

July 18, 2017

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

Two years ago, we held the “Year of the Bible,” during which we invited parishioners of all ages to join together in reading the Bible. Those of us who participated learned so much, but there were also times when we struggled, because the Bible can be challenging – it can be confusing, laborious, inconsistent and hard to understand. If you start with the book of Genesis at the beginning of the Bible and try to read straight through, you’ll never make it. By the book of Numbers, you’ll want to throw in the towel.

But then: *Why Read the Bible?*

That was one of the questions from our summer preaching series this past Sunday, and here is how Frederick Beuchner, the well-known author, once answered the question:

One way to describe the Bible, written by many different people over a period of three thousand years and more, would be to say that it is a disorderly collection of sixty-odd books which are often tedious, barbaric, obscure, and teem with contradictions and inconsistencies...

And yet, because it is a book about both the sublime and the unspeakable, it is a book also about life the way it really is. It is a book about people who at one and the same time can be both believing and unbelieving, innocent and guilty, crusaders and crooks, full of hope and full of despair. In other words, it is a book about us.

And it is a book about God. If it is not about the God we believe in, then it is about the God we do not believe in. One way or another, the story we find in the Bible is our own story.

See you in church,
Andrew

P.S. If you would like help or guidance in reading the Bible, please let me, Rev. Amanda or Rev. Richard know. We would be happy to assist you.