

Ms. Doris Underwood
Messiah Lutheran Church, Montgomery, AL

I have been working in healthcare for the last twenty-five years, currently employed by a cardiology practice in Montgomery as credentialing manager. I enjoy gardening, cooking, listening to music and Alabama football.

I am an active member of Messiah Lutheran Church in Montgomery, Alabama where I currently serve as President of the Congregational Council, a position I have held several times in the past. I also serve as a lector, lay assistant and small group coordinator.

I have been involved in church work beyond the local level for the past twenty years. I served six years on the Candidacy Committee of the Southeastern Synod, two years as Chair. I served four years on the Synod Council and was elected as the first female Vice President of the Southeastern Synod, serving eight years in that capacity. I currently serve on the ELCA Churchwide Nominating Committee, the Personnel Committee of the Southeastern Synod and the Advisory Council of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina.

I was one of the founding members of Lunches for Learning which feeds school children in Honduras and served on its' Board of Directors. I also served on the Board of Directors for the Robert and Jeanne Graetz Foundation.

I have several Bible verses that could be considered favorites; they include the entire Psalm 51, Psalm 46 verses 1 through 3, Jeremiah 1 verse 5 and my absolute favorite Romans 8 verses 38-39. These passages speak to me in several ways. I am reminded of my sinful nature and my unworthiness while at the same time, I find comfort in knowing that God has a purpose for my life and that nothing, absolutely nothing can separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

I see God daily. Sometimes She jumps out at me and at other times, She makes a quiet appearance. I see Him in the young boy who lives next door who saw me struggling to lug my garbage can to the street when I had a bad back and he came to my rescue. Since then, he has been taking my garbage can out and bringing it back out of the kindness of his heart. I saw Him this morning when I saw my crocuses peeping up through the pine straw. I was reminded that He is faithful to His promises. There is new life ahead. I see him in the young woman with whom I have absolutely nothing in common except the fact that her office is two doors down from mine and we both love to talk about cooking. I don't know that I would have listed her as a friend but the other day, she sent me a text to let me know she was going to take an unplanned day off. She knew I would worry if she didn't show up for work because she is pregnant and she has a long commute.

God has blessed abundantly by God in many ways but particularly I have been able to care for my sister who suffers from Chronic Heart Failure and is recovering from open heart surgery. This is the holiest work I have been tasked with and I am abundantly blessed that I have been able to share this time with her.