

Nancy Toon

## Seniors' Sunday Talk

2023  
1943 - 80 years old?  
80  
8 - when in 3rd  
88

Good Morning. My name is Nancy Thompson Toon and I have been coming to Peachtree Road United Methodist Church since I received my third grade Bible from Nat Long, Sr. in the fall of 1943. Raise your hand if you have been here longer than that. I want to know you! The Second World War was in full swing, gasoline was rationed and friends of my parents encouraged them to come to a "close to home", fast growing young Methodist Church. Our family had been attending The First Methodist Church downtown. I can remember the smell of coal smoke and soot that permeated the Sunday school classes of that old church.

The most consistent thing in one's life is change. Children grow up and leave home, parents and friends leave this earth sooner than we would like, jobs change, and homes change over the years, according to one's needs and circumstances in life.

The one thing consistent in my life has been the church, to be more specific, Peachtree Road United Methodist Church. My father, Herman Thompson was the Sunday School Superintendent from 1948-1954. He was also Chairman of the Board of Stewards in 1960. My mother, Cecile Thompson was WSCS president in , now UMW from 1949-1952. I remember each of them had to sign a sobriety pledge. I recall Bill Britt's

sermon on the subject just a couple of weeks ago, and how the times have changed.

The Sanctuary, at the time we first attended, and for several years after was the present "Heritage Hall". The present Chapel, became our new sanctuary and Sunday school rooms were added beneath and adjacent. The grand opening was achieved in 1949. In this sanctuary, <sup>Ralph</sup> my husband of almost 62 years and I were married, as were our three daughters, Julie, Libby and Jennifer. Two years ago our granddaughter Katie, married in the Chapel, which was the location of the all the the aforementioned weddings. My parents' funerals were held there in 1984 and 2004 respectively. Thus, you see why PRUMC has been the consistent thing in our lives. We have even obtained a couple of Niches in the Memorial Garden across from the fountain. Husband Ralph said "do you think our ashes will get wet there??"

In closing this morning, the two things that have been taught to me by our church over my 74 years here and have worked in my life, have been the power of prayer and the power of forgiveness, not only on my part to others whom I may have wronged, but those who have wronged me, intentionally or unintentionally. Jesus Christ forgives all. In Prayer comes the peace to accept what happens to us and our love ones in life. To accept and not worry so much all the time, has become a goal to which I am working on with God's help.

Our church and my wonderful Sunday School Timothy Class have taught me those values, that I never would have obtained elsewhere. So, on this day, Senior Sunday, these are my thoughts I give to you, my fellow seniors, and those of you who will be seniors sooner than you realize.

One more thing, I will quote the late Bishop William Ragsdale Canon, whom I had the pleasure of meeting, and whose name graces the Chapel at the Candler School of Theology. "Do Unto Others, as You Would Have Them Do Unto You and Everything Else can be Worked Out"! Thank you for hearing me out this Senior Sunday.