

Reunion Blessings '09

Your life is a sacred journey. And it is about change, growth, discovery, movement, transformation, continuously expanding your vision of what is possible, stretching your soul,

--learning to see clearly and deeply, listening to your intuition, taking courageous challenges at every step along the way. You are on the path... exactly where you are meant to be right now...

--And from here, you can only go forward, shaping your life story into a magnificent tale of triumph, of healing of courage, of beauty, of wisdom, of power, of dignity, and of love."

We now offer you a poem, that is sewn into the quilt that now hangs in the multifaith center.

This quilt was lovingly stitched with students from the Multifaith council and the religious life chaplains. The words we are going to share also has special meaning to me. I began saying them to my daughter Mollie when she was a baby and still do so, 17 years later. This refrain is an affirmation of our resilience.

and so sweet sisters, **bend like a willow, so after all the storms, standing you shall be, a strong and sturdier tree".**

May we today be touched by grace, fascinated and moved by this your creation, energized by the power of new growth at work in your world.

May we move beyond only viewing this life,

but touch it and be touched by it

know it and be known by it

love it and be loved by it

--Adapted from Chinook Psalter

Nancy Corcoran CSJ, Newman Catholic Ministry

May you soar on wings like eagles; may you run and not grow weary, may you walk and not be faint.—Diana Birney Pooley, Liason to Evangelical Communities

*May you be like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream.*

It does not fear when heat comes;

its leaves are always green.

*It has no worries in a year of drought
and never fails to bear fruit.*

--Adapted from Jeremiah 17:8

Sushama Austin-Connor, Protestant Christian Chaplain

This prayer was written by Rabbi Nachman of Breslov, the eighteenth century Chasidic Mystic:

Master of the Universe, grant me the ability to be alone. May it be my custom to go outdoors each day among the trees and grasses, Among all growing things, There to be alone and enter into prayer. There may I express all that is in my heart, Talking with Him to whom I belong. And may all grasses, trees and plants Awake at my coming. Send the power of their life into my prayer, Making whole my heart and my speech through the life and spirit of growing things, Made whole by their transcendent Source. Oh! That thy woud enter my prayer! Then would I fully open my heart in prayer, supplication and holy speech; Then, O God, would I pour out the words of my heart before Your Presence.-- David Bernat, Hillel Chaplain:

Like a tree in deep forest, may you carry with you this sense of our connectedness to each other and our interdependence with all beings.-- Ji Hyang Sunim, Buddhist Advisor

Friendship is a sheltering tree, wrote Samuel Taylor Coleridge. May the friendships you have formed and renewed during this Reunion weekend remind you that you do not stand alone.
-- Pamela Barz, Unitarian Universalist Chaplain

*May we each go forth as each a goodly tree, with deep roots in our values and beliefs,
and with branches, reaching up with our passions and dreams.
And always remember that even the falling leaf is significant in the sight of God.*
--Najiba Akbar, Muslim Chaplain