

Weekly Meditation April 28, 2010  
By Rev. Teri Lubbers

### **Standing in the Fire**

***It doesn't interest me who you know or how you came to be here. I want to know if you will stand in the center of the fire with me and not shrink back.***  
~ Oriah, "The Invitation"

If you pull out a Bible concordance and look up "fire" you will find some powerful stories: a pillar of fire leads slaves out of Egypt, three escaping unscathed from a fiery furnace, Moses' burning bush, Pentecostal tongues of flame, a risen Christ cooking breakfast on the beach. And these are just the ones that come to mind...I know there are more.

Fire burns, warms, leads, lights, cooks, consumes, destroys, cleanses. Sometimes it hurts, sometimes it helps, and sometimes it burns down the house.

Sit down and make a list of the people that are willing to stand in the fire with you and not shrink back. Now make a list of the people for whom you are willing to stand in the fire and not shrink back. We are barely able to stand in our own fires, much less volunteer to stand with someone else in theirs, but the folks on those lists are real community. Fiery moments are truth-tellers, oracles that remind us who we really are. When everything else burns away, all the props, all the personal fairy tales, all the hype we are taught to swallow as truth, when it is all reduced to ash, what is left? What does the phoenix look like? Come and see.

**Prayer: Creator, You Spirit of Fire, burn away all that is unnecessary today. Warm all that is cold in me and light the way I should go. Help me stand still even when I want to run away. Make me fuel for your flame. Amen.**