



Breaking Bread

KAIROS

The Voice of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary Students

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AUSTIN PRESBYTERIAN
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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Inside: poetry, reflections,
recipes, and more!

Editor

Sheth LaRue, Senior MDiv.

Sheth was born at a young age and has been introverted and underconfident for most of his life (except for a brief period from August 18 to August 23, 1997). Avid fan of pie and Led Zeppelin. The most famous person he ever met is a tie between Barry Lopez and Rich Karlis, neither of which are very famous. He wants humanity to be nicer, kinder, and more loving. And to laugh more. Fears spiders.



Designer

Reba Balint, Middler MDiv.

Reba is an AYAVA Alum and still trying to figure out this whole vocational thing. She loves denim jackets and music she wasn't yet alive to originally listen to. She believes in sharing cheerfulness whenever possible. Has deep respect/fears for bees.

KAIROS SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Kairos is the voice of the students at Austin Seminary and will publish content that contributes to the faith conversation on the APTS campus. Students, partners of students, on-campus family members, faculty and staff are welcomed to contribute submissions. Remember that we are a Beloved Community - this does not mean that you can't express a negative opinion, but it does mean that you should express it in a loving and just way. Content which attacks individuals or groups will not be run in Kairos - this is to be distinguished from content which might criticize the actions of individuals or groups.

While we are tolerant of many things, we will not tolerate:

- Openly hostile language, especially when directed at God, the Bible, the Church, other faiths, APTS, or any member of the Seminary
- Slurs against any person or group;
- Racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, anti-religious, or bigoted language of any kind;
- Language that contains slander or defamation;
- Excessive foul language (if you have a good reason for using said language, please speak with us first and we may need to also speak with the Dean of Students);
- Lewd or inappropriate pictures

If you submit something that violates these guidelines or community guidelines we will talk with you about it first, yet we reserve the right to censor your piece or to reject it altogether. When submitting, please identify yourself by including your name and date of graduation and/or your position in the Seminary. No anonymous work will be published.

While Kairos generally carries no advertisements for sale of goods or services by individuals, exceptions may be made for the sale of a student or professor's library or other study aids. It is not possible to make all program announcements which are submitted, but Kairos will do its best to include them if provided in a reasonable time frame.

Please send submissions to:
sheth.larue@student.austinseminary.edu

Koinonia - Courtney Veazey, Junior MDiv.

I love stories, and I love tables. I was not raised in a religious household, but one of our practices as a family was to sit at the dinner table each night, be present with each other, and share our days with one another. We also started each meal with grace - "God is great. God is good. Let us thank Him for our food. Amen." Memory reminds me that, typically, I was the one in our family of four who said the prayer of grace for us.

My hope for Koinonia for 2019 - 2020 is that we can come and be at table with one another. I hope for a sacred time of meal sharing, storytelling, and listening in which we are spiritually and emotionally nourished. I hope that during these Tuesday lunches our distractions float away, and we wholeheartedly engage with one another.

Psalm 78:18 speaks to when the Israelites asked if God can spread a table in the wilderness. Friends, I don't know about you, but for me, seminary is quite the wilderness. It's a threshold - a place of change and growth - a place of uncertainty as I think through my spiritual beliefs and as I wonder what in the world it means to be called here - to this place - in this time.

Koinonia is therefore time for us to gather together to boldly claim and remind ourselves that God does indeed spread a table in the wilderness. Especially as we intentionally commune with our siblings in Christ and our siblings from other faith traditions.

This spreading of the table will look different each week. First, the setup in Stotts with the dividers physically reminds us that this time together is something different from the other days of the week. Second, the programming each week will take shape in different ways. (Although it will always begin with a prayer to center ourselves.)

Here are some upcoming Koinonias:

Tuesday, Nov. 19 Tree of Life Mosaic Project

Tuesday, Nov. 20 Spiritual Practices of St. Ignatius

Some additional ideas (but no dates yet): a lunch of hymns, art and spirituality, enneagram discussion, sharing of spiritual practices, session on self-care. If you are interested in leading a Koinonia - either an activity or a prayer or both - please let me know. Or if you don't want to lead but have any ideas for our time together at table, please let me know that also. My prayer is that Koinonia nourishes us and transforms us as we intentionally take the time to notice God's abundant love present in this wilderness.

May we always give birth to heaven on earth by feeding one another.

Recipe: - Julia Burkley, Junior MDiv.

