

We began this evening's Seekers Group with a deep and honest round of check-ins on our personal lives. Many times something one of us said resonated with several others' spiritual conditions. It was both comforting to hear others' sincere struggles with similar challenges, and inspiring and humbling to hear each others' courage and wisdom. We are profoundly grateful for this group and the fellowship in our circle.

The topic we considered was *What is Grace*. We shared personal stories of moments of grace in our own lives including having timely, wise words for a loved one in need come through one's heart rather than head....looking eye to eye at a bird perching on a finger....Being welcomed during a visit to another church....accompanying loved ones applying for a marriage license in a town hall with employees trying to do the right thing.

We agreed that it is easier to put our finger on the experience than the words to explain it. Yet, we wondered how many moments we miss all of the time because we aren't paying attention or just aren't open to them unfolding all around us. How can we (or can we) increase the likelihood of having such moments – when “unconditional” and even “undeserving” so often seem accurate descriptions of Grace? We marveled at the possibilities in moments of grace that effect more than one person, in a kind of domino-effect. We did not come to any conclusions, but we did agree that, like the excerpt from a Mary Oliver piece shared, we all so *thirst* for moments of Grace.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, July 6, 2015 at 7pm in the Community House. Our conversation will be on sharing our personal spiritual experiences/connections/sacred places in nature. Readings will “unfold” soon!

Gretchen Baker-Smith