

WEEKLY E-LETTER -- March 29th, 2017

Grace and Peace to you all this day!

It is good to be back home. My head filled with new knowledge and fantastic sights and music from Italy. A huge thank you to all who maintained our ministry during my absence. I'll be planning to show you my pictures at a later time.

I visited dozens of churches in Florence and Venice, and did not see any as alive with ministry as is Wilmot. I traveled with an international group of people and had a chance to talk with many of them.

Already this week committees have met, Council meets tonight with new Chairperson Shirley Cleave, and a planning meeting took place today with St. Paul's around our shared activities in Holy Week.

I felt as if I was stepping on to a very fast-moving sidewalk when I returned Tuesday to the church.

Lent is nearly finished. This coming Sunday is Lent 5, and we'll hear the scripture from Ezekiel about the valley of the dry bones. Do you remember that old spiritual Dem Bones?

The journey of Lent spends time in the desert and in darkness. We learn that this is not always to be avoided.

"God dwells in deep darkness. God comes to people in dark clouds, dark nights, dark dreams and dark strangers in ways that sometimes scare them half to death but almost always for their good—or at least their renovation. God does some of God's best work in the dark. If this is hard to see, then maybe it's because we've been conditioned to think of darkness as a negative. When I listen to all the ways that people use "dark" in ordinary conversation these days, it seems clear that the word has become a grab bag for everything sinister, dismal, tragic, or wrong." - Barbara Brown Taylor

I look forward to seeing you Sunday,

Blessings,

Rose~Hannah