Transitions

CIM Fall Series 2014

In the book *Personal Commitments: Beginning, Keeping, Changing* ethicist Margaret Farley wrote that "The ultimate meaning of the promise I make today can be clear only at the end of my life. And the meaning of my life at its end will be different because I made this promise today". What strikes me is that if you replace the noun *promise* with *decision*, or *action*, or *change,* the sentence remains both coherent and true. It stays true also if *promise* is replaced by *reaction to others* and/or to circumstances.

Everything about us, our physical cells, our language, our identities and perceptions, our beliefs and even our strongest and deepest relationships is always in flux. We are always in transition. "The Gift keeps on moving" as Bruce Cockburn puts it. Each transition informs the next and each also builds on the last. Some of the more significant transitions are marked by ritual (graduation, marriage, raising children, death). Some of them aren't but should be (divorce, disability, loss of vocation). Some are a celebration, some are very difficult and many are unwanted. Maybe the greatest gift the church can offer each other is to notice, honor and remember the transitions those around us have gone, or are going, through.

The worship committee has focused the services for Fall 2014 around the theme of *Transitions*. As a church we will be listening to each other describe some of our current transitions. We will learn about some of the challenges, surprises and unexpected moments of grace the transitions bring while also learning about how we can be supportive and helpful to those navigating their way through them. We are grateful to those who have volunteered to share their personal transition stories and would like to invite everyone to participate in these conversations. If you have a story or experience you would like to share with the group, please contact Corey or Linda.

Every breaking wave on the shore/ Tells the next one that there'll be one more (Bono)