

Pastor's Corner

Dear friends,

This weekend I worked around our house trying to organize a few things that have gotten out of control. Not *seriously* out of control...just having the potential to be so. One of those things are photographs. We have a lot of photographs. *A lotta lot* of photographs. Albums, bins and bags of photographs. So many that we cannot possibly hang them up on a wall and enjoy them all, so I'm on a mission to throw out the ones that just don't need to be there anymore.

Last night I pulled out the photo albums of my trip to England and Italy with my mom in 2001. So many amazing buildings—such stunning architecture and soaring ceilings painted with fabulous frescoes. So many beautiful sculptures—man, can those Italians sculpt. So many lush landscapes: mountains, oceans, vineyards. But as I looked through and reminisced, the one thought I had was “*wow, most of these pictures are really bad. There are much better photographs of all of this on the internet. Why don't I just throw these out?!*” The one thing I can't find on the internet? The pictures of the people. The pictures of mom and me. And, now that she's no longer with us, these pictures are even more precious.

Life is like this. There are a lot of things that *gobblety gook* up our lives that just don't need to be there, and they tear our attention away from what really matters: relationships. Trust me, when people are at the end of their lives and facing their mortality they do NOT talk about their things: their cars, homes, stuff, stuff, stuff. They talk about their people. Because that's what truly matters. Relationships. Whether it's a relationship with your biological family or “family” of another sort, be it neighbors, friends, colleagues, etc. People are what it's all about. So let's **try** to do better at keeping our focus on people, not things. I'm terribly guilty of struggling with this, so I invite you to join me in doing a little bit better at remembering to focus on what matters.

Be well and *Peace* be with you. I look forward to seeing you at First!

Pastor Kara

