

Personal Reflections – September 23, 2018

The Teacher Is In the Room

In May, my new friend, Rev. Christine MacDowall from Melbourne, Australia, finished the Global Learning Partners' *Foundations of Dialogue Education Course* in Vermont and then came to Raleigh to spend a week with me. What a joy!

At one point on the Back Porch, we were struggling to apply all that Christine had learned in the course to the many teaching events she designs and leads at her church, when I said, "Christine, we can quit this struggling.... Let's relax! The Teacher is in the room."

Just this past week, I was speaking with a friend who was engulfed by fear about an important decision. To my surprise, I said: "Make the decision and a year from now, you and your friend can confirm it or change it. Nothing is irrevocable."

Even as I spoke, I thought: "Where did that come from?"

I know that was not me speaking. I trust - The Teacher was in the room and smiling!

How often, in the midst of a tough class or workshop or session, have you found yourself saying things way beyond your pay grade? Do you remember asking yourself: Where did that come from? The Teacher is in the room!

After this happened over and over again, I began to trust it will happen when I, and my friends or students need it.

In The Gospel of John, Jesus says to his friends:

It's better for you that I leave. If I don't leave, the friend won't come. But if I go, I'll send him to you. John 16:7

When the Friend comes, the Spirit of the Truth, he will take you by the hand and guide you into all the truth. John 16:12

Many years ago, I saw a documentary film about the Trinity. It opened in a lovely sitting-room with a large picture window. An older man with grey hair, a younger man and a beautiful young woman were looking out the window. The older man said, "They are in such a mess. Someone has to help."

The young man responded, "Dad, I'll go!"

"Oh sure," the woman said, "The two of you are going to deal with it all."

The old man smiled. "No, no – as soon as he comes back, my dear, it is all yours!"



I never forgot that imaginative scene: The Teacher is in the room, isn't She?

by Jane Vella