

Season of Sacred Story is a new experience for me. I have enjoyed learning the roots of this through the various stories of why it exists. These stories vary, just like the person who shares the reason for the season. The best part is that the season is alive and well at the Church of the Redeemer.

Storytelling is the basis of the written word for each book of the Bible. Throughout the centuries, literacy has not been as uniform as it is today. The first books of the Bible were written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. The first uniform translation into a common language was the Vulgate version of the Bible, written in Latin. Storytelling varies with each person who shares the tale. Each translation of the written word has different, yet similar, definitions. The variations are similar to what we experience in different dialects. The gracious Southern drawl of Virginia and the Carolinas was brought back to me during my recent excursion to visit friends in Winston-Salem and Durham.

The joy of listening to and learning about the sacred stories told at the Church of the Redeemer is that they are not just about famous names; in many cases, they are about people just like you and me. One of my favorite hymns epitomizes what we share in Sacred Story:

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

Written by Lesbia Scott

"I sing a song of the saints of God,
patient and brave and true,
who toiled and fought and lived and died
for the Faith they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
and one was a shepherdess on the green;
they were all of them saints of God, and I mean,
God helping, to be one too.

They loved their Faith so dear, so dear,
and God's love made them strong,
and they followed the right for Jesus' sake,
the whole of their good lives long.
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest,
and one was slain by a fierce wild beast;
and there's not any reason, no, not the least,
why I shouldn't be one too.

They lived not only in ages past;
there are hundreds of thousands still.
The world is bright with the joyous saints
who love to do Jesus' will.
You can meet them in school, on the street, in the store,
in church, by the sea, in the house next door,
they are saints of God whether rich or poor,
and I mean to be one too."

I am grateful to have experienced this with all of you this year and give thanks for the stories each of you has shared with me about your life and experiences at the Church of the Redeemer. Each story is sacred and extremely personal, filled with Faith, Hope, and Love. These stories are the legacy upon which Redeemer has been built and will continue as you share them with friends, family, and strangers.