

Calvary Presbyterian Church
February 4, 2018
Daniel Farr, Guest Speaker
Serve One Another: The Legacy of Dr. Sargent

It is an honor to be here and celebrate the legacy of Dr. Robert Sargent. This man who grew up during the early part of the last century – during the pre WW II Depression – in Canada – in economic hardship was called to the ministry. He studied at Union Theological Seminary in New York where notable alumni and faculty included Dietrich Bonhoeffer (later murdered by Nazis during WW II), also Frederick Buechner, William Sloan Coffin, H.E. Fosdick and Markus Borg. Why do I mention these people – because with these credentials, Bob could have gone anywhere. Why Enumclaw?

During a recent phone call with Bob's daughter, Brenda, in Texas, I asked the question. She said the answer was simple. He loved the people. He had received an unexpected inquiry from this church and came out of curiosity. He stayed, bringing his wife Dela and three children. He became our pastor in 1960.

Bob retired 21 years later in 1981 but never retired from serving Christ. A few years after retirement Dela died and 2 years later Bob married Helen Alsgaard Sargent – she is with us today – and we thank you, Helen, for your comfort and kindness to him till his death in 2000. I spoke at Bob's memorial service in this church 18 years ago – and spoke of a choir loft – there on the wall – in my imagination - with enough room for the people I have lost. From Hebrews 12, Pastor Lynell refers to this as my “ Cloud of Witnesses”.

Wife Linda suggests I am delusional but I have Lynell on my side and Brenda asks how her dad is doing in my loft.

Bob sits up there – to the left - and next to my younger brother – and sometimes in joy or sorrow or confusion – in the fear and turmoil of this world – in my own woundedness – I wonder what Bob would say and do?

The 5 year old tiny Hispanic child – kindergarten – hungry – fear based home. He doesn't understand deportation but knows his parents live in fear. Christ does not recognize borders. We are all God's children. Bob would not care what country they are from. Our Compass is Compassion. And this is often difficult.

Dr. Robert Sargent's faith is the Beginning of Plateau Outreach Ministeries (POM)

The mission and ministry of POM is:

- Value the dignity of all people
- Compassionate response to our needs
- Promote church and community involvement

Help those in need regardless of faith, age, gender or national origin
Provide to those in need; food, clothing, temporary housing, utilities, referral source for counseling
Working with our community churches, provide food, shelter, comfort, hope to the lost and hungry
To serve Christ

In 2016, POM had over 100 volunteers, 3,300 household visits, 558 families served, 1,404 individuals served.

From the choir loft...

From Hebrews "Cloud of Witnesses"...

From Dr. Sargent's life and legacy...

Walk the Gospel

Challenge the cynic, the doubter, the apathetic

We have Christ's work to do!