

Reflection for Wisdom from the Woods
Tom Keithly
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A History of Eloquence and Hope

Maybe you're like me and get lots of emails every day. Atlas Obscura, Wall Street Journal, The New Yorker, AARP, Miriam Webster's Word of the Day, Giving Tuesday, etc. There's email advice on all sorts of things, like what to watch during the pandemic. I hear that *Shawn the Sheep* and *Call My Agent* on Netflix are trending. Some of the information is useful; maybe a way to connect with the world in a form not as scary as the evening news.

Last week an Opinion piece recommended a YouTube link to a video of remarks by Robert F. Kennedy just after the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. It's five minutes of extemporaneous remarks by RFK in Indianapolis in 1968, announcing to a mostly black crowd that MLK had just been killed. He spoke clearly and said things that can help us face the challenges of today.*

The overriding theme, he said, is love and justice among fellow human beings. We are in a difficult time in the U.S., but what direction do we want to move in? Do we want to see greater polarization? Rather, like MLK, we seek to understand and comprehend. Not division or violence, but love, wisdom, and compassion...whether people be white or black. We will have difficult times in the future, he said, but the vast majority want to live together. Say a prayer for our country and our people.

I think that St. Peter's in the Woods helps me deal with all of this. I have Rev. Marlene to thank for aiding my own path toward wisdom. Radical relationships are key, she said; work on our acceptance of others. And... I have all of St. Peter's in the Woods to thank as well, with Sunday sermons, online services, our online coffee hour, and many good friends. SPW had lots going for it before, and, in the uncertainty of the pandemic, our spirit and Zoom have, in many ways, brought us closer.

Our church is moving in the right direction. The congregation has been impressive the way it has supported and sustained things over the last three months. Finances are solid, we're laying the groundwork for our building program, and inspiring programs continue, such as Education for Ministry, Creation Care, book studies, food drives, not to mention the personal contact of one to another. Our times are challenging, but I'm looking forward to a bright future and an important role for St. Peter's in the Woods.

*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2kWla8wSC0&t=8s>