

Wisdom in the Woods

Susan Lee-Merrow

While I am a cradle Episcopalian, I rarely went to church as an adult. During my last few years in Sausalito, California, though, I went to a very small Episcopal church, which I loved. I sang in the choir, served on the vestry, and got involved. As hard as it was to leave, I nevertheless moved to Northern Virginia in 2007, because my daughter and son-in-law, Victoria and Mark Sanford, were going to start a family. As a friend said, I was chasing the grandchildren.

Once here, I attended St. Andrew's for a few years, until my daughter told me they were going to St. Peter's in the Woods. Really? I changed churches. I liked it better anyway; St. Pete's is small and intimate. And I really like is how people of all ages and stages are friends and join in the activities together.

I joined the choir, served on the vestry, and got involved. My daughter has worked with the Sunday School and VBS. Mackenzie (11) and Parker (8) are acolytes. The whole family attends Messy Church, and the kids usually bring their Catholic neighbors.

In the spring of 2019, I got very sick. I was in and out of the hospital for two months and in bed for another. In the beginning of my first hospital stay, I seriously thought I might die. That day I looked up to find Rev. Susan standing in the doorway. I was so surprised. I told her I was afraid, and she gave me hope. More people visited. People brought communion. When I got home, people brought meals and stayed to visit. And people prayed for me. Now my recovery is complete.

It makes me cry when I think about this. I cannot tell you how much I felt lifted up, cared about, and held in the Light. It made my recovery possible. It gave me hope for my future. It humbled me with gratitude. And it filled me with thanks for everyone here.

St. Peter's is a very special place, and I want to help everyone get out of it what I got.

"If anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?"

-- 1 John 3:17

I did and do experience God's love in you, and I am so very grateful. God bless you.