

Dear Friends,

This month I want to highlight the work that Mary Ann does in our church and especially as our Christian Education Director. I rely on her Elementary Education degree as I plan children's sermons. She takes many church photos and all the new member photos. She has organized and produced every recent church picture directory. She creates over 700 birthday cards to send to the congregation and over 300 anniversary cards. With her Master's Degree in Library Science, Mary Ann stepped in at my request and has organized our brand new library. With memorial money, we received equipment to digitally check books in and out, but it took Mary Ann and a team of volunteers to prepare each book for the new system. She is the editor of our Newsletter, "The Spire" and sees that it is produced on time. She receives prayer requests for our Knee Mail ministry and sees that they are disseminated in a timely fashion. She spends hours preparing each month for a card class where she teaches the techniques of rubber stamping. She sings in our choir, has taught Covenant classes, and has shared teaching Confirmation with me. And she has been my friend and confidant for the 42 years we have known each other and the 39 years we've been married. When she hurts, I hurt. When she rejoices, I rejoice. Together we try to be the best parents and grandparents we can be. But at Westminster By-The-Sea, I could not do what I do without her, and without many of you. Today, I thank God for her!

Eighteen travelers will join me on our pilgrimage into Celtic Christianity in Ireland June 8-20 (some will return on June 17<sup>th</sup>.) Please pray for our safe travels.

My summer reading this year will be including the following books:

Re-reading *How the Irish Saved Civilization*, by Thomas Cahill. (I also recommend the five other books in his Hinges of History Series!)

*Saints for All Occasions* by J. Courtney Sullivan (a brand new novel about two young woman, twenty-one and seventeen, who leave their small village in Ireland and journey to America)

*Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande (About Medicine and What Matters at the End of Life)

*The Awakening of HK Derryberry* by Jim Bradford (the inspiring true story of how one man was willing to step outside his upper middle-class world into the life of a young, disabled boy with a dismal future.)

*Celtic Daily Life* by Victor Walkley

So I am thankful for all that Mary Ann does for me and for the church; I am looking forward to our pilgrimage to Ireland; and I am sharing some of the books I will be reading this summer.

May the road rise to meet you, and the wind be at your back,  
May the sun shine warmly on your face.

May the rain fall softly on your field,

And until we meet again,

May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

*Jeff Sumner*

