

From the Pastor's Desk

The Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison

At the session meeting in June, I prayed for the summer rest and break and then prayed for us returning renewed for fall. Rick McElreath, after the meeting told me that fall does not start in August in Reno. And I did laugh. I just have this impression in my mind. I think of school starting back up and starting the church program year as gearing up for the fall. I do realize that fall may not be the appropriate term for August in Reno. I am searching for a new word—so please let me know if you have any ideas.

It is hard to believe I have been here for 7 months. At times that seems like an instant and at other times it seems like I have been here with you for a long time. Things have slowed down a little in July and we are now getting ready for things to start up again. The first Wednesday of August we will start a new class looking at the life, writings and theology of Paul. We will continue our sermon series on songs from musicals through August and into the first two weeks of September. As we begin to start committees back up and make plans for September and October, it is always good to remember that God is part of the up and down waves that go along with life. This is the theme in one of my favorite poems, published in *The New Yorker* on October 4, 1947.

Grace and Peace,

Helen

The Little Duck-By Donald C. Babcock

Now we're ready to look at something pretty special.

It is a duck, riding the ocean a hundred feet beyond the surf.

No it isn't a gull. A gull always has a raucous touch about him.

This is some sort of duck, and he cuddles in the swells.

He isn't cold, and he is thinking things over.

There is a big heaving in the Atlantic, and he is a part of it.



He can rest while the Atlantic heaves, because he rests in the Atlantic.

Probably he doesn't know how large the ocean is.

And neither do you. But he realizes it.

And what does he do, I ask you?

He sits down in it!

He reposes in the immediate

He looks a bit like a mandarin,
or the Lord Buddha
meditating under the Bo tree.

But he has hardly enough
above the eyes to be a
philosopher.

He has poise, however, which
is what philosophers must
have.

as if it were infinity—which it
is.

He has made himself a part of
the boundless by easing
himself into just where it
touches him.

I like the duck.

He doesn't know much,
but he's got religion.



See you in our next newsletter...