

Chicken Little Was Wrong

There are those who see doom and gloom in every situation. You know – the ones who go around saying ‘The sky is falling! The sky is falling!’ Then there are those who see problems as opportunities. In an old issue of *The Lutheran*, Kathy Swearingen writes:

I had begun to think Chicken Little was right. [It seemed there was bad news everywhere, and it] sent my mind into a tailspin of despair. I wanted to gnash my teeth and rend my clothes. Responding this way, however, struck me as unbecoming for a person of faith — not to mention a minister's wife. Instead, I got up off the couch one Wednesday evening after the news was over, pulled on my boots, drove to our church, descended a narrow set of stairs and joined the choir.

She remembered, she says, that it was during the upheaval of the Reformation that Martin Luther wrote:

"A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing. ...
And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed, his truth to triumph through us."

She remembered that in Soweto (South Africa) with its legacy of colonialism and the injustice of apartheid, the women sing a Zulu hymn, "Akahlulwa Lutho," which affirms over and over again:

"Nothing is impossible for the Lord, trust and trust in Him, for nothing can defeat Him."

Swearingen's words are a reminder of the hope to which we are called – not hope that consists of seeing the world through rose-colored glasses or of wishful, pie-in-the-sky thinking, but *embodied* hope - hope that remembers the power of God to bring order out of chaos then puts on its boots and marches out to contribute something positive rather than succumb to the negative. Hope born of faith is like that. It inspires us to seek solutions rather than nurse the problem.

Regardless of his motives (and they are suspect at best!), Chicken Little was wrong. Marching around telling the world that the sky is falling is not helpful to anyone, and it is downright ‘unbecoming for a person of faith.’ We are called instead to proclaim a message of hope, to announce that in spite of all evidence to the contrary, God is at work in the world making all things new – that ‘God hath willed his truth to triumph through us,’ and ‘nothing is impossible for the Lord.’

June 28 marked the official beginning of my fourth year as Pastor of College Park First UMC. It's a year that will bring big challenges and even bigger opportunities as The Main Street Academy leaves our buildings for its wonderful new home. I am grateful to be part of a community of incredibly gracious, generous, kind, compassionate, courageous, interesting, faithful, hope-filled people; and never more than at a time like this.

Peace and joy,

Vicki