Lay Leader Insights:
WALKING THEM HOME

(Continued….)



I remember visiting a friend coming toward the end of his life (he was sleeping when I arrived), I held his hand and sat with him for a while. Then something nudged me to start singing hymns. I started to hum quietly, but realized the words to the Hymn would be very comforting to this devout man so I started singing. Almost immediately a smile came across his face, even though he still slept. His brow was relaxed. We enjoyed being in a sacred moment. When he awoke he said he thought he was already in heaven. It gave us a chance to talk about his faith and what was to come and every few minutes he would fall asleep again.

Walking someone home to heaven is something I often feel called to do. Acknowledging that their earthly life is coming to an end gives them the freedom to talk and ask questions. I repeat the promises of God, that he has prepared a place for us, and the promise that we will all be together one day in a place without sadness, illness, or chaos.

I treasure these times. I encourage you to take time to sit with those coming toward their earthly end, listen to their stories, and be comfortable with quiet. Know that your presence is a gift as you walk them home. So often we fear death. We're not sure what to say. Silence is fine, slow your pace, and ask about their concerns. Stay focused on them, not the world at large unless they ask. Some people enjoy hearing scripture. You need not entertain, just listen and watch their cues.

If you would like to know more about “What To Say”, there is a free seminar on Saturday, October 19 from 8:30 am - 12:00 pm at DUMC. We’ll discuss how to talk about tough subjects like illness, funerals, divorce, moving to long term care, and more! We will practice these conversations as well. ***Contact me*** to register. I promise you will be better equipped when you leave! FYI- I also wrote a book available on Saturday or through Amazon "What To Say To People Who Are Hurting."

God created you to be a blessing to others and show them God's love.

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10

Blessings,

Laurie Lewis

Lay Leader/Minister of Visitation