

LISTENING ALONGSIDE



ECHOING CHRIST

Lenten Devotions 2017

**Monday,
March 13, 2017**

My Journey to Rocky Mount
By Leon Henderson

I was 23 years old and married with a child of the tender age of 14 months. I had a good, well-paying job, but into my heart came the call to go to law school. I applied and quit my job. We had just enough money for the first semester's tuition and to rent a house for a few months, so off to Wake Forest Law School we went. A call from a friend of Emily's parents helped me to find a part-time job, Emily taught school, and the dean found a full-tuition scholarship for me.

After I graduated, I was offered a big-time job at a ninth-floor law firm in Charlotte. But again, I followed my heart and answered a call to interview in Rocky Mount. Even though the small, two-man firm offered me a job at a lot less money, it was no contest, and I had no doubts. The rest has been my life here. At each juncture, I listened to my heart and followed. It had to be God's way of leading me.

Prayer

God of amazing compassion,
lover of our wayward race,
you bring to birth a pilgrim people,
and call us to be a blessing for ourselves and all the world.
We pray for grace to take your generous gift
and step with courage on this holy path,
confident in the radiant life that is your plan for us,
made known and given in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers*, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, © 2002

Psalm 27:4-5, 13-14

One thing I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!

Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.