

## Thoughts from the Chair

Jesus tells us in the Gospel of John 16:33 "I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But be of good cheer. I have overcome the world."

Without a conscious decision to be peaceful, there is no peace. Depression, chaos, arguments, unforgiveness, manipulation, domination and control arise in relationships when there is no decision to allow for peace. As is in unwarranted behaviors such as fights, untimely deaths caused by violence, wars, verbal and physical abuse are almost always manifested when there is no decision to hope for peace.

This Holiday season let's make the decision to allow peace to saturate our thoughts and our behaviors, let us make the decision to forgive one another and sincerely love one another. I am reminded again this season of the beautiful lyrics to the Hymn written by Jill Jackson and Sy Miller, "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

"Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me;  
Let there be peace on earth,  
The peace that was meant to be.  
With God as our Father  
Brothers all are we,  
Let me walk with my brother  
In perfect harmony.  
Let peace begin with me,  
Let this be the moment now;  
With every step I take,  
Let this be my solemn vow  
To take each moment and live each moment  
In peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me."  
Be of good cheer!  
Have a Merry Christmas and a beautiful Holiday!  
Blessings.  
Yvonne Matthews, Chair