

04-03-19 Wednesday Musing

As I was driving into work yesterday morning... the weather cloudy and cold... I spotted many things along the way that offered bursts of color... and tiny light green leaves forming on various trees along the way. Flowers are poking their colorful heads up here and there... and the dogwood are just before opening their blooms covering the trees with whites and pinks... But old man winter seems as if he just doesn't want to give up his grip... the weather has turned cold... damp and gray after days in the 70's... The possibility of snow which was forecast even came to fruition... but in all of this I am reminded of the warmth of the grace of God...

Many times, when we feel most joyous... when we feel triumphant in our walk with God... that is when evil tries it's hardest to creep into the picture we have before us. Be it Satan or his minions... or our own human nature... darkness tries to creep back into our lives and pull us down to the pit of despair... but we have a mighty power on our side to pull us back up... To brighten our days and our skies...

Scripture instructs us to stand firm in our faith... Ephesians 6 gives clear instructions of dressing ourselves from head to toe in the armor provided by God to combat the evil in this physical world and in the spiritual realms ... Eph. 6:13 **"Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm."**

I can look back on my own life and see where this has happened... I can see where Christ stood and shielded me from the flaming darts that were launched my way until I could take up my own shield which He provided... or when the shepherd left the flock and came to find me... his lost sheep when I had gone astray... Jesus tells us as recorded in Matthew 18:14 **"So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish."**

God offers the warmth of His Unconditional Love and Everlasting Grace to all who will listen and obey... He will place within you a light so bright that you will be the light in the darkness through which His love shines. You can be the flowering tree that stands tall on a cold spring morning... bring joy to those who witness your glory in Christ.

As we go to the Lord in prayer this week, let us remember to lift up our government leadership... the missionaries in various countries around the world... those imprisoned unjustly and those wandering endlessly without homes... those suffering from disease and famine... those who suffer the catastrophes that are unleashed by nature...

Remember also those in our church community: Frances Morgan, Selma Simpson, Jeanne Williams, Mary Jane Pettigrew, Harvey Sharpe, Donna Freeman, Anna Gerow, Nancy Thomas, Margaret Turner, Louise Walters, Elizabeth Woodlief—mother of Peggy Johnson, Friends: Janette Hudson—mother of Connie Collins

Also... new addresses for a few folks...

- Selma Simpson, Rex Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, 4210 Lake Brook Trail, Room 131, Raleigh, NC, 27607
- Frances Morgan, Edgewood Place, 1820 Brookwood Ave., Room 202A, Burlington, NC, 27215
- Jeanne Williams, Home Place of Burlington, 118 Alamance Road, Room 104-B, Burlington, NC, 27215, 336-570-9147

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This weeks sermon title is "The Submissive Face of Jesus ". The Scripture readings will be from Matthew 3:16-4:11 and Luke 22:39-53.

A note from Nancy Thomas... God is good and He will take care of you.

Thank you to all of you for your prayers, calls, and cards. I understand that Mike Smith announced in church on Sunday that I had a PET Scan a couple of weeks ago and I *currently* have *no active malignancy*. This is something that I never expected to happen. It was not one of the future options I was given in September 2015 when the cancer was discovered and deemed to be Stage IV breast cancer and metastatic to the ribs and spine. I am still somewhat tired, especially in the mornings, but being off the chemotherapy drug is helping me to regain my strength. I feel truly blessed and hope to be back in church more often. Hope to see you Sunday at the Relay for Life bake sale..... Nancy Thomas

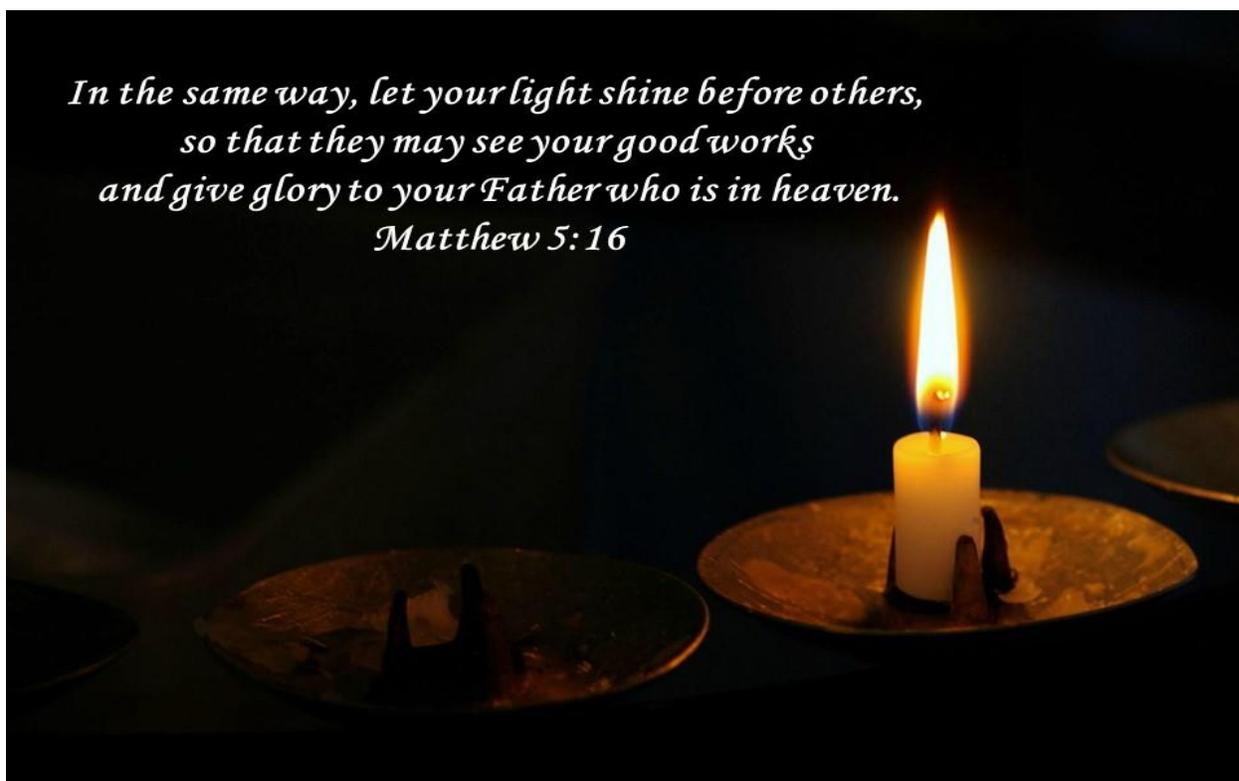
Happening around the church:

- **This Sunday... April 7th - Hot Dog lunch after worship and Cake Auction** to benefit the "Relay for Life" in their fight against cancer.
- April 18th - 6:30 pm - Maundy Thursday Service and Tenebrae Service in Bray Fellowship Hall. See the newsletter and bulletins for more info.
- April 14th - 7:30 am Sunrise Service followed by Breakfast in Bray Hall, 10:30 am Easter Worship Service. There will be no Sunday School this day.

Grace and Peace from Your Father in Heaven...

Joan 😊

*In the same way, let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
Matthew 5:16*



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