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Third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
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## Pastor's Column

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### 2017—The Gift of Another Year As We Journey Home to God

In these beginning days of 2017, I share some thoughts with you from Frederick Buechner, a Presbyterian minister and author. May his words help to set a context for us as we continue our Journey of Faith, as we make our way home to God:

“Faith is homesickness. Faith is a lump in the throat. Faith is less a position on than a movement toward, less a sure thing than a hunch. Faith is waiting. Faith is journeying through space and time. So if someone (and this frequently happens) were to come up and ask me to talk about my faith, it’s exactly that journey through space and time I’d have to talk about. The ups and downs of the years, the dreams, the odd moment, the intuitions. I’d have to talk about the occasional sense I have that life isn’t just a series of events causing other events as haphazardly as a break shot in pool causes billiard balls to go off in many directions, but that life has a plot the way a novel has a plot—that events are somehow leading somewhere.” —*Going on Faith: Writing as a Spiritual Quest*

“If I were called upon to state in a few words the essence of everything I was trying to say both as a novelist and as a preacher, it would be something like this: Listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery it is. In the boredom and pain of it no less than in the excitement and gladness: touch, taste, smell your way to the holy and hidden heart of it because in the last analysis all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace.” —*Now and Then: A Memoir of Vocation*

As we continue to walk through the days of 2017, may we see our steps as a pilgrimage that has meaning and direction. May we view life as a Journey of Faith. May we “take in” each moment as the meeting place of God. May we prepare ourselves each day for our homecoming, our reunion with the God who loves us and calls us home.

*F. Mike*