

March 30, 2018

Russell's Ritings....

We were appointed to Grace Church in Natchez in 1984. In early spring we went to Natchez to meet with the Staff Parish Team. During the visit we were given a tour of the parsonage by the pastor and wife. While the women were in the house he and I walked around the yard. He was a master gardener and everything was beginning to come to life. The grass was greening up, the flowers were budding out, and the vegetable garden held promises of fresh vegetables which would be left for me to harvest.

There was an old, gnarled, and twisted rose bush at the side of the carport. It was full of thorns, and I wondered aloud why it had not been cut down. The pastor said, "Don't ever be tempted to cut that down. You have a surprise in store for you."

Then - when the time came - the old bush would burst forth in new life, bringing beauty to table settings, office desks, and even the church altar. Over the years I served at Grace I grew to love that old bush and would anxiously look forward to seeing it produce its fruit.

Out of death's cold hand, new life appeared on Easter. Death could not keep its prey. Up from the grave He arose! Join your UMCE family this Sunday for both services - each different - at 8:30 and 10:30. The early sermon is "Facing the Lord" (John 20:18). We will also observe communion in this service. The later sermon will be simply "Good News" (Mark 16: 1 - 8). And there will be an egg hunt in between the services, always fun.

See you this Sunday - the SUNDAY OF SUNDAYS!

Blessings,
Russell