

It's Not All Good....Yet

Have you heard the phrase, "It's good, It's all good!"? I have and though I know that some things are good, I can usually think of at least three or four things in the definitely 'not good' category.

So why question the 'it's all good' part? One reason is that the little phrase skips over and fails to acknowledge that to get to the 'all good', there are several stages. It is a short cut assessment on what can often be grim events. To get to the 'good' can be a long tortuous journey to a new way of being or feeling or thinking.

I have a little book called Outside Eden - essays of encouragement by Peter Short. Rev. Short was the United Church Moderator from 2003 -2006. (He was at Wilmot United in Fredericton.) The book was published in 2006 during Lent. My favourite essay is entitled 'A Genealogy of Transformation'.

This is how it starts:

"There are things that one never manages to accomplish in life:

You can't turn back the clock.

You can't make someone love you.

You can't take back a word once it is spoken.

You can't see the face of God.

You can't live forever.

You can't take it with you.

Disappointing that it is, life is surrounded by limits... Yet recognizing these limits does not diminish life nor must it lead to resignation and despair. Acknowledging the boundaries within which we live actually does something quite the opposite. It leads to the recognition that life is precious. Time is precious because it is not limitless; love is too, because it cannot be purchased. True friends are precious because they are few. Words are precious because once you say them you cannot get them back again. If you have a limited supply of things each one is of great value."

Rev. Short goes on to say that when we understand the limits, we can be filled with wonder which leads to prayer and then thankfulness. He gives the example of a small village in BC that was ravaged by a category six wildfire that left only charred remains where their homes had been. The people were thankful to have survived. Full of gratitude and joyfulness, they worked together to feed and clothe each other as they began the process of rebuilding.

Here is how the essay ends:

"In this life there is a genealogy of transformation. It is something like this.

The recognition of limits is the prelude to wonder,

Wonder is pursued by gratitude,

Gratitude is the test of happiness.

Happiness opens to generosity,

Generosity transforms lives."

So back to it all being good...or not. I would like to change the saying to 'Some things are good and the rest of it is in transition and hopefully, in time, after working through things, adjusting, compromising, accepting, rebooting and just getting on with it, those things will be good too.

This is definitely not as catchy as the original saying but I can live with it. And at some future time, it will all be good after a lot of transformation. To paraphrase John Lennon, 'It will all work out in the end and if it hasn't worked out, it's not the end.'

Yours in transformation mode,
Carolyn Prince



GENEROSITY

Help Required

Wesley is looking for one or more people who would be interested in helping out with counting the weekly collection. It would only be a month or two (not together) a year. Please know that special attention to COVID are in place for everyone's safety. Please email lynnsmaill@rogers.com

Worship Dates for Diaries

ZOOM - March 21st and Wesley Sanctuary - March 28th - Palm Sunday

ZOOM - (Easter) April 4th and 18th and Wesley Sanctuary - April 11th, (Ali) - April 25th

Please check our calendar on our website for any upcoming events or changes to events

<https://wesleyunitedchurchstandrewsbytheseanb.ca/events/>

Dedications are most welcome remembering, honouring, celebrating a special person, event or season! Please email wesleyunitedstandrews@gmail.com with your request. Thanks!

Photos or any other requests to go with dedications – favourite flower or season etc.....

Please send all announcements to: WesleyUnitedStAndrews@gmail.com State if you wish them to go on the Bulletin, the COOP, Facebook page, Website, or all four! (photos can be placed on all but the bulletin) Thank you!

PRAYER REQUESTS: may be given to our Prayer Circle by

1. contacting Barb King davebarbking@gmail.com
2. contacting Sharon Hannan retired@xplornet.ca or phone 466-1435
3. by asking any of us from Wesley/St James community to pass on a request

Sent to you by

Wesley United Church, 77 William St, St Andrews NB E5B1W8 and
St James Pastoral Charge, 731 Route 745, Oak Hill, NB E5A3C7

In case of pastoral emergency, contact Rev. Jane Doull

call 529-3474 text 467-1494 email jvdoull@gmail.com

Any other matters please contact Barb Sheen, Chair of the Worship Committee on 469-4631.

Office email: WesleyUnitedStAndrews@gmail.com **Website:** <https://wesleyunitedchurchstandrewsbytheseanb.ca>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Wesley-and-St-James-United-St-AndrewsOak-HillScotch-Ridge>