

Good frosty morning from a hill in Rockport!

Fill in the blank, "Life's too short not to....." I've been thinking about that reflection on life this week. Life's too short not to have good seats at the theater! That's the first response my partner and I came up with this week as we took the train to Boston to see the Broadway show, "Beautiful, the Carol King Musical," at the Boston Opera House. We had front row seats -- sitting literally right behind, or in front of, the orchestra pit where we watched the percussionist work his musical magic with all his instruments while the orchestra director/lead pianist dazzled us with her talent and her obvious joy in performing her job. You can't see any of that if you sit further back in the theater. What was happening on the stage was also amazing, but it was the intricacies of what happened in the orchestra pit that really made the performance so memorable....

Life's too short not to..... How would you fill in thoses? I'm fully aware that we are in that very small minority of the world's peoples who can afford to take a night off and go to the big city and pay for incredibly wonderful seats at the theater! That experience is a luxury that most of the world's peoples can't even imagine, let alone have the opportunity to experience.

And yet, filling in the blank of "life's too short not to....." seems to become more and more relevant to me as I am in my 70's now. What are we waiting for? If not now, when? What have we got to lose if we try something we've never done before? How much do we lose if we don't take a chance, grab an opportunity, take a risk?

Today's Gospel reading is Luke 5:1-11. This is the story about Jesus calling his first disciples. It's about risk taking -- Jesus takes a risk in asking Simon Peter to put out into the deep water to catch some fish. Simon Peter takes a risk in saying, "If you say so, Lord...." What does it take for us to "take a risk" in our lives? To do things we've never thought we could, to think in ways we never thought we would, to admit our errors and omissions when we never thought we would be able to say, "I'm sorry"....

Being open to taking risks is one of life's scariest yet most important life tasks, don't you think? Without being willing to step into the unknown we miss the opportunities to experience some of the greatest, most rewarding moments of life. What have you been missing? What do you want to experience before you take your last breaths on this earth? What words need to be said that you've held back all these years? What actions do you need or want to take that you've resisted? Take a risk, take a couple of risks and remember, "Life's too short not to....."

Simon Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, if you say so....." What do you say?

Blessings, Susan