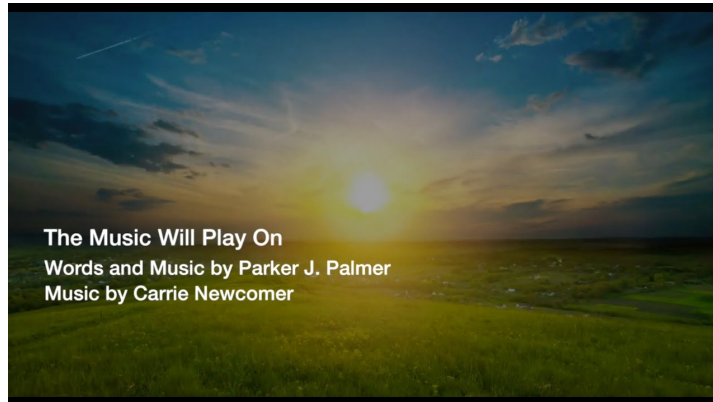


“On the Brink of Everything” — 48-04
PAUSE TO CONSIDER: REFLECTIONS ON SESSION #4

1. Last night, Dr. Palmer, in reflecting upon his personal spiritual development as viewed in the video “Portraits of Faith,” mentioned the importance of music in his



youth that impacted his life. This song, written by Dr. Palmer, seems to capture the essence of his message of “Grace, Gravity and Getting Old.” Enjoy this song one more time — just click on the image.

2. Jock wrote and recited this poem for us — written especially for Chapter II —
Young and Old

we are a parade — a long living line
our feet and hope follow those below
past known waypoints and new challenges

we hear the music of long lost livings
and study their rhyme and meter
singing the old and whistling the new

we search bravely, serving faithfully
falling in love with life’s consternations
hopeful and expectant of redemption

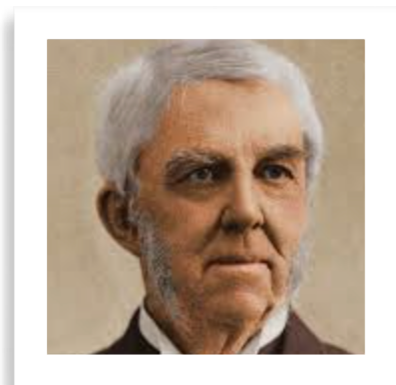
we persevere in faith and hope
living from the inside out
in service of love and justice

we shared the weavings
in our hopes and our stories

ch.2 thoughts On the Brink of Everything Parker J. Palmer
jock mctavish

I N F L U E N C E S	<p>Oliver Wendall Holmes: “Many people die with all their music in them.”</p> <p>Courtney Martin “They Do It Anyway”</p> <p>Parker Palmer: “Mentors and apprentices are partners in an ancient human dance.”</p> <p>Mahatma Gandhi his life — “experiments with truth”</p>	I N F L U E N C E S
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3. We didn't have enough time last night for me to share with you this slide featuring influences on Dr. Parker as he wrote Chapter Two — Young and Old — The Dance of the Generations. In Chapter two, he searches for a metaphor that describes life as he sees it ... “Passing the Baton” old to young is a tired metaphor whereas young and old as poles on a battery or members of an orchestra seem much more fitting to him.



In **NOTES** at the back of his book, he acknowledges his influences beginning with Oliver Wendall Holmes, described as a physician, poet and polymath from Boston who lived from 1841 to 1935. (Polymath, it turns out, refers to a person of wide knowledge and learning.) His quote of Holmes, “Many people die with all their music in them,” was set in the context of mentors. The mentors in Parker’s life kept him from suffering the fate of dieing with “all (his) music in (him).” P.S. There is a resemblance.

■ Courtney Martin’s name pops up in a variety of places in this book. It was her essay “Reuniting with Awe” that started Parker on the journey of writing this book. The book to which the quote refers is entitled ***Do It Anyway: The New Generation of Activists*** which features the stories of eight young

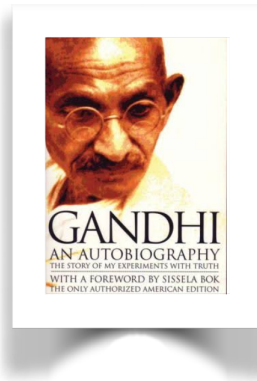


activists who are out to change the world. Here is a short clip in which Martin tells about this book that influenced Parker's thinking about young people today. Just click on her image and hear what she has to say.

The Palmer quote about mentors and apprentices comes from his book "***The Courage to Learn***" which was one of my influences in my teaching career. Published in 1997, he says:

"Mentors and apprentices are partners in an ancient human dance, and one of teaching's great rewards is the daily chance it gives us to get back on the dance floor. It is the dance of the spiraling generations, in which the old empower the young with their experience and the young empower the old with new life, reweaving the fabric of the human community as they touch and turn."

Finally, the quote from life's journey, referred to last Gandhi autobiography entitled, ***with Truth***. Parker's reference repeating: "Like all experiments failed."



Mahatma Gandhi about his night by Wayne, comes from ***The Story of my Experiments*** to Gandhi phrase bears some succeeded and some

4. I miss our use of Chat to record random thoughts as the evening session progresses but I totally enjoy the discussions that evolve in the Break Out Rooms. We are still seeking the magic number of participants in each group — maybe 4 rooms works best for a group of 25 or so. Each of us comes to book study from busy lives filled with 'living, experimenting, loving, learning...' and to try to search for consensus in such a wide-ranging collection of thoughts is indeed an awesome challenge.

5. A Recap of Housekeeping — if you missed some of my random thoughts...

- Our long time friend of St. David's, Theo Garrick, passed away in January. She was very proud of our stained glass window facing the west, a gift from the Friendship Group (formerly the Couples Club).
- Our pending and possible partnership with Northminster United with Rev. Nancy Nourse is an exciting leap forward in Ministry in Calgary.
- If you have spare yarn or have the gift of quilting, your contributions may find a home — call Sally or Brenda to connect
- Sunday after service, the **Sacred Service** Hosts will be "hosting" the Zoom gathering at 11 a.m. from their homes, beginning with our own Sheryl Schoenthaler February 13, 2022.

- An opportunity to become part of an ongoing activist movement here in Calgary is yours on Thursday evening at 7 p.m. on ZOOM with your attendance at the Calgary Alliance of the Common Good Delegates Assembly. St. David's is a founding member and Wayne and I, among others in our group, have attended the yearly Delegates Assembly. Here is their invitation:



DELEGATES ASSEMBLY

On February 10th we invite you to attend the online Delegates Assembly. During this Delegates Assembly, we will set our direction for the year to come, take action on our campaigns, prepare for a new listening campaign and amend our bylaws. We ask that each of our member organization's delegates attend and that they bring their core teams with them as we come together to discuss, act, and work together.



Visitors are welcome to come and participate but will not be able to vote.

WHEN
February 10, 2022 at 7:00pm - 8:30pm

WHERE
Online (Zoom)

CONTACT
Ryan Andersen, Lead Organizer · ryan@calgarycommongood.org

- Bible Study on Thursday mornings on ZOOM at 10 a.m. is on I Corinthians.

11. Some links you might like:

<https://couragerenewal.org/wpccr/parker/videos/>

On Being Project: <https://onbeing.org>

<https://www.newcomerpalmer.com/home>

12. Remember to send me your faith words for each letter of the alphabet.

Thoughtfully yours,

Brenda

