

pray . fast . give . 

Living Lent | Day 40

Everything Beautiful: How Does Your Garden Grow?

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:... He has made everything beautiful in its time... He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.”

Ecclesiastes 3:1 & 11 NIV

Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:

I am a passionate gardener. My love of gardening began as a young child helping my parents with “yard work” and enjoying the beautiful results of our labor in every season. As a family, we traveled together to visit gardens, growers, and nurseries across the state; and, to this day, one of my favorite places to visit is a great nursery! Personally, gardening allows me to see God’s amazing power firsthand; it is worth every minute of time spent in the garden.

As a gardener, I am always learning. Each garden has specific needs: a plan, healthy plants for a particular planting zone, proper sunlight, prepared soil in which to plant and help to develop a solid root structure, irrigation and drainage, nourishment for growth, protection from disease and the elements, structural support, pruning, mulching, and weeding. Most of these tasks help to ensure a healthy and abundant garden for many years of enjoyment. Gardening incorporates passion, time, patience, understanding, physical and financial responsibility, plain old hard work, and divine intervention.

Over the years as I traveled the Southeast consulting with nonprofit organizations, I viewed each local community as a garden. The communities with flourishing gardens recognized and supported the missions of the nonprofit organizations that passionately served a critical need in the community. It was amazing to see how much good work could be accomplished. Our own community garden thrives because of God and the giving members in our community who are “doing good” while they live. Every season of life does have a purpose. In our community’s garden, there is a growing area that needs our tending. During the Lenten Journey as we all count our blessings, pray, and contemplate how we can help others during their time of need. Let’s spread the seeds of Joy together!

Challenge to Prayer and the Exercise of the Privilege of Generosity

Morningstar is committed to serving the unique needs of children and their families by providing “a sanctuary where transformative teaching and healing” can occur. During this Lenten Journey, thank you for thinking about giving to the ministry at Morningstar. Your generosity will uplift our children by providing each with a brighter future. With your gift, our community garden will continue to grow and flourish. Joy!

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Contributor

Eunice G. Sams, St. Simons Island, Georgia has delivered critical financial management, administrative, and consultative services to help nonprofit organizations fulfill their missions across the Southeast for over 25 years. She believes we are all beneficiaries of incredible missions that are made possible by driven staff members and passionate donors in each of our communities. While their daily deliberations are quiet, the result of their hard work and giving speaks volumes. Recognizing Morningstar’s unique purpose and mission, Eunice serves as a member of the Foundation Council.

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