



“Job and His Wife”, by Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528). This is one wing of an altarpiece commissioned by Frederick the Wise, elector of Saxony. Job is shown on a refuse heap while his wife drenches him with water. © Web Gallery of Art. In the Old Testament reading Sunday, Job laments, “My relatives stay far away, and my friends have turned against me.”

A Glorious Inheritance of Shared Love and Life Is Given to Us in the Saints

“His name was David Radley. He came to pastor the little church Connie and I were attending as teenagers in 1978,” the Rev. Dr. Brook Thelander said in his All Saints Sunday sermon. “The church had fallen on hard times, both spiritually and financially. The building was old and in a state of disrepair. The grounds were homely and unattractive. The morale of the people in the congregation was low.

“But Pastor Radley saw something in us,” Pastor Thelander continued. “He saw possibilities, especially in the kids that made up our wonderful youth group. He taught us that God was interested in us, and he always let us know that he prayed for us every day.

“After being with us for a few months, Pastor Radley challenged the congregation to take a step of faith and to commit to a full renovation of the building and grounds. With both the bank account and the church’s faith very low, we responded to his challenge. People began to pray and to give and to work. Within 18 months or so the change was striking, both in the appearance of the facility and the spirit of the people.

“This was now a church that was winsome in its appearance, the kind of place we wanted to invite people to worship with us. And we did. The spirit of fear and discouragement had given way to a spirit of faith and optimism. . . . Pastor Radley . . . never tired of reminding us that he prayed for us each and every day. . . .

“Just before we moved here to Boise to pastor at Epworth, David Radley was diagnosed with cancer. He phoned me not long before he died, and I’ll always remember the wonderful conversation we had. He reminded me again how proud he was of all of the kids in our youth group, and for how their lives had turned out. . . .

“A few days after David Radley’s funeral, my brother Rod phoned me. Rod had officiated the funeral service. He told me of an experience he had with Pastor Dave just a few weeks before his death. . . . On Dave’s desk my brother noticed a 3x5 index card, worn around the edges and faded from years of time.” Asked by Rod, “Dave, what’s on the card?” “Pastor Dave picked it up and handed it to my brother. My brother looked down to see names, numerous names, and at the top of that card was *his* name, and mine, and Connie’s, and the name of every teenager who had been part of that little church in Superior, Nebraska. And he proceeded to tell my brother that in the 22 years that had passed since he pastored that little church, he had prayed for the (p. 2→)

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Sundays
10:00 a.m.: Word & Table service
11:30 a.m.: Refreshments, conversation
11:45 a.m.: Post-service discussion
6:00 p.m.: (First Sundays only) Evensong, tea & refreshments

Thursdays: 6:30 p.m.: Evening Prayers. 7:00 p.m.: Singing & discussing hymns.

For the poor: Thanksgiving needs: Turkeys, corn, canned green beans, stuffing mix, instant and fresh potatoes, cranberry sauce, disposable salt and pepper shakers, paper plates, tamale ingredients (masa corn meal, pork, beef), spices. **Christmas needs:** Hams, ready-to-serve rolls, butter or margarine, frozen pies, cake mixes, breakfast/brunch foods, eggs, muffins, pancake mix, sausage.

Readings, 11/11: Job 19:13-27; Ps. 17:1-8; 2 Thess. 2:13—3:5; Luke 20:27-38. **11/18:** Mal. 3:13—4:6; Ps. 98:5-10; 2 Thess. 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19.

Prayer Emphases: Kenya; Free Will Baptist Churches; Karcher Church of the Nazarene, Nampa, and the Rev. Rick Garmon; The Salvation Army; parishioners on Raymond Street.

(Sermon, cont’d.) people on that card *every single day*. I have never considered myself a titan of pastoral ministry, but of one thing I am certain: I would not be who I am today without the godly influence of David Radley. And each of you has a David Radley in your life.” Paul tells us that we have “a glorious inheritance given to us in the saints.” We give thanks today for “an inheritance of shared lives, and shared love. How rich we truly are.”