband. But I still laugh with the magic. As for the little girl in the picture, she would change her dress, purse and pose, many times through the years. And what she saw and imagined through those young eyes would change too. Time and experience and years affect us and shape us. And we adapt and change. We have to. So, to be a witch now, for me, would mean super charging my broom stick, painting it red, and buying new shoes to match. How about you?

Prayer

Holy God of birth, of life, of death too,
Guide us with wisdom to know
That which we need to hold onto,
And that which we need to let go.
Amen.

Scripture this Week from the Lectionary

Exodus 17:1-17 Water flows from the rock for the thirsty people.
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 God has done marvelous things.
Philippians 2:1-13 Let the same mind be in you that was in Jesus.
Matthew 21:23-32 By what authority does Jesus act and teach?

TR Question (theological reflection)

How has your understanding of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit changed, or not, through your life? Has it been a dizzying journey? What leads a church to 'go off the air'?

As the trees let go of their leaves, may you, and we become aware of that which we must let go too. Letting go makes room for new life in the spring,

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