

Not Quite Enough
April 8, 2009

Sometimes, when we are in the midst of getting things done, life happens to us in surprising ways.

I am not sure why I thought of this recently. But it was one of those late winter moving to spring kind of days quite a few years ago. You know, it was one of those chilly type of days that eventually gets more warm as the day goes on.

I was walking across a Wal-Mart parking lot when I saw him. I had seen him before. He was a homeless man in the area. He didn't really talk to anyone. He talked a lot to himself, but he didn't seem to want to talk with others much. He had stopped by the church before. We had helped him out.

It was a cold morning. He wasn't wearing a coat. He was shivering. He just kept walking in circles in the parking lot. He was talking. He was rubbing his arms. He was walking in circles.

That was when it just kind of came over me. I felt sorry for him. He looked so cold. Before I really knew what I was doing, I walked over to him. I handed him my jacket.

It certainly wasn't a real expensive jacket. It was however, one of my favorite jackets. It was one I had picked up when I was at Duke Divinity School. It was warm. It was comfortable. It had a lot of sentimental value to me. But for me, it was one of many jackets that I had.

For this man, it became his only jacket.

He looked at me. He smiled a big toothless smile. He put the jacket on and he continued to walk in circles.

I walked away, wishing I could do more. But that is often the way I feel. I often wish I could do more. Do you ever feel that way?

This gnawing desire to do more often keeps me moving, learning and growing. It challenges me to find ways to be faithful. It challenges me to find ways to share faith. It even challenges me to learn how to lean on God and be grateful for all that God has given me.

As we move through Holy Week and toward Easter, I find that there are so many things for which I am grateful to God. Mostly, I am grateful for the chance to be alive today. I am thankful that God is here, walking with me. I am grateful for the chance to do something, no matter how small it may be, to touch another (and be touched by others). I am grateful for the chance to be surprised by life.

May you feel the love and touch of God's hand today.

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.