



First United Methodist

Become a part of God's family at First UMC

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*Vision: Hamilton First: a growing extended family sharing Christ's love
in the heart of the city (A United Methodist Congregation)
Mission: To Know Christ and Make Him Known in the World*

July 15, 2010

Hi Friends,

How is your summer going? Are you getting enough hot weather to complain about, whoops, I meant to say enjoy.

This week, as I write to you, I sit in the dentist's office. I arrived early because I came with Ken, my husband. His appointment was first, so I have time to write to you. I also had time to take a short nap in the car and wake up slower (what a pleasure). As I woke up, I noticed the yard next to the dentist's. It was lovely. There were begonias in groups of pink and white. There was an arbor seat with vines growing over it. It was such a nice picture of tranquility, attention to details and beauty. I felt peace. I felt God's presence. The picture helped me to think about this week's scripture.

We have the familiar story of Mary and Martha. We all know the story of Martha who is working hard in the kitchen to prepare a meal for Jesus and the disciples, and Mary who sits at Jesus' feet to hear with Jesus has to say. We remember how Martha was rebuked for asking that Mary be scolded for not helping the busy Martha. Too many people remember the words to Martha. They remember with pain and embarrassment, "Mary has chosen the better part."

Does that mean that those of us who have been like Martha have no part in Jesus' time? How were Jesus and the disciples supposed to get to eat? What does God say to us about our "busyness?"

As I sat and looked at the arbor and flowers I felt relaxed. God was in God's right place and while all was not right with the world, together God and I would deal with whatever we needed to.

This is what Jesus is trying to offer to us in that scripture. It is not a condemnation of Martha and her work, just a reminder that there is a better part to life than always being busy, always working. God wants time with us! Jesus wanted to talk with Mary without her running around doing things. How much more we feel listened to when an individual stops what they are doing and gives us their full attention.

Two things to take from what I have shared. First, be sure and take time for God each day, even if it is only a few moments. Take time to see God – who God really is, and be thankful, be at peace. Second, give the attention to another person that Mary gave to Jesus. Really listen to them. It might be their best experience of God all week.

We can be busy or we can be relaxed. God is in both places. The question is to make sure we see God's presence. Have a good week with God. Have a good walk with God this week, whether busy or relaxed, but do what you usually don't do to have that good walk with God.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peggy".

Rev. Peggy