

What does God require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God. — Micah 6:8

A Bible Game Fit For Pullenites

On her recent visit to Pullen, Phyllis Tribble, noted feminist biblical scholar, shared with me a bible game that she has been playing with friends and students over the last several months. I have had such fun with it with some of you that I want to pass it on and see what others of you think of it.

Explaining the game. Phyllis observes that in all the biblical stories where God appears to people on mountain tops, there are never any women present. So, in an attempt to bring women into those stories, Phyllis decided to take the Transfiguration story (Matthew 17:1; Mark 9:2; Luke 9:28) and pair a woman with each of the men present in the story. The pairings are not random but rather speak to a connection between the experiences and journeys of the two being paired. With Moses, she paired Miriam; Elijah, Jezebel; Peter, Mary Magdalene; John, Mary the mother of Jesus; and with James, Martha. Then, to engage others in this bible game, Phyllis asks, “Now, who would you pair with Jesus and why?”

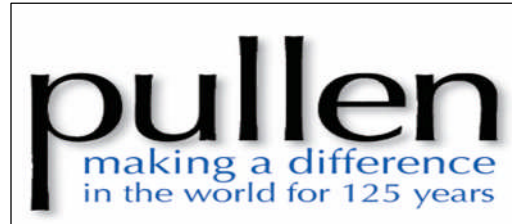
Rules of the game. The only rule is that you have to be able to explain “why” you choose who you did. While there is no “right” answer, you do need to be able to defend your choice.

My response. As soon as Phyllis asked the question, I immediately knew who I would choose. However, uncharacteristic of me and not wanting to embarrass myself, I decided not to reveal my choice until I had some time to think through the “why” part of my choice. The next morning as I walked with Phyllis from the Brownstone to the church for Sunday worship, I shared with her that I had made my choice. Still, not wanting to embarrass myself, I ask her if she would share with me who she had chosen. Ever the teacher, she refused and told me she would only tell me her choice after I revealed mine. And so I did.

In her sermon at Pullen on May 10, *The Bible: An Anniversary Gift*, Phyllis encouraged us to continue the Pullen tradition of wrestling with the biblical story honestly and authentically; finding its meaning for the times in which we are living. Drawing on the story of Jacob wrestling with God, she told of her own experience of wrestling with the biblical text—stories dominated by male patriarchy—until she, as a woman, found meaning and blessing in them for her own life. As people of faith seeking to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God, what work could be more exciting than wrestling with the stories of our faith until we find the blessing and redemption they offer us for our living?

Engaging the game. If you are interested in playing the game, I would love to hear your responses. If you have time, email your thoughts to me with the subject line *Bible Game* and sometime in the future I will compile a summary of your responses and let you know what other Pullenites think. And maybe, sometime this summer in a sermon, I will share with you who I paired with Jesus and why. Until then, may you find blessing as you go deeper into the stories of our faith.

—Nancy



**Sunday,
May 31, 2009**

LAY-LED WORSHIP SERVICE

11:00 AM

*Celebrating 125 Years of
Pullen's Lay Leadership*

Preachers:
Jim Epps and Cheryl Stallings

Former Minister of Music,
Michael Hawn,
will conduct the Chancel Choir.

Pullen Home Companion

6:00 in the Afternoon
Finlator Hall

*Featuring: Michael Hawn
former Pullen Minister of Music,
and showcasing Pullen Talent.*

Silent Auction

Refreshments



All proceeds to benefit Pullen Cuba Youth.