

“Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people” Luke 5:10

Dear Friends;

I pray this letter finds you safe and warm having braved some of the temperatures and tempests of a New England winter! I give thanks to be among you and learn from you.

This Sunday we will be listening to the Gospel of Luke and the quote above which was spoken by Jesus to Simon after the famous fishing lesson and recasting of nets. With Jesus' help Luke went from empty nets to nets abundantly full!

“Catching people” always reminds me of Henri Nouwen who had a passion for trapeze artistry. He even took time to travel with a famous trapeze troupe! Upon reflecting on his time with these brave creative souls he concluded that there are two types of people: catchers and flyers! Moreover, in our relationship with God, God catches us; we are the flyers! This is an eternal truth!

The counterintuitive part of trapeze catching and flying is that the flyer **must not** try to grab the catcher. The flyer must completely trust that the catcher will do her job. Otherwise disaster ensues. Catchers catch; flyers fly!

We often forget this in our life with God! We get to that point of surrender, of letting go, and we cannot quite cease to strive to insure our success with a little effort or control of our own....Silly humans!

Yet it seems to me that the power of Luke's Gospel story, and the entire Gospel really, is that with God's help and trusting in God's mercy we move from emptiness to fullness in all aspects of life.

Trust in God whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can do ourselves. Cast your nets differently and you may be surprised by abundant joy!

Be blessed, be warm, be safe,

Martha

P.S. I look forward to my first annual meeting with you this Sunday February 10 after the service.