

Advent II: Scrambling FAITHFULLY...to get ready

(An Advent reflection by DDee Reed)

This *Advent* reflection emerged with a feeling of being “wrestled from the bushes.” The story began with Fr. Pierre-Henri’s wishful request in the fall for parishioner written Advent and future Lenten reflections for the Epistle. The reason, he told me, was the new gathering of writers in St. Luke’s congregation.

“Carte blanche,” he said. “I trust you...and by the way...bushes in French is Buisson.”

His “call” has been an Advent experience for me. I interviewed like the high school journalist I really was as a youth. I searched for the story about where, what, when and how St. Luke’s parish will gather to worship, give and reflect. In the end, my job was to type plain, discovered information and descriptions into a Advent brochure.

One theme in the Biblical scripture and gospel set for all year cycles in the BCP {Book of Common Prayer} is **watchfulness**. Getting ready to receive a God’s wisdom and presence, not just “trying” but really doing it. Preparing the circle of candles to light, setting aside the daily moments for simple prayer; then striking many matches through December as each candle repeats the inspiring story!

Many acts of both kindness and challenge encouraged the *scrambly* writing adventure. It was a daring way, I now realize, to “out” the lifelong poet and writer. That would be me. Relying on the way of prayer in Advent fits a need to start anew and to stay with the simple and humble...long awaited, humble and coming through much darkness and doubt.

Isaiah 9:2, 3a: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who lived in a land as dark as death a light has dawned. You have increased their joy and given them great gladness.