

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends,

What a glorious spring! Since Joel and I never made it to Wisconsin due to my latest mystery illness (maybe I'm just not good at vacation), I've had a good amount of time to simply sit and watch out of the window this week. This morning I watched a robin run up the full length of our driveway. Birds puzzle me when they run long distances on their little legs when they could just as easily take to the air and get to their destination in no time. But there was purpose in this robin's journey.

When she was almost to the juniper bush where I know she has a nest and four perfect blue eggs, she began to run back and forth across the asphalt rather than directly there. She ran passed the bush, turned around, flew a quick circle, then, swoosh, entered the bush just below the nest. From there, I'm sure she found the way to her treasure.

When you stare out a window long enough, the goings on of nature can teach a lot. Although there appeared to be nothing and no one out with her this very early morning, the robin was taking no chances. Her job right now is to protect that life in her nest, and not for a moment was she going to let down her guard. If she had to run up the hill on her legs and perform some difficult aerial maneuvers in order to keep her babies safe, well, that's what she was going to do.

Mama Robin is a wise bird. Wisdom, I think, comes from finding the central purpose in life, and then living it well, with passion, creativity, and commitment. When we get right down to it, our purpose in life is not much different than this bird's. Aren't we here to enjoy, to protect, and to nurture this life we have been given and the life of all earthlings?



I don't think I have used that particular term before, but I am going to start. Sounding like a science fiction word from the fifties ("Attention All Earthlings! The Mothership is about to Land!"), in which the human race is threatened by a fictional alien invasion, its feeling has changed for me. Now the term "earthling" connotes our deep interconnectedness on this fragile blue planet, human and non-human alike. It still carries the inference of threat, however, only now the threat is not alien, but internal. We human earthlings have not taken our life-defending/life-nurturing purpose seriously enough. We have made all of creation a commodity, forgetting that it is our original treasure.

What do we do? I suggest we begin with much more time looking out the window, reminding ourselves of what we have to lose. "Attention, Earthlings! Our Mother Is in Trouble! The most vulnerable among us are already suffering the consequences!" Look out the window! Look beyond the door! Let the creatures speak. Look to them for guidance and inspiration. Then, let us live our purpose with as much determination as this morning's vigilant robin.

It is a glorious spring!
Kate