

Clarity in the Clutter

There is never real clarity is there? Just when we think we know what's ahead, just when we think we finally understand our health, just when we think we understand our children, just when we think we understand *our parents*, just when we think we have our job figured out, just when we think we have our neighbors figured out; things change, or *they* do or we do. The clarity and understanding we seek never quite materializes. So, I guess searching for clarity in the clutter and knowing our understanding will never be quite what we had hoped, is our normal...mine and yours and theirs.

My hope for all of us, and all of them is that we will continue to turn to God for wisdom and understanding, particularly in those dark and confusing times of our lives. There are many people and places we can and maybe do go to for comfort and insight: friends, the refrigerator, social media, the neighborhood bar and grill, the nearest chocolate, music, a long walk or run, family and even our church family. Ultimately, it is through our relationship with God that we will find the most profound and long lasting healing and hope. It is how I manage to keep going, even after I have had too much ice cream and not enough sleep. It is how I reprioritize after deep disappointments, and moments that turn to weeks and months that are frustrating and well...depressing.

I am grateful for the time I shared at Asbury United Methodist Church in Prairie Village. Then, as a young mom, there were many days that I felt invisible and that I had contributed very little to the world on that particular day. I remember listening to the Rev. Dr. Al Hager preach these words to "me" one Sunday morning, likely forty years ago now. "If God seems far away, guess who moved." For decades I had that scribbled on a piece of paper I used as a bookmark. Later when I left teaching to start seminary and my new career in ministry, I kept it taped to my computer monitor.

So this "Clarity in the Clutter" offers you more than my words. I offer to you Rev. Hager's words as a tribute to him. He died at ninety-three two months ago now. May his words remind us all that God is with us. We need to notice. We need to reconnect.

Cut them out. Use it as a bookmark. Hang it on the computer. They will help with the chaos we know as life, and offer clarity. Do let me know how you are and how you choose to use these words.

Blessings and peace,
Barb

*"When God seems far away,
guess who moved?"*

Rev. Dr. Al Hager