

“Let it rain, let it rain, let it rain!”

Our younger son used to announce the weather regularly with song and then whistles. When we lived in a more tropical zone, he frequently could be heard repeating the refrain, “raindrops keep falling on my head...”. I often thought to myself, we are raising a “weather vane” if not a future meteorologist. Those are, indeed, warm fond memories.

In our much more arid climate circumstances in the Texas Hill Country, I think about the rains and our longing for more regular rainy sessions. At the same time, I think cautiously about a dear farmer parishioner who said, “Pastor, we do have to be careful how hard we pray for rain, because you know how it can come sometimes.” Yes, when it comes, it can and will come sometimes with fury and even destruction. Another dimension to “flash flood alley.”

In giving some attention to what measures can be taken when it rains leads me to suggest some reflection on the matter. We are fortunate to have resources that enable us to responsibly capture, channel and utilize our rainfalls when they come. In my love of the land and our many earth gifts here in Comal County, I am grateful for the rains that come nourishing, replenishing and providing for our lives personally and in community.

In a walk with some younger folks on some land they hope to shape as a homesite, we noted the contours of the particular land parcel and took note of “where the waters likely flow” when rains do come. We noted, too, some of the natural growth that slows any wash of waters to encourage soaking and absorption rather than just racing by to other areas. Of note, too, were some areas that might serve for intentional riparian development to filter what otherwise erodes topsoil away in rapid flows. In this particular area we noted two karsts that benefit larger purposes as good rains flow through to reach underground sources. Of note, too, is a dry creek bed that can become quite lively in carrying rains into tributaries and beyond.

The visit turned, then, to some measures they’d noted on structures that capture rains. That prompted quite a conversation about the resources available to take a variety of measures to dramatically impact one’s own consumption and “take” of water sources through the systems that are available. I told them how impressive it has been to learn more about investments and improvements some folks are making to move their own dwellings toward degrees of water independence. They thought, too, about how important setting aside for protection natural parcels can be in the area. One noted how the downward measurements in the Edwards Aquifer send warning signals to our immediate area.

While still in this thought pattern, take a walk around where you live. Owned or otherwise, note the signs of flow and drainage and consider earth friendly alternatives. Ponder what it was like before settlers came into the area and any enhancements to further appreciate those sources of natural gifts. Consider the limited public policies when it comes to our precious water sources and waterways in Texas. Go to www.comalconservation.org. for resource options.

Allow me to salute our local CCCA consultant, Helen Ballew, in her energetic efforts to explore Comal County caves and help remove aged debris as they serve as channels for future water supplies! Work projects for volunteers and young Scouts may be part of the future’s promise!