

God's Awesome Creation: New Growth

New growth can be found in the most unexpected places. Walking down the street in Truro, I saw a tree, mature in age, high in stature, that held in the hollowed out space of a limb long gone, a replica of itself taking root and growing. A closer inspection revealed that a maple seedling had also rooted and was finding nourishment in the same sheltered space.

The eye-catching light green tips of evergreens announce that new life and growth is a fringe phenomenon moving out beyond the pale of past growth. Though tender to the touch, the new needles risk being the front line of interaction with the rest of creation.

The peeling bark of the Birch tree is yet another sign of growth and new life. The emerging life within bursts the bark that has become too narrow and confining. Then there is the marvel of tough buds giving way to small, soft leaves, and lowly introverted fiddle heads unfurling to stand upright with wide open arms.

The Acts of the Apostles is a great story of new growth in the early church; Peter and John working miracles in Jesus' name, the community setting up structures for the just distribution of food, Paul's approval of Stephen's death and then his own conversion and call to be an apostle to the Gentiles, Peter's dream that nullified the Jewish purity code, missionary journeys, deciding that Gentile believers were not bound by Jewish laws, and much more. It is a fast paced account of people, under the power of the Spirit, deepening their understanding and moving out to the ends of their world.

In both nature and faith it would appear that new growth is about risk, surprise and hanging in there. Spring is a great time to take note of new growth in nature. Any season is a good time to take note of new growth in faith.

Sister Donna Brady
Bethany Center