

Building the Bridge from the Beginning to the Beginning (Genesis to Pentecost)

Today, we end our first foray into what is known as the Biblical Narrative Lectionary with a reading of the Pentecost story in Acts 2.

If you remember, we began were all good stories "In the Beginning", reading Genesis 1.

Over these past 9 months, like crossing a stream by stepping on various rocks, we read through the whole of the Bible by touching on some of the major stories of our faith. We read about the Matriarchs and Patriarchs, the prophets, leading up to the stories of Jesus as told in the Gospel of John.

In my 35 years of ministry, it is the first time I have preached through the whole of the Bible, and one particular Gospel, this one being John.

I am not sure about you, but I loved the challenge of doing so. While I wasn't always happy or inspired by my messages, I did appreciate and enjoy the discipline of reading through larger sections of a story.

These past weeks with the Readers Theatre have been especially meaningful, because we did it together, young and old alike.

For all the years I have been reading scripture and writing sermons, the Biblical Narrative Lectionary, brought me in contact with stories and characters I have often overlooked or ignored in my preaching.

In September, we will once again go back to the beginning, picking up with new stories in Genesis leading us up to a reading of another Gospel and then the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles (Letters) of Paul.

It is appropriate that since we began with the creation story, we conclude with another type of creation story, this one dealing with the creation of a new type of community of faith.

Last summer, I preached on the theology of Dr. Suess and the Psalmist. I am not sure what I will do this summer, but I'm working on it.

However, this morning, I invite you to join me in one more readers theatre, this one about the story of Pentecost as told by Luke in Acts 2: