



2017

**Sunday Worship
10:00a.m.**

**Sunday School during
Worship**

**Fellowship Coffee
Following Worship**

**-Thanksgiving Sunday
Oct. 8**

**-Joint Board Meeting
Tuesday Oct. 10
@ 7pm**

**-Seniors Social
Friday Oct. 20 @
1:00pm**

**-Women's Fellowship
Oct. 29 @ 1pm**

Pastor:

**The Rev. Rick Beck
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Joint Board Chair:

Anita Jones

Building: Murray Flood

Congregational Care:

Shirley Klockow

Treasurer:

Lynne Hennig

Good Shepherd Church

Mission Statement

**Good Shepherd Community Church:
Where God loves, Christ heals and people serve.**



The Journey Stick

Every year in mid-September, Moravian clergy all over the world gather regionally to re-covenant together in ministry. Many years ago, at such a gathering in the foothills of Alberta, I found a root from a pine tree that had been uprooted in the spring thaw. It's about two meters long and has a home in my office. As you can see from the picture above it has many twists and turns from maneuvering its way through many rocks that line the Ghost River. Undaunted, this faithful root continued its underground search for water and fed a tree that was a visible expression of God's creative beauty.

I call it a "journey stick" because it resembles the meanderings of our life/faith journey. Few of us, if any, have grown up to be the person we envisioned while in kindergarten. Things happened in life. Some were pleasant surprises and others, if given the option, we would avoid. We experience obstacles which we maneuver and navigate around. The direction of our life changes revealing wisdom, insight, strength, patience, tenacity and vision. When we look back on our lives we have reason to marvel at the people we've become and, if we're honest with ourselves, realize that Divine influence is the major contributing factor.

How does this stick represent your life? What were the minor and major interruptions or obstacles that brought your life plans to screeching halt? When did you have to rethink life? How has your image of "Self" changed over the years? Is there a place on this stick that represents where your life is now, and what might you say about it?

Change happens. We see it all around us, especially this time of year. The leaves are turning colors, as are the arctic hare. The days are shorter, gardeners are preparing for the winter and birds are flying south. We are always in a state of change because we are always in a state of growth.

Take time to stop and contemplate the life journey you have been on. Marvel at the wonder and beauty of life's twists and turns. There may be parts of our life that you would rather ignore. There may even be parts you consider unacceptable or ugly. But just as we look at a twisted stick and see something beautiful, so God looks at our lives and sees something beautiful; God sees that it is good. Take time with the picture above and let it speak to you.

Pastor Rick Beck