

MM Summer Blue Sheet – End of August 2012

Wedding ‘Moments...’

THE STOLE

It happened on our deck at the cabin one summer. Friends were present. One made a formal presentation to me. Formalities are not common on our deck. I opened the presentation to find a beautifully designed hand-made stole.

I never happened to have a stole but thought there were times when I might have used one to dignify some event. Now I had one with shades of purple and lavender and gold trim. It was imprinted with *mm* in large letters. That was maybe 15 years ago.

This weekend we made one of our rare trips away from the cabin to preside at a wedding in Eugene. Terry and Marlene and son, Brad, have been friends for 40 years. When Brad decided to be married I could not say no.

I wore the stole and told how Marlene had made the presentation to me all those years ago. I noted that by some mystical vision she had chosen colors for my stole to match the colors Lillian and Brad had chosen for their wedding.

I told the spell-bound guests (we clergy like to think everyone is spell-bound when we speak) the history of that stole and the meaning of the *mm*. Moment Ministries pays attention to some of the significant “moments” in life. This wedding was such a moment...not just a point in time...but a time in which there would be a sense of holy moment.

That sense of “moment” invariably happens in a wedding, usually in the time of making vows. Brides sense it, and even macho grooms. Tears are a give-away. Guests feel it too. The stole was given for such occasions and Marlene was right there in the front row to see it at work.

MOMENTS WITHIN MOMENTS

You never know whether people catch deeper meanings in words preachers speak. Like my words about “moments.” People often comment to ministers on how they liked the wedding. One lady told me how she liked it. She paused, then said, “It was really a moment.” I almost had a tear. I answered. “You got it!” She beamed and said “yes.” That little conversation was a “moment” within the moment.

ANOTHER MOMENT

A man came to our table at the reception and spoke to Jean. “I think maybe I’ve seen you before.” This happens to Jean from time to time. It usually turns out to be someone she taught to read in First Grade years ago. She’s good at tracing back to such beginnings. In this case they traced back to Inavale Horse Farm where he had attended a memorial Paul and I conducted after a fire swept through the stables killing 16 horses. We remembered that service and the planting of daffodils. “I lost three horses in that fire,” he said. We were all silent for a moment as that long ago event rose to our memories. He left us to return to the wedding party. Again, a “moment” within a moment.

A MOMENT FOR LUPE WITH SENATOR RON WYDEN

We stopped at our house in Corvallis on our way back to the cabin to drop off wedding clothes and pick up mail and also some newspapers. That very day Lupe Maginnis, a Moment Ministries Director, was pictured in the Corvallis Gazette Times with Ron Wyden, Senator from Oregon. She has been heart and soul involved with Philomath Community Services. Such programs, already stretched to meet needs, are threatened by some massive currently proposed federal budget cuts. “We want him to argue that you can’t balance the budget on the backs of the poor people.” Bless you, Lupe.

— Art Morgan from Puget Sound,