Yeast,
consuming sugar
swimming in warm water.
a bath of life. They will only know this
small clear container
that has a home in my fridge.
Given from a friend's grandmother
this is an organism that has seen many
fridges, fed many
people.
It's time for
you to feed it.
Mix it.
Use it.

Flour,
combined with
butter, melted from a spin in
an electrical box,
salt and sugar and
the living yeast.
mixed with a wooden spoon
taken from my mother's
drawer. the same spoon
used to make Christmas cookies
and birthday cakes and
a childhood.
mix it.
use your fingers. Flour
will be under your nails
on the floor
In your hair.

Go to sleep.

Let the
yeast work the night shift.
In the morning, see what
mystic occurrence has happened.
push one finger down
the center like
play dough
this dough will
sigh.
It is tired.
turn it out. it is time for your
work. the texture
will change beneath your
palms. the flour will
strengthen and feel like
skin
against yours.

The yeast must work again
before it goes into
its resting place
the oven hot expanding steam
into the crevices it
has made, finishing its work.
my apartment filling with the smell of
my grandmother's house and
your me-maw's. A smell
of time and effort
and love. A little acidity
mixed with toasted flour
and memories that you
wish you had.

The final step.
Friends to share the magic

and butter.

A Playlist for Your Thanksgiving Dinner -
Brendan McLean, Senior MDiv.

Forever Young (Planet Waves Album Version) - Bob Dylan. A Thanksgiving prayer for the denial of growing another year older or, just maybe, for continued hope (being "forever young").

Seventeen - Sharon Van Etten. For your bittersweet nostalgia of visiting home, but also feeling pretty damn happy about not being seventeen anymore.

Hey, Ma - Bon Iver. For the times when you, like me, aren't home for Thanksgiving and want to give your mom a phone call. I'll be right back.

Hey Stranger - Mandolin Orange. A great reminder that, for many, the holidays are tough and fraught with bad memories, allowing for a moment of naming and solidarity.

Road - Nick Drake. A traveling prayer for all of us on the road for the holiday and, like the rest of Nick Drake's album Pink Moon, great music for these road trips.

Agape (from the film If Beale Street Could Talk) - Nicholas Britell. For the times when you need your space to be introspective, gather your thoughts, wonder about the beauty or chaos of coming home from the holidays, or watch this film (it is really a gorgeous movie and great for a fall viewing).

(No One Knows Me) Like the Piano - Sampha. The most personal song on this playlist, as I find a moment everyday when I am home for a holiday to spend at the piano in my mother's home where I learned to play. For your "piano" (whatever it may be) at your parent's house that has known you since you were young.

Make Our Own Way - Little Brutes. Not for the families we were born into, but for the families we have created or joined in love and community with each other.



The Weight - Aretha Franklin. I just feel like every playlist needs to include a little bit of the Queen of Soul. For the times when you feel like you are getting too much of your family, but you also don't really need a reason to let Aretha in your ears.

Silent Night - Alexi Murdoch. A peaceful reminder of the season of Advent right around the corner. Also not a bad song to play right as you're falling asleep. Good night, glad you're here, and see you tomorrow.

Reflections - Reba Balint, MDiv Middler

I Am Offering this Poem

By Jimmy Santiago Baca

I am offering this poem to you,
since I have nothing else to give.
Keep it like a warm coat
when winter comes to cover you,
or like a pair of thick socks
the cold cannot bite through,

I love you,

I have nothing else to give you,
so it is a pot full of yellow corn
to warm your belly in winter,
it is a scarf for your head, to wear
over your hair, to tie up around your face,

I love you,

Keep it, treasure this as you would
if you were lost, needing direction,
in the wilderness life becomes when mature;
and in the corner of your drawer,
tucked away like a cabin or hogan
in dense trees, come knocking,
and I will answer, give you directions,
and let you warm yourself by this fire,
rest by this fire, and make you feel safe

I love you,

It's all I have to give,
and all anyone needs to live,
and to go on living inside,
when the world outside
no longer cares if you live or die;
remember,

I love you.

Galatians 6:1-6

It goes on to say,

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way,
you will fulfill the law of Christ."

But a few lines later...

"For all must carry their own loads."

