



Living in the Balance

January 2012

Some "musings and mullings" as we come to the threshold that ends one year and begins another....

When I say "yes" to one thing, I'm also saying "no" to something else.

If I'm involved in a grudge match, most of the time I'm the only player on the field.

The children's song goes, "the wheels on the bus go round and round, round and round, round and round." Sometimes I shudder to think when I threw someone under one of the wheels.

When someone says, "I hope this job will be different from the last one. It was so exasperating!" or "I hope I find some peace in this new church." I say, "Assholes and angels are everywhere. Be prepared."

One day you're sitting in a room with your family or your friends or in your church or on your job, and suddenly you're asking yourself, "Who are these people and how did I get here?"

Playing with words is my favorite sport.

I want to stop pushing wet strings up sand hills.

One thing on which St. Augustine and I agree, "It is solved by walking."

Just because you are related doesn't mean you can relate.

I seem to always have time to check Facebook or to answer an email....but I do not always carve out time for meditation or prayer. My "sitting" chair calls and I can find fifty reasons not to answer.

Some days I get up with a bad case of the "cranky pants."

There is a line between being helpful and driving the "crutch-mobile."

Sometimes I have a very hard time "staying in my own lane" or telling someone else to stay in theirs. We frequently want to drive each other's cars.

While talking to my friend about how polarized we are in this country, I said with great exasperation, "It's like we're in third grade and we are always trying to separate the peas from the mashed potatoes!" And she quietly replied, "Oh, no, Wanda, it's much worse than that....we're trying to separate the peas from the peas."

When it's all said and done, most of the time it isn't.

When those in authority and with knowledge fail to act in cases of sexual abuse, it is a continuation of a long and tragic history springing from people being complicit with the illicit and choosing tribe over truth.

When I encounter people who have committed great evil especially toward children, it makes me wish that I believed in hell so I could be the devil. Not permanently.....just for an afternoon.

I find that I'm never too old to get my feelings hurt.

Journaling offers a time for gratitude and gripping.....and they both have a place.

I like to think that I always know what's ahead of me, but I rarely do.

As much as possible, I want to live by the saying posted in my kitchen that reads, "In everything give thanks."



Calendar considerations.....

Spirituality and Practice

Offering many on-line retreats and programs, including some "on demand."

The Wisdom of Muhammad – January 1 – 28

Beyond Recovery: The Twelve Steps as a Spiritual Practice – January 2 – 27

On-demand courses available with Cynthia Bourgeault, James Hollis, Sr. Joan Chittister. You'll find a variety of faith traditions represented.

www.spiritualityandpractice.com

Introducing Islam, Sufism and Rumi

February 10-12, 2012

Rev. Lynn C. Bauman, Ph.D

Convent of St. Helena, Augusta, GA www.osh.org

Natural Spirituality

February 10 -12

Mikell Conference Center, Toccoa, Georgia

For more information e-mail Bekki Wagner at bekwag@aol.com

Engaging Faith Conference featuring Brian McLaren and Yvette Flunder

Friday evening, February 24 and all day Saturday, February 25, 2012

Offered by NEXUS and to be held at Furman University

www.nexusconnects.org

Iconography: The Gospel of Line and Color

February 11 – 17 at Kanuga

Life in the Second Half --- The Bowen Conference

Featuring the Rev. Margaret Guenther and the Very Rev. Alan Jones

February 27 – 29, 2012

Kanuga Conference Center, Hendersonville, NC

www.kanuga.org

Anderson School of Theology for Laypersons

Lillian Daniel – Sunday, March 11, at 3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

John Selby Spong – Saturday, August 4, at 3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

James Carroll – Sunday, September 30, at 3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

www.astlonline.org

Tumbling Downwards, Fumbling Upwards: Embracing Grief and Loss

Friday, March 16

Begin the New Year with Practices that Support Opening the Heart

Friday, May 4

Valle Crucis Conference Center, Valle Crucis, NC www.highsouth.com/vallecrucis

Interfaith Forum Spring Events – details coming in the February Journal

Film and discussion – Thursday evening, March 1

Panel in partnership with the Lilly Center at Furman – Tuesday, March 27 at 7:00





Calendar considerations.....

Sacred Listening: Group Spiritual Direction

March 11 – 14

Montreat Retreat Center www.montreat.org

Southern Dharma Retreat Center in Hot Springs, North Carolina

Check their website for programs for 2012.....I expect these to be posted in early January

For more information www.southerndharma.org

Abbey of the Arts offering a variety of on-line courses

“Way of the Monk, Path of the Artist,” and “Eyes of the Heart....photography as a contemplative practice.”

For information see www.abbeyofhearts.com

Machu Picchu and Peru’s Sacred Valley – A Pilgrimage

August 8 – 20, 2012

Offered by Jerry Wright, Jungian analyst, and Diana McKendree, Jungian psychotherapist.

The pilgrimage will include Peruvian teachers and guides.

For more information, contact Jerry Wright at jwright@morrisbb.net or call 770-656-3818

Summer Dream Conference – God’s Forgotten Language

May 27 – June 1, 2012

Offered by the Haden Institute

Held at the Kanuga Conference Center, Hendersonville, NC

www.hadeninstitute.com

The Sophia Institute

Charleston, South Carolina

Offering diverse programs

They are just beginning to list programs for 2012

www.thesophiainstitute.org





About Spiritual Direction —

- Offers a space and time for you to explore, reflect upon, and deepen your relationship with God.
- Provides a haven from the daily busyness of the outer world and opens a time to be still and to reflect on your inner journey.
- Is a companioning relationship grounded in dialogue and discernment.
- Explores ways you may integrate spirituality into your daily life.
- Is not limited to any one spiritual practice or tradition.
- May involve one or two meetings or multiple meetings over time.

You may wish to consider spiritual companioning if you are —

- Longing for a deeper relationship with the Divine
- Looking for a place to dialogue about spiritual questions
- Seeking ways to connect with the Spirit in a more intentional way
- Discerning ways to live in a more integrated and whole way
- Standing at a crossroads in your life
- Exploring new or fresh ways to be in relationship with God

For more information about Spiritual Direction, please feel free to contact me by phone
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The photos are my work. With the exception of the Celtic cross which was taken in Flat Rock, North Carolina, the photos were taken in Greenville. Several in my backyard when it snowed last February. The Japanese Prayer House is on the campus at Furman University about five minutes from my home.

