

NATIVITY NEWS

The newsletter of the Episcopal Church of the Nativity and St. Stephen

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From the Rector.

I had spent the night at a B&B in southeastern New York state as I headed home from New England. This was sometime in late October maybe (I've lost track of what I did when on the sabbatical!). Anyway, the breakfast there had not been all that filling and I was craving pancakes for some reason. There are not many restaurants between this place and Binghamton, so when I finally got onto I-81 and saw a Denneys, I pulled right in.

After getting gas and using the restroom, I sat down and ordered the long-awaited meal. Surprised that there was a big TV at one end of the dining room, I glanced at the newscast and found the unfolding story of the Chilean miners being rescued. Having been on the road for over a week, I'd been clueless about the impending success of the effort to bring the guys up.

As I watched the basket being pulled up, a miner untethered and a family member enveloping him in a hug, the tears began to flow...right there in the restaurant!

Even as I ordered and ate my pancakes, I couldn't take my eyes off the TV. The powerful images of tightly wrapped bodies being pulled up and out of the darkness, through a just-big-enough channel, into light and life were such obvious images of birth and such a rich metaphor for all our struggles, that they are seared on my mind, probably forever.

In so many ways, your participation in this worshipping community brings new birth and new life to ourselves and to others. May that continual process, our movement through the darkness into the light together, be a source of renewal, growth and joy!

Peace,