



## “Wayfaring”

BY BILL NABERS

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*“When it was time to leave, we left and continued on our way. All of them, including wives and children, accompanied us out of the city, and there on the beach we knelt to pray. After saying goodbye to each other, we went aboard the ship, and they returned home. We continued our voyage...” Romans 21:5-7a NRSV*

*“And in the end, the love you take, is equal to the love you make.” Paul McCartney*

They say all good things must come to an end. While not entirely true, this “Wayfaring” column will be my last in the *Mountain Courier*. Look for an explanation in this month’s Editor’s Note as to why this is happening at this time. Let me say there is no animosity but rather friendship and respect between Courier editor Amy DeVito and myself. So no nasty notes (or joyful ones if you dislike the column!) should be addressed to her or the *Courier*.

It has been my privilege to write for the *Bryce Mountain Courier* (and now *Mountain Courier*) since its inception 25 years ago. In the early days I was an occasional columnist for Bobby Myers. He asked me to be the regular writer of a religious column about two years into the paper’s life. Later Peggy Boston asked me to give this column a name and Amy asked me to continue when she took over the publishing reins. All three of my editors (Bobby, Peggy and Amy) have been a delight to work for and have aided my efforts greatly. Thank you to these three. In fact, I plan to consult with Amy and Peggy as my editors going forward and continue to occasionally show up in these pages

The Wayfaring column was an attempt to bring the Christian tradition and Lutheran heritage (and often even broader religious thought) to bear on our current times. A wayfarer is one on a journey and the column attempted to reflect my journey and hopefully the journey of the readers. It was not an attempt to impose doctrine or make ultimate pronouncements. It was never intended to

be sensational or fearmongering or even to change people’s thinking. I was trying to think thoughtfully about life and faith.

Of course one cannot be on a journey and avoid the current happenings around you. I tried not to avoid what I felt needed to be raised. A few of the columns did engender some discussions and “heat” (I do recall columns that addressed war and invasions in the early 2000’s, compulsory prayer in public settings, Mary, Mother of Our Lord, and treatment of others not like ourselves, and the Confederacy, to name a few.) The outpouring of positive response I get in my journeys around the Valley helped me to know that people were reading and thinking about Wayfaring. It has been rare in the last 25 years for me to attend a public event without someone thanking me for writing this column. I am humbled and encouraged by your support and your inviting me into your lives. Thank you.

But the wayfaring is not finished. The journey of my, and your, faith life continues. So will my reflections on that journey. I’m just not sure what format that will take. I am exploring options. They include putting items on social media, radio, books, and other print sources. At the present time my most recent columns (including the November 2018 column that was not published) and some shorter, more recent writings can be found on the two web pages for the congregations I currently serve. More will be added. Links: <http://spaderslutheran.org/wayfaring>, and <http://www.trinitykeezletown.com/wayfaring.html>. You will also find at these sites audio copies of my sermons, if you are really desperate for listening material. :)

You are welcome to drop me a line, or one to the Courier, with reflections on the columns, the journey or ideas for the future. It has truly been an amazing wayfaring, so far. The journey continues... As Martin Luther liked to say “This is most certainly true.” Happy New Year and a blessed Wayfaring. Amen.