This relationship between Galatians 6 and the poem by Jimmy Baca was the inspiration for my final sermon of this semester. (Which was the second sermon I've ever written.) These contradictory verses forced me to reflect on my own relationship between having nothing else to give and needing anything to live. I'm grateful for the experience of writing and preaching this sermon. Grateful because it was a sermon that I needed to hear. To be reminded that I can accept a pot of yellow corn and reminded that I can offer a pair of thick socks.



Let's Talk About Death, Baby -
Chelsea May Law, Senior MDiv.

As the holiday season approaches, many of us will see family and friends that we dearly love. And these are the people who will likely die between Christmas Day and New Year's Day¹ During those two weeks there's a substantial increase in death (4.2%)² especially in "circulatory diseases; neoplasms; respiratory diseases; endocrine/ nutritional/ metabolic diseases; [and] digestive diseases."³ These increases are arguably due to terminally ill patients 'holding on' to see their family and friends⁴ or because they are putting off seeking treatment so they can spend time with their loved ones. The central focus of the increase in deaths during the holidays is on loved ones.⁵

People want to keep the peace and enjoy those holiday moments by holding on as long as possible. But death still happens, and these sudden events can be disruptive, not just to the holiday festivities, but to the lives of those left making critical medical decisions and choices after death.

What can you do to help prepare yourselves and your loved ones? Have the conversations. Talk about what is important if there were a medical emergency. Ask about advance directives and funeral arrangements as these can be especially sensitive - but vitally important - conversations for families to have. Thanksgiving is a great time to start these conversations! Be the family member that brings up death! (No, seriously, have the conversation!)

Why talk about death? As Christians, death is the completion of our baptism, serving as a reminder of Jesus' resurrection and of our continued life in Christ after death. Even though Christianity is centered on Jesus' death and resurrection, we don't talk about our own deaths out of fear of making someone uncomfortable. But our deaths are inevitable!

We don't want to see our loved ones suffer or die, but that's not always possible. Having the conversations about the "what ifs" around death helps with the grieving process because it allows more space and time for mourning when the time comes, without the stress of planning. These aren't only conversations that should be happening in people's families and close relationships; these are conversations that we as leaders in our churches need to have with our congregants. We need to look at the role the church plays not only in our lives but also in our deaths.

Even if you don't talk with your loved ones about what they

might want, I encourage you to at least begin thinking about what you might want and write it down, or better yet, talk with a loved one. The more we can encourage discussions around death and end-of-life care, the less we will have to deal with when the moments occur.

Below are some useful resources for starting the discussions, what to include in paperwork, and what you should consider in end-of-life care and planning.

<https://theconversationproject.org/>

The 'Conversation Starter Kit' encourages manageable talk about end-of-life care with your loved ones

<https://prepareforyourcare.org>

Download an easy-to-use advance directive for your state; use as a reference for guiding questions; fill out, have it witnessed and notarized for use as a legal document

http://www.gowish.org/staticpages/index.php/the_game

An online version of the card game "Go Wish"; used to help identify the most important things or what might be important during the end-of-life journey, eg: spiritual concerns, financial concerns, hygiene concerns, etc.

http://www.fcactx.org/uploads/8/1/6/9/81698996/2019_fcactx_fh_price_survey.pdf

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Texas's 2019 survey of Austin area funeral costs and services; gives an idea of the actual cost of a funeral.

¹ Jen Christensen, "Why Do More People Die at Christmas, New Year's?" CNN (Cable News Network, December 23, 2013), <https://www.cnn.com/2013/12/23/health/christmas-death-rate/index.html>.

² Ariana Eunjung Cha, "Mystery of the Spike in Deaths between Christmas and New Year's Gets Curiouser and Curiouser," The Washington Post (WP Company, December 22, 2016), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/to-your-health/wp/2016/12/22/mystery-of-spike-in-deaths-between-christmas-and-new-years-gets-curiouser-and-curiouser/>.

³ David Phillips, et al., "Christmas and New Year as risk factors for death," abstract, *Social Science & Medicine* 71, no. 8 (October 2010), doi: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2010.07.024

⁴ Ariana Eunjung Cha, "Mystery of the Spike in Deaths between Christmas and New Year's Gets Curiouser and Curiouser"

⁵ Jen Christensen, "Why Do More People Die at Christmas, New Year's?"

When Conflict Happens

Living in community means that sometimes we will hurt each other or be hurt ourselves. Our Beloved Community Covenant is meant to provide the underlying values that will guide us to reconciliation and re-engagement with each other. We are here to stretch and grow. We are here for hard conversations conducted in an environment of grace. The following provides a framework for approaching conflict in healthy and appropriate ways.

