

FROM MY DESKTOP

“For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.” (Isaiah 61:11)

Remember May baskets? On May 1st, children carefully folded colored paper into star-shaped baskets. Sometimes the paper was cut into strips and woven into the baskets. The early flowers of the garden were gently picked or cut for the baskets. Even flowers that adults called weeds demonstrated caring. Those without a garden nearby made their flowers out of paper or tissues and pipe cleaners. Messages of cheer or encouragement were written in a childish hand to add along with the flowers. Then the baskets mysteriously and anonymously found their way to a neighbor's front porch. If there were convenient bushes to hide among, donors might ring the doorbell to alert someone inside to notice the treat that awaited them.

As neighbors recognized the delight with which children showed their caring, they also found ways to extend the gift of neighborliness to others. Cookies cooled on plates by open windows. Those with a particular knack for gardening came out to share their own gardens and a little conversation. The shelter of the bushes was extended to the hide-and-seek crowd

while fireflies danced in the air. Good deeds done for no other reason than the delicious joy of the doer. God was causing righteousness and praise to spring forth on a mild spring day.

Over time this lovely tradition has disappeared, and other less thoughtful observances of May Day have taken its place. I wonder what God is doing now to cause righteousness and praise to spring forth. Maybe you have an example you'd like to share. In this issue of the Communicator you will find many events that will allow you to reclaim the May Day spirit once again. Here's a suggestion for enjoyment: keep count of the number of times events cause the Doxology to pop into your thoughts spontaneously.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
Praise him all creatures here below!
Praise him above, ye heavenly hosts!
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost!

Soli Deo Gloria,

Terrye Mac