



September 2020

Romans 8

*I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory to be revealed to us. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains; and not only the creation, but we ourselves who wait for adoption. The Spirit helps us in our weakness; we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. We know all things work together for good for those who love God, called according to his purpose. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?*

*We live in interesting times. It's important how we respond to these challenges. We are in state of ongoing change. The power of stories remain the key to our success. The play is the thing. - DAN GLICKMAN*

Dear Bethany

Challenges, fragility, mortality, are all part and parcel of the human experience. The Apostle Paul would frequently remind the various churches he corresponded with, visited with, that their unique challenges were a shared experience, that all believers, all people, face difficult decisions, hardships and ongoing dilemmas. If you think there was ever a time when people were exempt from internal and external threats you need to read more history. And throughout it all there was/is...God, that ongoing comfort, discomfort, reassurance, guidance, and resting space that brings us all together (read John 14 - *In my Father's house there are many rooms*).

These are interesting times. But this is also a time of thanksgiving. I thank God for the Spirit who has interceded for me when I was weak, when I did not know how to pray as I ought, when my sighing was too deep for words. And I thank God for you, for your resiliency, for your faithfulness, for your ongoing connections to one another and to those around you. Early in the pandemic I was particularly moved when those of you in apartments would tell me how you comforted neighbours who were alone, scared and anxious. The little things you said and did that brought life and hope were inspiring to me. And those of you who were prompted to action, to advocate for the poor and the homeless, your actions also brought me a renewed sense of community.

Throughout this pandemic Ann Bradley has coordinated a phone tree of callers who have been keeping in touch. Some of those calls have filtered to me. I have had many a heartbreaking call with persons in hospital or palliative care, all of whom I was not permitted to visit. I know some of you have been frustrated by the lack of in-person visits, worship, community-time and events at the church. We appreciate your patience as we try to respect the health protocols put in place to protect lives. We also have a building that has been under renovation. Again, we all know how anxious some of you are to return and David's letter, included in this mailing, will lay out for you how that is going to happen. There has been a methodical, caring, faith-filled effort by staff, lay-leaders and the work crew here, all trying to be efficient, pastoral and health conscious. In addition I have tried to do my part, since March 15<sup>th</sup> I have sent out a daily email to anyone who has shared with us an email address. I have received many thoughtful replies. Thank you.

Thank you for your prayers, the resources you have shared by way of envelopes dropped off in the mail slot at the church, the PAR givings, and the words of encouragement. My goal has been to be a non-anxious presence, to respond immediately when you reach out to me, and to keep us connected. In these very strange times I am thankful for and to you. Happy Thanksgiving!

Peace, Kevin

Kevin Little, Minister

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And from the desk of the Treasurer

*A very grateful thank you goes out to everyone who has continued to support Bethany financially during this pandemic. It makes a strong statement as to the care and concern we have for our Bethany family. As a result, I am happy to report that we are in a good financial position heading into the fall.*

*We will not be doing a mass mailing of interim contribution statements, but anyone who wishes to have theirs sent out, please contact Tina at 902 455-0521 ext. 3 and she will be happy to look after your request.*

Linda Knechtel, Treasurer