When conflict happens in the classroom:

- Reflect on what just happened. What did you/they say that might have been misunderstood? Was it your/their tone? Why did you/they react so strongly? Are there deeper issues in you/them that are being surfaced? Is it rooted in a difference in culture?
- Respect the other person's right to their opinion without needing to bring them to yours. Can you distinguish the person from the words? From the actions? Can you find something about them to respect or love that could be a starting point for the conversation?
- Reach out to the professor (conversation, email, feedback form) to discuss what happened and get their insight. This may be enough to resolve the issue. If not, reach out to the other person. Have coffee. Tell your story. Listen to them. Talk it out.
- Reconcile with each other. Read the Covenant together before you talk. Make a commitment to each other for how to approach similar discussions in class in a way that honors both of you.
- Re-engage in the discussions in the classroom. Don't withdraw. Relationship and growth always involves risk.

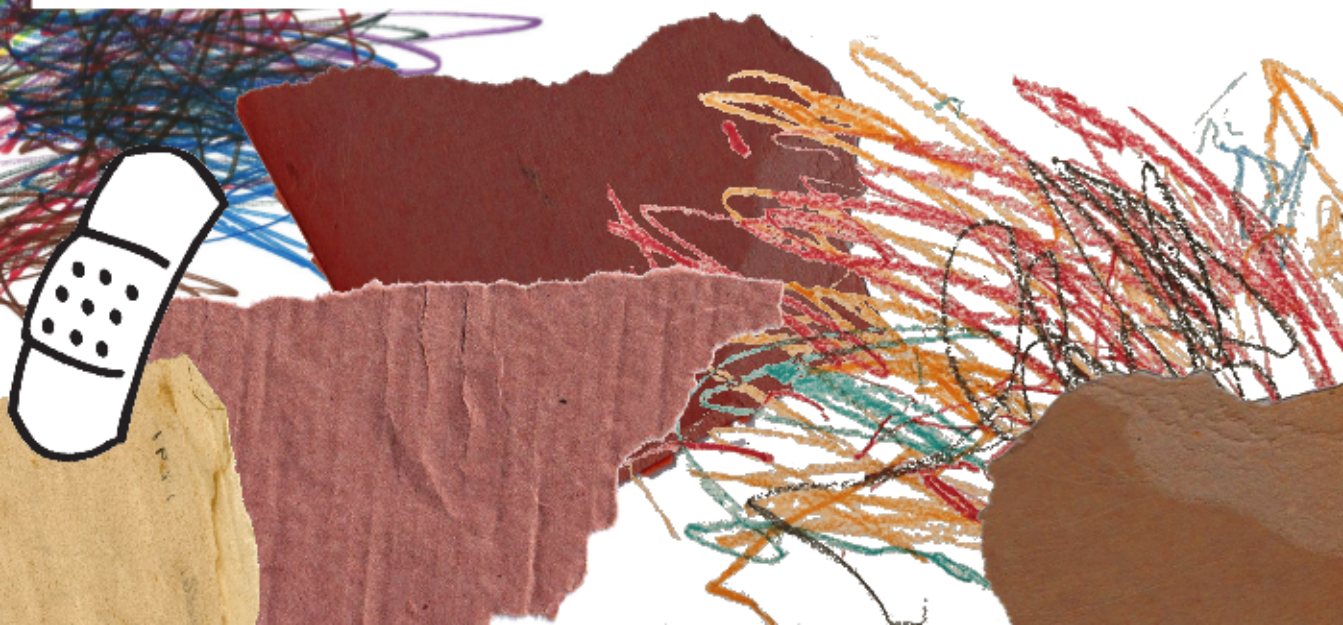
When conflict is interpersonal or involves a deeper sense of woundedness:

- Reflect on why this has hurt you so deeply. Did the other person trigger feelings about situations that have been unresolved in your past? Are you perhaps putting someone else's face on them (transference)? Did they happen to touch on something you are already feeling guilty or vulnerable about?
- Respect your feelings. Don't rush through them. Continue to treat the other person with respect while you work through this. Don't talk about them behind their back.
- Reach out to the student chaplain/Dean. There are resources available to help you figure this out. If this is truly about another person on campus and is not an issue of transference, you may need time and help to get to a place where you can reach out to the other person in a healthy way.
- Reconcile with each other. When you have determined it is safe to do so and you can articulate what needs to be said without attacking the other person, it is time to sit down and talk together. Starting with a prayer can help. Read the Covenant together before you talk. Tell your story. Listen to them. Try the biblical two-step process of going yourself first and then, if that didn't work, setting up a conversation that involves the student chaplain/Dean as moderator. Difficult things may need to be said. Be gentle, but be honest.
- Re-engage in relationship. You don't have to be best friends, but you do need to stay in community and allow the other person that same privilege. Give them another chance.

