

The Fish Net

Boston Presbyterian Church

Pentecost 2015

Rev. Shawn Croll

Dear Friends,

Bright and early one morning a couple of weeks ago, a truck backed up onto the manse's front lawn and deposited a fair-sized load of top soil. Andrew then spent hours spreading it about, and after he and Susan had raked it smooth, spread the grass seed. In the time since, Susan has faithfully watered it and the waiting game goes on. Will the seed take root and flourish? Will the expense, time and effort prove worthwhile?

I thought of this when I remembered a conference that I attended a few years ago. The speaker identified those people who grew up during the Second World War and the Baby Boomers, as being "The Builders". This of course includes many of us. "The Builders" have certain defining characteristics, one of which being that every problem or issue has a solution and that it is all a matter of applying the right tool, solution or technique. And yet, said the speaker, there isn't always an answer, solution or technique to apply. Sometimes all we can do is try and do our best and then wait. To return to my front lawn, the work has been done; the seeds have been planted and are being watered, but there is nothing more we can do. We cannot force the grass to grow; it is largely out of our hands.

The fact that we cannot always impose a solution or come up with an answer can, said the speaker, be very frustrating for us. Indeed an inability to solve or fix everything can leave us with a real sense of failure but, said the speaker, this is where faith comes in. As the people of God and the disciples of Christ we are called to do our best in life and then to put our trust in God for the rest. This can be hard for anyone but it is especially hard for "The Builders". Even so, this is something we can and should do for the message of Pentecost is that God, the one who loves, forgives and redeems us is also the one who is always with us. The presence of God is what enables us to put our trust and hope in Him whatever the circumstances may be.

Wishing you a most blessed summer! Shawn