

A Service of Witness to the Resurrection
and in Celebration of the Life
of
Madge Fisher Harrah

May 11, 1931 - November 26, 2011



“...I looked inside myself. Was there a bit of God’s love hidden in there somewhere?
Just one tiny yeasty piece that might expand and change my soul
from a lifeless lump into a living spirit?
“Touch me, Lord,” I whispered. “Let me live for you.”
A rush of warmth spread through me. And with that warmth, I felt something begin
to stir.”

from one of Madge’s devotional writings.

Memorial Service for Madge Harrah
May 11, 1931 - November 26, 2011

December 1, 2011 - New Life Presbyterian Church
The Rev. C. Edward Katzenberger

Prelude *Matalie Wham*

Opening Sentences of Scripture

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn "In the Garden" (insert)

Readings from Scripture

New Life Choral Ensemble *"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" by J. S. Bach*

Reflections *Ed Katzenberger*

Carol "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" original five verses (insert)

Remembrances from Family and Friends

Special Music "Oh Holy Night" *Matalie Wham and Bonnie Crispin*

Prayers

Hymn of Praise *"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"* *PH 464*

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude *Matalie Wham*

Reception follows

In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes gifts given in Madge's memory to Roadrunner Food Bank, Healthcare for the Homeless, Joy Junction, or New Life.

Blessing Moments

Each day I stay alert for what I've come to call "the blessing moment." I used to let such moments slide by without paying much attention. Then my husband's elderly aunt went into a depression and complained to me that nothing good ever happened to her, that the world was a horrible, ugly place. In an effort to cheer her up, I bought her a pretty notebook and encouraged her to write down one beautiful or inspiring thing that she encountered each day.

Once I got her started on that project I said to myself, "Not a bad idea," so I began doing it, too.

For me, a blessing moment is anything that surprises me with joy and lifts my heart, even though it may be something very small. One such moment happened for me as I saw my young granddaughter tenderly caress her doll and I caught in her sweet smile a glimpse of the mother she will someday be. Another moment occurred when I was drinking my breakfast coffee and I glanced out the window and saw two fat doves parading around in the grass, their wings glistening an iridescent purple in the light of the rising sun. Then there was the moment when I was feeling down and my husband walked through the room and tossed a droll comment my way that sent me into sudden laughter.

Small moments. Blessing moments that God sprinkles like petals along my path every day if I stay alert enough to recognize them.

Now I tell other people about blessing moments, and I encourage them to watch for those moments, too.

God, thank You for your many blessings.

Madge Harrah,
Advent Book 2007

Welcome to New Life Community Presbyterian Church, a welcoming family of believers and seekers from diverse spiritual backgrounds, striving to be a cooperative and mutually respectful community in which to pursue our individual and community relationship with God.

We carry out God's mission for New Life as a joyful, sensitive faith community modeled on the inclusive and healing love of Jesus Christ. We reflect Christ's love to all who come through our doors, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, age, race or economic status. We extend this ethic to our pastor, elders and deacons.

- We are open to freedom of interpretation of Scripture, believing that truth is also found in our experiences of God in our individual and communal lives.
- We practice freedom of expression in worship, inviting participation from the whole congregation.
- We worship at round tables to signify inclusivity, connection and equality.
- As part of our ministry to explore and deepen our individual and collective spirituality, we host an ancient form of walking meditation called the labyrinth.
- We reach out to the community at large through our ongoing participation with Project Share, Habitat for Humanity, the Martineztown House of Neighborly Services, and other projects.

NEW LIFE is home to two labyrinths, tools for walking prayer and meditation, that date back to the 12th century pattern found in Chartres Cathedral in France. Our indoor canvas labyrinth is used for meditative services throughout the year. The outdoor labyrinth is open from dawn to dusk daily year-round.

Every Sunday evening, a contemplative Taizé service from 6:30 - 7:15 is held at New Life. On the last Sunday evening of each month we hold a shorter Taizé service with a labyrinth walk following. The Labyrinth walks will be held outside, weather permitting. In 'uncooperative' weather and on special occasions, we will have the walk on the indoor labyrinth.

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