

## Dear Families:

Today we visited the book of Ruth in the Old Testament. Ruth was from the land of Moab. Her in-laws had moved there from Judea in a time of famine, searching for a place with food and water. Their names were Naomi and Elimelech. In time, their sons married Moab women, who were very wonderful people. Naomi was so happy.

Then tragedy struck. Elimelech died, and so did Naomi's sons. Naomi decided that she wanted to go back to Judea, to her own people and family. She cried as she told her daughters-in-law to return to their families, for she loved them. But Ruth refused to leave. She promised Naomi that she would go wherever she went, become one of her people, and worship her God. Ruth stuck with Naomi, caring for her as they traveled. Eventually, Ruth met Boaz. They married, and Naomi moved in with them, helping to raise their children. Naomi, Ruth and Boaz were blessed by God because of their relationships of loyalty and faith. May we, too, be there for one another during these contentious times, whether related by blood or not.

Today was All Saints Sunday, and we took time during service to remember people from our church family, friends, and relatives that have left for Heaven this past year. The students observed the congregation lighting candles in memory of these loved ones. We also participated in Holy Communion this morning.

The class has also been making plans for this year's Christmas Pageant. We are writing the play and practicing music- and will be building props soon. We hope you can participate- please join us! The performance will be on Sunday December 22, during worship service.

Thank you for being with us today!

Carol McClellan, CE Director