ARISE
PORTLAND

Surprising Growth
by The Rev. Katie Holicky

Last week I was basking in awe of all my little container garden has become this summer. I took time to read up a bit more, to get some really good soil, and have kept a strict routine of watering and fertilizing. I noticed fourteen little tomatoes growing on one plant alone! As I stood taking in all the glory of my veggies, feeling proud and accomplished that in my care and learning I had really done something with this small section of our driveway that has burst forth into our tiny urban farm.

Then, I looked at the stairs of my back porch and noticed a single forgotten clay pot. I had intended to get one more plant to attract pollinators, another strategic gardening move, yet, life happened and the pot had remained empty. It was empty no more. A single tiny basil plant had sprung up. I had not watered or fertilized it. In looking with wonder at this tiny plant I realized when I had plucked the tops off of my flowering basil one must have been caught in the wind and found its way into the lone forgotten pot... growing all on its own.

It was just the lesson I needed. A little reminder that growth happens in surprising and unexpected ways. Sometimes we spend a lot of time and energy tending to the things that we want to grow. And sometimes in the places we least expect… something takes root and begins to grow. I am thankful for that little basil plant and I look forward to all it will continue to give me. I hold fast to keeping my heart open to the possibility of growth and the newness of life in the expected and unexpected places of life.

Questions for Reflection:

What have you been tending in your “garden”? What has it felt like? What has helped you sustain?

What surprising places of growth have you seen lately?

How might you stay open to the expected and unexpected places that may foster your growth?