

Last week we heard Dana speak of his experiences with leading the book discussion on the Art of Possibilities. His retelling of the story of the Monks was apropos for any stewardship discussion. We all have the responsibility for the church's success and this should not fall to a few. Anyone of us has it within us to lead others in this endeavor, we just may not understand or think this at the moment.

At our initial Stewardship meeting a few weeks ago, we wrote a number of words that came from our activity in church about a month ago. These words were on the whiteboard and we discussed the meanings of them as they pertain to us and Trinity. The words Courageous and Hope happen to appear together at the top of the whiteboard, they seemed to flow together. The conversation went from looking at these words as separate entities and instead we looked at them as a concept. So what does this truly mean?

On my way home that evening I had time to mull over this concept of Courageous Hope. What does this mean to me? How does this pertain to my life, my experiences, my faith. I am by no means a deeply philosophical person, I have often been compared to more of a hammer than a deep thinker. As I have become older, relatively speaking, I happen to have become a bit more reflective on my outlook of life. Over the past few years, I have had some significant health issues which have caused me to take some stock in my priorities. I changed jobs and Melissa and I have become empty nesters. By the way, one of us is clearly much more comfortable with this than the other... Regardless, all of these events have forced me to look inward. I have *made* time to be reflective for the first time in years. Subsequently over the next several years, I have many things to look forward to; retirement, our children most likely getting

married and maybe a grandchild or at least a “grand dog”. Tying this to Sarah’s sermon last week, puppies are great when they are not yours or in your house. Throughout this all, I truly have a more positive outlook on life than I did just five years ago.

This extends to my life at Trinity. For many years, Trinity seemed to be on a holding pattern. We have done so many “dig deeps” as a congregation. How many times have we come together to plan our future? From straw polls to stickies on the wall, to surveys, a lot of information has been collected. The Intentional Growth committee and subsequent report was the last one of these to be completed in 2019. This is an excellent document with some sound suggestions for our growth.

With Sarah's arrival this past spring, I am hopeful for the future of Trinity. We have an energy and willingness to try new things. If we can learn anything from COVID, it is that we must be flexible and have a willingness to try other things. Resiliency is the word of the day. From services on Zoom and now Facebook, communion in plastic cups with the “Holy Pop” after folks have consumed, to not giving a hug or handshake at the Peace. This is all new.

So how does being courageous and having hope come into this conversation? When I see Trinity today I see a very different Trinity than when I entered the doors here in 1992. I have to come to grips that this is OK. Over my time at Trinity I have seen families, priests and staff come and go. This is the enviable march of time. How we can embrace this is up to us as a congregation? I see us coming out of COVID with a renewed sense of mission. New folks, new ideas, new energy, new ways of doing this. I must have hope for the future. What we need to have is a courageous group, who all have collective hope. Trinity is so much more than this beautiful building, it is a group of

wonderful people who... if they have the courage to lead... then there is hope. Let go forth together in Christ's name. This is courageous hope.