When conflict is with the institution itself (faculty, staff, or Administration):

- Reflect on what injustice occurred. Was it a rule that was broken? Is it something where the existing rules/processes are yielding an unjust result? Who has the authority to resolve the issue? Are you being reasonable or are you asking for special treatment that would put others at a disadvantage?
- Respect the position of those in authority. Will they be forced to take sides? Or is there a way to have an open conversation in which you come to a reasonable solution together? Think about how to approach the conversation so the person does not feel like you've gone over their head or misrepresented them.
- Reach out to the faculty or staff person directly first. Give them some advance notice of what you want to talk about so they can give it some thought. Read the Covenant together before you talk. Make sure you listen and understand why they have taken the position they have. Make sure you are heard and that you can articulate the issues clearly. Come prepared with more than one idea to resolve the issue. If this initial meeting does not yield satisfactory progress, talk together about what the appropriate next steps might be, then take them together if at all possible.
- Reconcile with each other. Institutions change very slowly because they involve more than just you and the other person; they involve all future students, faculty and staff. Decisions about changing policy can involve multiple committees over a long period of time. Change may not happen in your time here. In the meantime, you still have to go to class and participate in the life of the community. So reconcile as much as possible with those who are involved. Try to separate the person from the role they fill. Focus on respecting the person and appreciating the effort they are putting into their role.
- Re-engage with the faculty, staff and Administration. Don't let one issue torpedo your whole view of what is being created here together in our Beloved Community. Stay engaged. Your voice may not always prevail, but your voice always matters.

(Editor's note: This document was created in 2018 in conjunction with the Beloved Community Covenant. Think about how you can use this information in your own contexts - in church, at home, at work.)



A Week of Sobriety – Chelsea May Law, Senior MDiv

Picture this: you're leaving a bar with a bunch of your friends and you realize you need to throw up, so you get to the closest bush and as you're throwing up you hear your friend say "Oh... Chelsea May..." and that's one of the last things you remember. It's something I can laugh about now, and chances are if you go out with my friends and I, you'll hear that story.

But truth be told, that was a very low point in my life as I was drinking as I was trained in college that, in order to have a good time, I take tequila shots...or that it's completely normal to drink at least one bottle of wine by myself. THIS IS NOT HEALTHY. I want to make that perfectly clear.

After the night that I threw up in a bush, I woke up feeling absolutely awful from a night of terrible sleep, dehydrated, and with the taste of vomit in my mouth. I felt embarrassed that all of my friends witnessed me like that, and that Sheth had to walk me home to make sure I didn't get hurt.

I decided that I needed change, but what really made me want to make a change was Sheth talking to me about my drinking, so I took on a week of sobriety. I thought the week would just come and go and it would be fine and dandy. But by Monday night (only 2 days in) I was already thinking about which wine I wanted to drink with my bubble bath. I decided to forgo the bubble bath completely because I couldn't figure out how to relax without wine.

The next day I was at my parents' and my dad wanted to drink some wine, but he didn't want to drink alone, so he asked me if I wanted a glass. When I said no and he put the bottle away, I felt so much guilt because I didn't want him to not drink because of me. The following days were way more difficult than I thought they would ever be. This was a wake up call for me as it should not have been that difficult for me to be sober for just one week.

I realized I was forming a very bad habit and, knowing that alcoholism runs in my family, I wanted to stop before things got worse. I challenged myself beyond that week, to a month of sobriety; while difficult at first, it has become a new normal for me. It was the reset button that I didn't know I needed. It's really difficult to have a healthy relationship with alcohol in a society that glorifies drunkenness and the pride in our drunk stories (this is something I'm very guilty of, but I'm working on it).

Y'all, seminary is hard and drinking is easy, but it should not be your problem solver. If you think you might be drinking too regularly, I challenge you to take on a week of sobriety (or more) and see what it brings up for you. AND, if you see that one of your friends might be drinking a bit too regularly, bring it up with them.

