

Tuesday, April 7

Caring For Creation

Pastor Hank French

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it (Genesis 2:15).

Adam and Eve had the Garden of Eden, but before moving to Little Falls, Bobbi and I had an acre in East Central Minnesota that had to be just as beautiful and full of the mystery of God's creative love as that long-ago Garden was. Everyday in the winter there would be deer under the bird feeders outside my office window eating the corn and crab apples I threw out there for them. Strangely, when spring came the deer never ate Bobbi's flowers. Rabbits dodged between the deer's feet, looking for their own share of the corn. And strangely they didn't eat the flowers of spring either. It was truly "God's little acre."

When we moved to our little wooded acre, after years of apartment dwelling, Bobbi's head was filled with plans for the gardens she would plant. After a few years, the perennials she so carefully planted would burst into rich, luxuriant color each spring and stay until the next Minnesota winter put them to bed. If you have seen our yard in Little Falls in the spring or summer you would know that the gardening of flowers and vegetables did not stop when we left East Central Minnesota. It is all about taking care of creation, cultivating its beauty, living in its mystery, caring for life.

Once someone asked Martin Luther: "If you knew for a fact that Christ would return tomorrow and bring about the end of human history, what would you want Christ to find you doing?" Luther had a profound answer to the question. He didn't say he wanted Christ to find him at worship or at prayer or studying the Bible. He said he would want Christ to find him out in the backyard planting an apple tree. He would want Christ to find him taking care of creation, taking care of life, doing exactly what from the beginning God has wanted all of us to do.

If ever there was a time to be planting trees, if ever there was a time to be taking care of life, of all life, it is now.

Prayer: Creating God, capture my soul with the wonder and beauty and mystery of all creation, of all life; give me a reverence for all life, and enable me to serve you by caring for the world you love. Amen.