

Dear friends;

I'm at Five Oaks with the Moderator and the rest of her Advisory Committee. This is almost the half way mark in the Moderator's term, and we are here reflecting together about the challenges and joys so far as a basis for supporting the remainder of her ministry in this role. We've been functioning as a group for a year and a half now, so we are comfortable enough with one another to enjoy some laughs, and to come to moments of real depth in our conversations.

The book I've brought along to read before bed is one that I started just last weekend and have put down only reluctantly since then. I'm almost finished it but have slowed down a bit to prolong the enjoyment. "Cool Waters", set in rural Saskatchewan, portrays the hopes and dreams of characters who are each unique, yet somehow familiar, as they move through their ordinary lives in the course of a single day. It's a tender reminder of the richness of everyday life, and the significance of each day.

At chapel on Wednesday Betty Lynn Schwab reminded us that if we truly listen, we will hear God's voice in many places, the small moments of life as well as the grand events. Her message resonated with what I've been appreciating in my spare time reading this week.

Somehow this seems a fitting backdrop for the conversations about the Moderator's work, which is such a mixture of huge responsibilities and very public actions along with equally significant but largely invisible moments of caring for individuals. The funny thing is, sometimes it is something that is almost unnoticed in the moment that is remembered long afterwards.

Peace and blessings to you in the midst of your ordinary and extraordinary moments.

Nora