

# Daily Church Epistle

## Thursday, September 23, 2021

By Kathy O'Brien Schroeder

Greetings all,

Rev. Dawn liked the epistle. She asked me to run it today. Enjoy.

I love to hear and tell stories. One of my favorite stories is *The Story of the Carrot, The Egg, and The Coffee Bean*. Sadly, I don't know who wrote it. The story starts with a granddaughter going to her grandmother and telling her grandmother about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. Her grandmother took her granddaughter to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to a boil. In the first, pot she placed carrots, in the second pot she placed eggs, and in the last pot she placed ground coffee beans. She let them sit and boil for twenty minutes. The grandmother took the carrots out of the pot and placed them in a bowl, same with eggs, and the coffee. Turning to her granddaughter the grandmother asked, "*Tell me, what do you see?*" "*Carrots, eggs, and coffee,*" the granddaughter replied. The grandmother brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. She then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, the granddaughter observed the hard-boiled egg. Finally, the grandmother asked her granddaughter to sip the coffee. The granddaughter smiled as she tasted it. . The granddaughter asked, "*What does this mean, grandmother?*" Her grandmother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity-boiling water - but each reacted differently.

The carrot went in strong, hard and unrelenting. However after being in boiling water it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. It's thin outer shell had protected it's liquid interior. But after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened! The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water.

"*Which are you?*" the grandmother asked her granddaughter.

When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot that seems strong but with adversity, wilt and become softer? Are you an egg that starts with a malleable heart but the changes when the heat increases and you becomes hard and tough? Or are you like the coffee bean which changes the water and releases its fragrance?

Each object faced the same adversity: boiling water. Yet each object had reacted differently. I started to think about this analogy and I asked myself, there is no question about the fact that each one of us has experienced trials. How we deal with those trials is important. Because of our personalities, our temperaments, our backgrounds we deal with life's situations differently. That's a good. It doesn't really matter if we are more like the carrot, or the egg, or the coffee bean for we are all of a great value to God. He can work through us to accomplish great things. With God's love we can change the world around us. If you are interested in serving at Hudson UMC and if you would like to be a part of making a difference around you, call 715.386.3921 and you will be directed to ministry chair who will 'plug' you into an exciting journey.

Peace to you all,  
Kathy OBS

