



## The Fullness of Time

The liturgical calendar says it's All Saints Day and Thanksgiving is right around the corner. Next thing you know it will be Advent! This year is quickly drawing to a close, and I'm not sure I know where all the time went. It's time to set our clocks back an hour, and it seems only yesterday that we set them ahead for Daylight Savings Time. Is it just me, or does time seem to go by much more quickly now than it once did? Maybe it's just that we all stay so busy that the pages on the calendar seem to turn so quickly, or maybe it's because I'm getting older.

My sister lives in Rock Hill, SC, and while we talk with one another frequently on the telephone; there's nothing like actually being with those you care about. Last week we were sitting on her front porch basking the beauty of a perfect fall day when she looked at me and asked: "Can you believe we've gotten so old?" I gave my standard answer: "Not until I look in the mirror!" We are both, admittedly, a bit *less* agile and a bit *more* wrinkled than we used to be; but the truth is, neither of us really had wrinkles or agility on our minds.

Instead, we were simply enjoying each other's company, remembering the life we've shared as sisters. We've traveled many miles together – literally and figuratively. We've been to the mountaintop, and spent time in the valley. We've seen each other through crises and celebrations, accomplishments and failures, job changes and relocations, personal growth and personal loss. It's amazing how much *has* happened in each of our lives, and how much time has passed while it all happened! Funny thing is, it also seems like only yesterday that we were little girls giggling and playing.

Which makes me wonder whether all our concern about the passage of time isn't a waste of time. Perhaps time isn't linear at all, but multidimensional, and what we should be concerned about is the depth and breadth of our living rather than the length of it. Perhaps what we need to be more concerned about is whether or not the cycles of life – the rhythms of work and rest, morning and evening, light and shadow, joy and sorrow – are more meaningful because we have shared them with others.

All Saints Day already! Next thing you know it'll be Thanksgiving then Advent begins; Christmas arrives and the wise men complete the picture on Epiphany. These are significant times in the life of the church, rich times that are part of the rhythm and traditions of our shared life as a community of faith. One of those traditions is the preparation of our sanctuary for worship during the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany worship cycle. It's known as *The Hanging of the Greens*, and I hope you will take time out of the busy-ness of your days to join us after worship on Sunday, November 22 for lunch and help us deck the halls at CPFUMC. It's a joyful, memory-making tradition that strengthens the bonds we share and enriches our life together year after year.

See you in church,

Vicki