APTS
POLITY
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2019



Breaking Bread at the Border - Seminarians WithOut Borders

If you turned on the news about this time last year, you couldn't help but hear about the "migrant caravan." Depending on which news source you used, you heard about either refugees or criminals, victims or perpetrators. But at our annual Día de Los Muertos service, Rev. Dr. Gregory Cuéllar offered a message of hope as he described the mobile congregation: "Where there is pain and hurt, many in the mobile congregation are ready to offer care and accompaniment. Where babies are in need of shade or a stroke, many in the mobile congregation come to their aid. Stories of good times and bad are shared along the way. Hopes and dreams of one member become the hopes and dreams of everyone."¹ At each border, their rallying cry became, "Entramos todos o no entra ninguno/We all enter or no one enters." He declared, "we are very fortunate and profoundly blessed. We do not have to travel too far to find the church many of us long for. For the mobile congregation is coming to us...Will you join them?"

That rallying cry resonated throughout the chapel. Personally, I immediately wanted to jump out of my seat and head down to the border, but alas, classes and homework quickly took over again. But the spirit was moving here at APTS, and soon a group had formed to travel down to the border at the end of the semester to form a Wall of Welcome. Our group worked in a local respite center, visited a water provider in the desert, and held a worship service at an entry point. It was nothing short of a miraculous experience.

My role for that trip was to lead the food committee. We had about 40 people on the trip—from the seminary, Mission Presbytery, and even the PC(USA) General Assembly—so feeding everyone in community was no small feat. What easily could have turned into a stressful venture became one of my favorite memories. Somehow, we only spent a third of our budget. Somehow, we always had more than enough hands to cook and clean. Somehow, at the end of the weekend, we donated an entire carful of unused food to the respite center. We had broken bread together and we had more than enough to go around. This truly was God's abundance.

This year, the Wall of Welcome has become Seminarians WithOut Borders, an official student group here at APTS with a collaborative leadership team, and we will take a longer trip this year, traveling to the border December 14th–18th. Friends in faith, we are fortunate and profoundly blessed. We do not have to travel too far to find the church many of us long for. Will you join us?

For more information on our upcoming trip reach out to Savannah Demuynck, Caitlin Parsons, Brendan McLean, or Kimberlee Runnion.

¹ Gregory Cuéllar, "Mobile Congregation #PCUSAWALLOFWELCOME" Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, 12/18/2018. Accessed 11/2/2019. <https://www.presbypeacefellowship.org/mobile-congregation-pcusawallofwelcome/>



Love Your Enemy - Jonathan Freeman, Middler MDiv.

Petals from the same flower
Never fight one another.
But only because they physically can't -
Cell walls and whatnot.

I reckon I'm a tulip
Who always liked the idea of roses
Being my enemy
Because I liked the idea of roses.

But it should've been my first clue,
When I thought I was the reason
I could love my enemy

The truth is
It's tulips.

Loving them feels too much like being forgiven.

Which feels like planting mustard seeds in solid rock.

Which reminds me that I really don't understand agriculture.

Which leaves me to stop -
Maybe even smell -
And assume

That it's hard for anyone to be a flower.

Untitled -

Bobbi Kaye Jones, Zbinden Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Leadership

If forced to choose only one food it would be bread. I suppose I'd have made a terrific ancient person; staff of life and all that. Truth is, I don't often eat bread these days "because the calories." Ugh. Fall and winter special occasion meals offer opportunities for getting bread back on the plate and often serve up expanded conversations alongside the sourdough and olive oil. With whom will you break bread in the days and weeks to come?

Over decades of congregational ministry I have eaten with a LOT of people. Wedding feasts, funeral meals, baptism brunches, Sunday School progressive dinners, intimate meals and pot-luck for hundreds. Some folk became friends, others are long forgotten. The images most vibrant in my mind's eye, however, are the faces of my antagonists coming forward for communion.

We bring people to the table all the time, don't we? Gathering in community for communion we practice IRL what we proclaim and, for a moment, live in that redeemed and restored relationship with God and each other. Enemies in church? Divisive and divided families? You know it. With every breaking of the bread I turned unspoken thoughts to the broken places in my own life. With every lifting of the cup, I remembered the worst thing anyone has ever done to impact me and mine. Forgiveness even for them? You know it.

