



The Rev. Alan Sutherland, Rector

November 29, 2009

Advent Sunday 2009

One of my favorite stories is Winnie the Pooh. In the opening lines of the book A A Milner writes 'here is Edward bear coming downstairs now, bump, bump, bump, on the back of his head, behind Christopher Robin. It is, as far as he knows, the only way of coming downstairs but sometimes he feels there is another way.... If only he could stop bumping for a moment and think of it.'

If only he could stop bumping for a moment and think of it.

2 weeks ago I shared with you the last 5 months I have had in my own personal spiritual journey.

A journey that I believe with all my heart that god has called me to St Michaels in Norman Oklahoma.

The reactions of others to that have been from sadness to anger. From an understanding of all our spiritual journeys being of a higher calling, to how dare you leave us? From the accusations of you said you would not leave, to the depth of understanding that no matter what we think, God reminds us in Isaiah 55; 8 my thoughts are not your thoughts and my ways are not your ways- my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.

From the outpouring of love and words of affection, to being ignored completely.

And it seems that some have shared some of this with our bishop and he has written a letter to our vestry which I forwarded this week. Not only did he ask it to be sent to the vestry but he asked that I share it with the congregation this morning. I just want to preface that the bishop will meet with the vestry and I on December 14th. The bishop writes the following letter: [bishopletter112909.pdf](#)

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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It seems we are bumping our heads and I feel there is another way if only we would stop bumping and think of it.

We really do have much to be thankful for. And we need to take to heart the words Jesus read on Thanksgiving Day.

Do not worry about what you wear. Do not worry about what you eat. Do not worry about tomorrow. But seek first the kingdom of god and all these things will be given to you as well. I believe that god has not only restored and renewed St Johns as a vibrant community of faith, but has given us all a glimpse of the kingdom of heaven. I believe that Jesus asks us to trust that because he did assure us he would be with all of us always.

Amen.

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