

DAYENU: IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH
Lexington Presbyterian Church
Psalm 100 Colossians 2: 6-7
Sarah L. Hill

Many of you have attended our Seder dinner which we have on Maundy Thursday during Holy Week. The Seder meal is a celebration by those of the Jewish faith for all the blessings they have received from God throughout history. During that meal a song is sung that takes step-by-step each glorious moment when God provided for the Jews from slavery in Egypt to making them a Holy People in the Promised Land. The song, *Dayenu*, translated means *It Would Have Been Enough*.

So I would like to share this moment of celebration and gratitude by asking you to sing the refrain, which is simply repeating the word Dayenu several times. So it's a good idea if we practice now. With Bill's help and the music in your bulletin, let's sing.

Dayenu

In November 2010, I found myself, as they say in the theater world, "at liberty" and needing a church to serve. I'm not sure this is the truth but it makes such a better story, on Thanksgiving Day, I received an e-mail from Bill Klein, asking if I would be interested in exploring the possibility of being an interim Director of Christian Education with the possibility of becoming the Associate Minister. Well, all I focused on was Associate Minister and I jumped at the chance. It took about two years from that point, but as you know, I was installed as Associate Minister in June 2012. So from the moment I began in February 2011, this has been a fabulous journey.

Let's Sing - Dayenu

It would have been enough, that you gave me a job and lifted me out of unemployment, but you offered me a multi-faceted education program with resources beyond my imagining. Children filled every classroom with dedicated teachers teaching Sunday after Sunday. But I was excited to try a different approach to Sunday School. With help from many, we developed painted and transformed much of Murray Hall into Faith Village. By concentrating on a few central Bible stories through the year, we emphasized different learning techniques on one story so the story could be reinforced over several weeks. The teachers taught the Loaves and Fishes with Pillsbury-just-baked biscuits and tuna fish salad picnics, Paul's Letters to the Churches was discovered through "You've Got Mail!" and a putt-putt golf course; some of the biblical trials and tribulations were experienced when the children tried an obstacle course. The imagination and creativity of the teachers unleashed exclamations from the children such as "Sunday is the best day ever," and "You never know what is going to happen in Faith Village." For a Christian Educator, it doesn't get better than that.

Let's Sing - Dayenu

It would have been enough if you had given me a job, but ... You allowed me to come into your children's lives from babies to college students. With the youth I had several mission trips and conferences - all of which were memorable in one way or another. Actually all of them had lots of ways to remember them. Every

glance I had into their mostly hidden and protected inner selves, I will cherish always. It didn't always work out well, perhaps too high a goal when working with teenagers, but I am deeply grateful for every moment I have had with your children and youth.

It was more difficult to get to know our college students from W&L and VMI. But just shaking their hands after a service or seeing them enjoy a meal at a Sunday Brunch made me feel like in some small way we were offering back to them, shades of home. And certainly there were standouts: Faith, Madeleine, the W&L Football team, that they gave their time and energy to be part of this church, it was a privilege to be in their lives and they in ours.

Let's sing - Dayenu

It would have been enough for you to give me a job, but... You allowed me to step into this pulpit as I gave voice to the scriptures for that day. You listened as I tried to formulate my understanding of what God was trying to say to us. You allowed me to touch the sacred in the elements of the Lord's Supper and in baptism. You were patient as services didn't always go the way they were planned, with missteps about the order or when everyone was to stand or sit. You encouraged me as I walked outside the box with drama, and unanticipated children's responses and with bringing dance back into the sanctuary, as I believed that is where drama, children and dance all belong. And you loved me anyway.

Let's sing - Dayenu

You gave me the opportunity to minister alongside fabulous, talented, caring staff including Lila Rogers, Curt Fredin, Doug Stevenson, Kimberly Kennedy, Kay Horner, Cindy Irby, Ricardo Haston, Ruth Floyd, Mayumi Smitka, John Turnbull, Skip Hess, Bill McCorkle, Deb Klein and Bill Klein. I have learned so much from all of these wonderful people; they walked this journey of faith and spiritual discipline each at the side of the other; caring and helping with lots of humor and deep reflection. Sharing ministry here has been such a fulfilling, enriching and humbling experience. I could not have asked for a better place to end a career. Of course, old ministers never die, they just keep on preaching!

As it says in the Gospel of John - But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

Now fortunately I am not Jesus, but I do feel like there is much more I want say about my time here at Lexington Pres. I just feel that I could not have been more blessed with the people and place and the way of my time here. I love this congregation and remarkably you have loved me back. I will give thanks all my days for my experience here and the love I felt as I walked beside you. My cup has overflowed with love for you and from you. I have been blessed by God's grace to be with you.

Let's Sing - Dayenu.