



The Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring
Pastoral Message
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What's on Your Reading List?

Stephanie and I enjoyed a wonderful trip to the Pacific Northwest in early July. We toured the western edge of the Cascades, walked the beach along the Pacific coast, ferried around Puget Sound, visited a few hot spots in Seattle, and caught up with several old friends. We also flew to Kansas City for a couple of days, where Stephanie spoke at a professional conference.

All this sightseeing and friend reconnecting was delightful. The double bonus was having time to catch up on my reading. True confessions: which books to pack for a trip is a harder question for me than what clothes to take. Books are heavy. Airlines are strict. Nobody wants to be stuck with a bad book on a long flight.

My reading list for the trip was pretty eclectic, including *Every Last One*, Anna Quindlen's new novel; *The Supreme Court*, a series of interviews by C-Span journalists; *Shaping New Leaders*, a new piece on mentoring seminarians; *Methland*, a narrative study of the explosion of methamphetamine abuse in rural America; *The Great Emergence*, a kind of "Cliff's Notes" version of Christian history, complete with an analysis of the current upheaval in North American Christianity, and a somewhat hopeful forecast for the future.

Given my love for reading, I was pleased to be greeted upon my return to Eden by a display in the narthex featuring summer reading suggestions from our library. Our church library is not huge, but our librarians, Alliene Turner and Marilyn Sundberg, her predecessor, have diligently culled and collected books that reflect the interests of Eden's inquiring laity.

One does not need a seminary diploma to enjoy Eden's collection. Check it out. Add a book from the church library to your summer reading list. And let me know what you find helpful, challenging, or even troubling. I'm interested in what you're reading, too.

Arlene