I believe what comes next - placing that bread or offering that cup with love to those antagonistic congregants - helped keep me in right relationship to the sacrament over which it was my privilege to preside. Don't we pray that sharing that meal prepares us for sharing all the others?

To be sure, I have vexatious relations just like everyone else and I have said things best left unsaid. After one particularly infuriating Thanksgiving experience I had to have a little talk with myself. It went like this: "If you can't do this with love then you need to excuse yourself from the holiday proceedings altogether." In other words, choose love or opt out if I knew my heart wasn't right for either the staff of life or the bread of heaven.

I pray all your gatherings may be blessed by the gracious spirit of Christ who welcomes and feeds us in spite of our antagonistic and vexing ways. Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. True. Even when we find it hard to be around one table.

the back page - Sheth LaRue, Senior MDiv.

Noah spent a little over a year in the boat, surrounded by smelly animals and odoriferous family members. He stepped onto dry ground, breathed in the fresh air, then built an altar and sacrificed to the Lord. A covenant was made with the old man, who then planted the first vineyard, made some wine from the fruit and ended up passed-out-drunk in his tent.

As the story goes, his son Ham saw his father's nakedness, told his brothers, and they covered up their father. When Noah woke up and cleared the post-drunk fog, he learned what his son had done to him.
(record scratch)

Wait...done to him? Ham merely saw his father's nakedness...nothing was done to Noah! If you've had a class with Dr. Park, you should hear her voice now: "Welllll..."

I distinctly remember hearing this interpretation on a Thursday night in my junior year, and I was knocked off-kilter. It was shocking to me because my conservative upbringing never imagined the possibility of sexual relations between father and son in this story. Quite honestly, Noah's nakedness was taboo enough for us to avoid this part of the story altogether.

A few weeks after learning this interpretation of Genesis 9, when my parents asked me what I was learning in seminary, of course I had to share this information. This was what those in the education field call a 'teachable moment'. It turns out that sharing this with my conservative family was not the best idea. Not only could they not believe it, but they were offended that someone would even imagine the possibility of father and son having 'relations'.

We learn a lot in seminary, but we only learn from experience what we're to do with this information. After my faux pas, I asked my retired pastor and friend what I should do with these provocative, edgy, probably-true biblical interpretations.

His response was simple: "Don't destroy people's Noah."

We can't go around sharing this stuff everywhere we go because people are deeply connected to these stories. They aren't only attached to the stories themselves, they're attached to the memories around the stories. Grandparents telling grandchildren about Noah's adventures on sunny, summer days. Favorite Sunday school teachers - one's only trusted confidant - sharing the adventures of Daniel in the lion's den. Parents spending ten quality minutes with their child in the busy-ness of the day to read about King David. These are holy stories and holy memories.

But we can't bottle up these stories, either. We must care for these stories, and carefully share these stories. We must be humble in our storytelling, we must be gentle in our imparting of information, and we must be wise as we teach what we know. As we leave this campus - either for an hour, a long weekend, or a lifetime - we must remember to honor what we have learned, and more importantly, to honor those with whom we share these stories.

much love. sheth.

2019 Calendar

NOV. 14	Senior Sermon - Chelsea May Law	11:30 AM, Shelton Chapel
NOV. 17	Senate Meeting	4:00 PM, McCord 203
NOV. 18-21	Spring and Summer Registration - See your advisor!	
NOV. 19	Chapel Service - Rev. Dr. Phil Browning Helsel Queso Tour	11:10 AM, Shelton Chapel 6:00 PM, Paco's Tacos
NOV. 21	Senior Sermon - Sheth LaRue QEP Community Storytelling Event	11:30 AM, Shelton Chapel 6:00 PM, Stotts Hall
NOV. 21-23	MAYM Weekend	
NOV. 26	Chapel Service - Rev. Dr. David Johnson	11:10 AM, Shelton Chapel
NOV 28	APTS Thanksgiving Dinner 2019	4 PM, Anderson Common
NOV. 28- DEC. 1	Thanksgiving Break - Don't eat too much!	
DEC. 1	Senate Meeting	4:00 PM, McCord 203
DEC. 3-6	Reading Week - Study up, friends!	
DEC. 5	Queso Tour	6:00 PM, Torchy's Tacos
DEC 8.	Lessons and Carols	4:30 PM, Shelton Chapel
DEC. 11	SAV Christmas Party	SAV office
DEC. 9-13	FINALS WEEK!	