

Blessings

by Ann Hunley Harrington

Everyday miracles can happen if we look around and stay attentive. And if we open our hearts to the love of Jesus Christ, then we can and should be amazed by Him and His love for us.

My St. Philip's is a beloved place of worship, fellowship, and friendship, but above all, we encourage each other in our faith and we grow in our walk with our Savior Jesus Christ each and every day. But when I first arrived at St Philip's, I was a broken person. It seemed like God had kept closing doors in my life, and I was mad at Him. I was feeling discouraged and I was questioning what His purpose was for my life. It seemed like I had hit a dead end. Then all of a sudden I had painful bladder stones, which turned out to be a blessing. And yes, at the time I did not believe my mother or anyone else who told me that it could turn out to be a blessing, but the blessing was that they found a cancerous tumor behind the bladder stones. And my Bible study group was right there through it all. I still to this day have the card with the Bible verses that got me through my surgeries.

Brian McGreevy's Bible study classes, as well as Jane McGreevy's, Pringle Franklin's, and Marnie Kerrison's Bible studies, made the Bible come alive again for me. They shone the light of Christ and showed His amazing love to a broken person. I was a bud; they watered me with the Gospel, showed me Christ's love, and let me bloom to what I have become today. They gave a wayward daughter, niece, cousin, and sister back to her beloved family, who had never stopped praying for her and loving her, who had poured the seeds of the Gospel into her for years. And finally, the seeds bore fruit and flowered, showing the light of Christ to the world and standing up for faith. Basically, St Philip's gave me back the faith that had been hidden and made it come out so I could become the person that God had intended me to be all along.

Jeff Miller often quotes Romans 8:28: "All things work together for good, for those who love God and are called according to his purpose." As he said one day in the Acts class, "When God keeps closing doors ..." So I have looked back over my life, and I've realized that if God had not kept closing doors on me, I would not have become the person that I am today.

And because so many doors have closed, I'm so grateful for those He's left open. It was a blessing to go to the Holy Land and experience what I had been hearing and learning about all my life. I was overwhelmed and amazed the whole time on this, a journey of a lifetime. So thank you, St. Philip's, for pouring the light of Christ and the Gospel into me and giving me back meaning and purpose in my life.

We want to feature YOUR story (250-500 words) with one of the following topics in the next inSPIRE!

1. My Faith Story
2. My St. Philip's
3. Everyday Miracles

For suggested guidelines or answers to any questions, call Lea Andrews at (843) 722-7734 ext. 232 or email her at landrews@stphilipschurchsc.org. Submissions may be edited for length or clarity.