

## "A Moveable Feast"

By Judy Bevilacqua  
St. Luke the Physician Episcopal Church  
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I know now that the term "moveable feast" was used in Christendom as a holy day or feast day whose date would fluctuate according to the date of Easter. But having only heard the term associated with Ernest Hemingway in my youth, and having never even read his book by that name, I always assumed that it was simply a beautiful way to describe a PICNIC! Yes, there's a joy in being illiterate! ☺



This year at St. Luke's annual Picnic on our church grounds.....we came close to fulfilling *both* meanings! Because our picnic takes place on a lawn just across from our labyrinth garden, our priest chose to make a "moveable feast" of our Eucharist and bring it to the center of the labyrinth for the morning service and by so doing, honor the holiness of that sacred space....and it was certainly our "feast day!"

Another way we honored the space was by setting poles into the ground and stringing a line around the labyrinth, to let everyone "post" messages *"online!"* All ages were able to pen their prayers on colorful fabric flags to tie on the line, animating those prayers with life and breath and energy!....letting them fly in the wind like the Tibetans do with their own prayers. It was a deeply satisfying and silent ritual for the children and adults to share together.

So it certainly was a Moveable FEAST day, on the labyrinth and also looking across at the heavily laden tables of potluck food to follow the service. And even our prayers were a *moveable* feast of holy messages to God, flapping merrily in the breeze.

We left pens and fabric in the labyrinth information kiosk, so our visitors could continue this prayer flag ritual through the late Summer season. It's been fun to see the flags multiply over the days. Yes, all in all.... it was all a "moving" experience in so many ways!



Judy Bevilacqua has been the Labyrinth Guild Director at **St. Luke the Physician Community Labyrinth Garden** since it's inception 7 years ago. She works with a wonderful guild of men and women who bring creativity and deep spirituality to the work of overseeing this sacred space. Because our outdoor Chartres labyrinth is open 24/7 to the public, we are indeed "tending the mysterious," as most of our visitors we never see, only their "footprints" are left. We love the inclusive ethos this creates for the community and our parish. Judy loves singing and gardening, the arts and cooking and the quiet hospitality that leads to deep relationships.

**Entrance to Labyrinth Garden**



**Altar Guild setting up "moveable feast."**



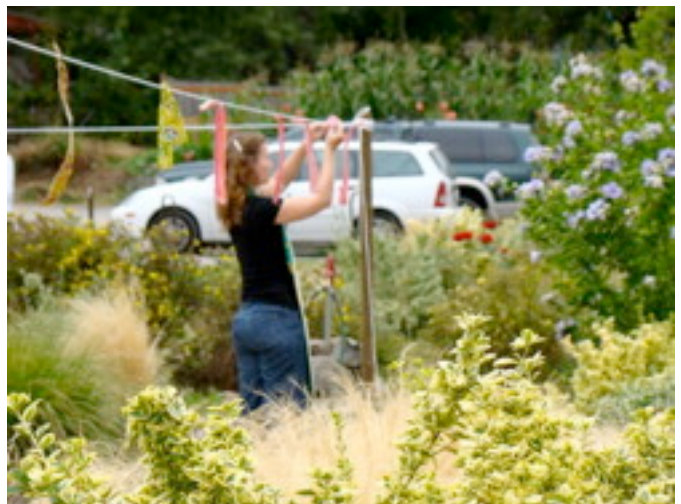
**Handing out the prayer flags to personalize**



**The "tabernacle in the wilderness...."**



**Rev. Jennifer posting her prayer flag  
"online!"**





**Everyone was enthused at the idea of flying our prayers to God**



**Part of the joy was sharing our requests before God and each other**



**It was moving to read the prayers and thoughts posted by others.....**



**Kay in the spirit of the activity!**



**Those too short to reach the line were hoisted!**





**A quiet, contemplative atmosphere hovered about the labyrinth during this time.....even the children felt it.**



**A great way for families to share a ritual of prayer together.**



**The other moveable feast!**



**Julia and the children.....shared lots of activities. Pinatas, playhouses of cardboard to color, tug o' war, etc.**





**The garden walk around the labyrinth**



**The kiosk at the entrance**



**Decor for the day comes from our community vegetable and flower garden.**



**Music provided a "soundtrack" to the day's activities.**



**Plenty of turns in the garden to simulate the labyrinth experience for those unable to walk it.**



**A new twist on an old game!**



**The children had a BALL!**

