



**First and Center
Pastor's Blog
Center Church, Hartford
January 10, 2019**

Just before the new year, one of my greatest mentors in ministry died after a long illness. While I am grateful for his release and peace, I am sad that the world lost such a lovely, smart, faithful man. Dick Broholm was his name. He is the second mentor I have lost in the past year or so; the first recent was John Wightman, and the same words would describe John.

I feel very lucky that, in both cases, I got to tell them how much they had meant to me and to my ability to serve God in the church, and to thank them for their faith in me. Too many times in our lives, those who have been our teachers never know the impact they have had on making us who we are for good. If you have someone like that in your life and they are still alive and you can find them, tell them. It makes a difference!

One of the things both of these men taught me was that I never grow too old to be taught. There is always more to learn. A new book or blog or person or place that brings a new way of thinking about something. The key is to be open to being taught, even if you are far past schooling, and especially if the new learning conflicts with an old learning.

In honor of Dick and John, then, my second resolution for the new year, after resolving to do a better job of paying attention (though I do not make New Year's resolutions) is to make an effort every week to learn something new. Then, to record that in my Joy Jar, because it is a joy that we live in a world among people who constantly have something amazing to teach us. Will you join me?

~ The Rev. Shelly Stackhouse,
Transitional Minister