

Stretching toward the love of Christ

October 13, 2019



How have you experienced God's love reaching into your life? I think I sort of lost track of feeling God's love or his blessings for a good stretch a few years back. Then I was diagnosed with cancer (now in remissions). It made me to slow down, to remember how to be still – first because I was forced to, then later because I had learned how to again. I feel God and his love reaching into my life most surely in those moments of stillness. I feel him in prayer. Not the quick kind that I'm just trying to be done with so I can get on with whatever, but the kind where I actually let myself be present in the moment. I feel Him at 4 or 4:30am, in the dark, before I'm tempted by the business of the day to distance myself. I feel him when I take time for my neighbors, my friends, my sons, my wife -- slowing down long enough to be a little more kind towards them, and to feel God being kind back to me.

How do you see yourself and our community of faith reaching out in love to others, community, etc? Nativity is the first church I've been in where I've never been tempted to refer to the congregation as "the audience". For the longest time I leaned, instead, towards saying the people in the church felt like lay pastors. But in the past couple of weeks, I've finally settled on thinking of them as servants – a house full of servants. Sitting beside them, working with them in Sunday school, homeless shelters or camp, laughing with them, watching the children they have raised to be similarly like-hearted -- has touched me deeply. It's been like God tapping me on the shoulder with a strong reminder that, that is what life is about and -- after a cancer diagnosis and remission -- that life is short and there might not be as much time as you would like to do the good you're meant to do in the world, so get on with it.

Rodney Weems, about 3.5 years at the Cathedral.