

A Little Streaky
Thursday, June 03, 2010

Anthony de Mello is a Christian Mystic and story-teller from India. He has collected a delightful set of stories, inviting us to think about faith and about our relationship with God in a book titled, *The Song of the Bird*. I want to share two stories with you that have been on my mind all week.

A preacher put this question to a class of children: If all the good people were red and all the bad people were green, what color would you be?"

Little Mary Jane replied, "Reverend, I'd be streaky!"

So would the preacher. So would the saints.

A man was looking for a good church to attend and he happened to enter one in which the congregation and the preacher were reading from their prayer book. They were saying, "We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done."

The man dropped into a seat and sighed with relief as he said to himself, "Thank goodness, I've found my crowd at last."

De Mello goes on to say that attempts to hide our streakiness will sometimes be successful, and always dishonest.

I like these stories. They have a way of humbling me and reminding me that we in the church are made up of folks who are a mixture of good and bad. We have our good days and our bad days. We can make good decisions and we have made poor decisions.

These stories remind me that we are loved by God, not because we are perfect. We are loved, simply for who we are. Our response to that love is what can help us each day make choices that bring us closer to God.

What choices on this day do you want to make that can help you become closer to God? What choices today do you want to make that can help you live deeper into the love God has for you?

I look forward to seeing you in worship this weekend.

In the hope Jesus offers us,
Rev. Scott Carlson

The Mission of Sun Prairie United Methodist Church is to invite and welcome people to be committed and compassionate followers of Jesus Christ through worship, through spiritual growth, through fellowship and through service to others.