

Weekly Meditations: 2014-2017

Daniel R. Heischman



National Association
of Episcopal Schools
Excellence Through Association

National Association
of Episcopal Schools
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Foreword



In this second volume of his *Weekly Meditations*, the Reverend Daniel R. Heischman, executive director of the National Association of Episcopal Schools, continues his exploration of life in Episcopal schools and its intersection with worldly and spiritual events. Many heads, chaplains, and rectors within the vast NAES membership look forward to the inspiration and encouraging insights these Monday morning “e-homilies” provide. This is true for me and I often share them with the greater constituencies within my own school community. NAES is delighted and honored to publish in this volume these pieces from the second three school years (2014-2017) of Dan’s efforts, making them available to the wider Episcopal school community and The Episcopal Church.

Once again, I know you will find Dan’s pithy and thoughtful musings about the rhythm and culture of our schools, their Episcopal identity, the demands of leadership, and the education and moral development of our students to be truthful and uplifting. Savor them one at a time, or devour multiple *Meditations* in one sitting. You will find yourself, by turns, comforted, provoked, encouraged, and nourished for your journey both within and through Episcopal schools.

Foreword

Preparing our students for living faithfully and well in the twenty-first century is our paramount calling as educators. I hope you find that this collection renews your energies for reflection, and strengthens your commitment to godly service and care for others that lie at the heart of your daily work and our Episcopal schools.

The Reverend Edmund K. Sherrill II
Governing Board President
National Association of Episcopal Schools
June 2017

2014-2015



Something More

August 18, 2014



In Daniel James Brown's highly-regarded book, *The Boys in the Boat*,* we read of the amazing saga of the 1936 University of Washington eight-oar crew, and its journey, that year, to the Olympics in Berlin. We learn of how nine working-class boys from the American West stole the show from the elite teams present (and highly favored) at that historic Olympiad.

As Brown begins his research, he encounters a continual reference the members of the team made to what they refer to as "The Boat." At first he thought that term referred to the actual racing shell that the crew used, but soon realized it meant something more. Then he thought it might be a reference to the members of the team itself—this unique collection of individuals who came together to form such a remarkable unit. Again, as time passed, he realized it was not just about the people involved. As he put it:

I realized that "the boat" was something more than just the shell or its crew...it encompassed but transcended both—it was something mysterious and almost beyond definition. It was a shared experience—a singular thing that had unfolded in a golden sliver of time long gone, when nine good-hearted young men strove together, pulled together as one...**