

Vacation Is Fun, But
July 23, 2008

Vacation is fun. Vacation is nice. Vacation often allows for something different, something out of the norm to be done. I like vacation.

Debbie and I had the chance to go to Seattle. We did many of the touristy things. We went up to the space needle. We went to Pike Place Market. We went on a terrific harbor cruise. We had an opportunity to see some remarkable mountains and water falls. We had a chance to reconnect with family. It was wonderfully relaxing.

As I write this, I am up in the air, returning from vacation. The flight is going well. It is smooth after a time of turbulence. I didn't like the turbulence. Turbulence while I am in an airplane makes me feel unnerved. I am reminded that I am not in charge. I am not in control. My life is literally in someone else's hands during the time of turbulence.

Just about the time I was letting the turbulence get the best of me, the pilot came on the loudspeaker. He told us that we would be flying out of the turbulence in a couple of minutes. He informed us that he had been in touch with others on the ground and the rest of the flight ahead should be smooth going all the way into Wisconsin.

I was comforted by several things. First the turbulence was going to end (Yea). Second, even though I wasn't in control, there were others looking out for me and for our safety.

This got me thinking about faith. How do I deal with turbulence in my life? How do you deal with turbulence in your life? Do you panic? Do you reach out for control? Do you turn to God? Or to others who can help?

This past year has been one of turbulence in my life, as I (our family) has dealt with Whitney's death and Isaac's incarceration. It has just been a challenge.

Recently in one of my times of devotion, I was reading about King Hezekiah of Judah. He was a King in the Southern Kingdom of Judah, during a time of tremendous turmoil in his world. Assyria was gaining power and wiping out lands and carrying people off into exile. Israel (the Northern Kingdom) had already fallen to Assyrian hands. This was difficult for those who lived in Judah.

Then Hezekiah came to power and the following is a description of him during this time of turmoil. *"He trusted in the Lord the God of Israel; so that there was no one like him among all the kings of Judah after him, or among those who were before him. For he held fast to the Lord; he did not depart from following him but kept the commandments that the Lord commanded Moses (2 Kings 18:5-6)."*

This description of Hezekiah helped comfort me through a time of turbulence in the sky. But I found myself comforted that it had also comforted me during a turbulent time in my life. I want to continue to trust the Lord. I want my life to be described as Hezekiah's.

What about you? What description do you want in your life, when turbulence comes?

My hope and prayer is that you will join me in turning to the Lord and trusting the Lord.

In the hope that 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.