

From Warden Daphne Davies:

As I've thought about the events of the last week-plus, I have asked myself:

"If someone told me I could have a gift that I would learn from, that I'd love, that would sometimes make me laugh and would also help me think better, but I could only keep it for 3-and-a half years, would I say I didn't want it? My answer would be 'of course I want that!'"

Wren has been a gift and although we have to "give her back" to the world, what delight I've had in knowing and learning from her, in admiring her, respecting her growing skills and loving her as a friend and spiritual guide.

There's a song I love from the show "Wicked"

I've heard it said

That people come into our lives for a reason

Bringing something we must learn

And we are led

To those who help us most to grow

If we let them

And we help them in return...

I know I'm who I am today

Because I knew you

The refrain says: "Because I knew you, because I knew you, I have been changed for good."

Surely, Wren has changed us for good. We are not the people we were when she came. We face our next challenges enriched and empowered by what we all have learned together. God has spoken through her in a unique way. And while we will miss her, God will still be here with us when she goes.

A dear Grace friend gave me this passage from Isaiah 41:9-10: "I have chosen you and not cast you off, fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you..."

I recall with crystal clarity the words our beloved Bill Maxwell said several years ago when we faced a different transition: "God is not finished with Grace Church." His words ring out again in truth: God is with us. And may God be with Wren, with Stephen, and with the people of Grace as we face our next days, changed for good.