

# FaithBIT



## Cairns of Faith

Reflection by Martin Rathjen

Last week I climbed Bomber Mountain in the Bighorns of Wyoming following cairns to the top. Cairns, little human-made stacks of rocks on a mountain trail are navigation aids added by passersby over the years, and in many situations, added by people over several generations.

So, dozens of people over several decades people have affirmed that if you follow these markers you know that you're on the right path, that it's a safe and trusted route, and that you're headed in the right direction, giving you confidence that you'll arrive at your hoped-for destination.

When looking for cairns I've learned that I need to slow down and spot the next cairn in the chained sequence, rather than forging on blindly and hoping that I'll stumble upon the next cairn. If you miss just one or two cairns on a mountain you can get a long way off track very quickly!

Following cairns up this mountain reminded me that we follow "cairns of faith," faith-markers left by people who have traveled this life of faith before us. We read their stories in the Biblical narrative, we learn from the saints of the church, we follow Sunday School teachers, Confirmation Guides, pastors, parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and others. The ultimate faith trailblazer for us is of course, Jesus.

Who are the people of faith that have added cairns of faith for you to follow? What acts of faith are you laying down as markers for others?

God's blessings on the journey of faith!