

Children's sermon: January 9, 2011
"Brillo's baptism"

Do you like different names???? kind-of fun.
Our granddaughter ... who was baptized here a couple weeks ago ... is named Nova. "Star."
Lots of fun names in Los Angeles.

Have I ever told you the story of Fred's friend "Brillo"????
Matilda here ... this beeeootiful basketball ... met Brillo in Los Angeles ... when she was there to visit her daughter.
Brillo ... then ... was a little girl without a home ... and without a family.
After a couple years and lots of visits ... Matilda took Brillo with her back to Chicago ... adopted her ... and is raising her.

Here is Brillo. She is 13 years old ... still has some problems ... she's a young ball who has lost a lot of her "bounce."
She wonders why she has no family.

Often wonders what happened to her "real parents."
Well --- she has family now. She loves Matilda ... and she has some good friends like Fred.

One day Matilda takes Brillo to church. Matilda goes to a very festive Baptist church in town.
During the service ... one of the kids is baptized.
Brillo is curious ----- what is this baptism-thing all about????
And, of course, the Baptists do it "right" ----- you get dunked in a big tub ... go under the water ...
and come out. Not just the few sprinkles you get when you are baptized here!@!!

After church ... Brillo sees the minister ... and asks him about baptism???
What's it all about? ... am I too old? ... will I feel better???
The minister smiles.
*Baptism is a simple-meaningful thing!! It's about acceptance ... reminding us how much God loves us ...
it's about knowing we are forgiven ... and ----- you are never too old to be baptized!!*

Today is the day.
Brillo is excited and nervous. This church-thing is new to her.

Here she goes ... into the water ... and when she comes out and hears the words: I BAPTIZE YOU IN THE NAME OF THE
FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT -----
she is happy.

Brillo is still the same color ----- multi-colored ...
but, for a moment, she feels like this ----- all white, all clean, pure, refreshed, brand-new!!

Baptism, my friends, is a little bit like the words of our song this morning: "Bridge over troubled waters."
Do you enjoy Simon-and-Garfunkel music????
Brillo's life for a long time ... was troubled.
She finds Matilda ... Matilda finds her ... she has good friends like Fred ...
and now she knows ----- GOD'S LOVE IS WITH HERE ... EVERY STEP OF HER JOURNEY!!

My friends ... will you remember this story as the week goes on???
I have something that might help ----- yes: "Brillo wipes"!!!!
Remember our friend Brillo.
And when you get a bit sad ... you can feel "clean" again with these!@!!
LOVE TO ALL OF YOU!!