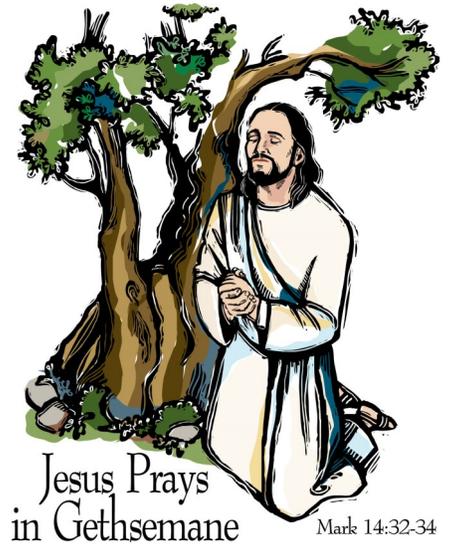


# THE GARDEN

BY GENE WALLACE

“The heavens declare the glories of God;  
and the firmament sheweth his handiwork.” Psalm 19:1

I hear God in the springtime symphony of birds.  
I see God’s radiance in the morning sunrise and  
the prismatic hues of an autumn sunset.  
I touch God in the tilling of Mother Earth’s pregnant soil;  
and I taste God in harvest’s bounties.  
I smell God in the lilies of the field and in the new mown hay.  
I witness God’s presence in a selfless deed.  
The Holy Spirit stirs my soul anew every time  
I hear “How Great Thou Art”.



I am saturated with God where sparkling waters swirl and feed the verdant forest.

And when all these senses collide, epiphany happens, and then I know that God is.

And so it is that all of nature speaks of God’s creation, and God pronounced it “good”. And, yes, it was all consummated in a garden; and another garden bore tragic witness to the impending crucifixion of our Savior. Within this context, The Garden at First Presbyterian Church becomes even more special - a place where “ashes to ashes” gives way to spring-time renewal, symbolic of Resurrection - a place conducive to meditating and experiencing God’s presence - a place worthy to be counted as an integral component among FPC’s many and varied worship opportunities.



Did you know that the majestic cherry tree in The Garden was planted in memory of Pastor Billy Wade’s grandfather?



Thanks to Patrick and Janet Carmichael, a beautiful new bench now beckons visitors to come and experience

## Christmas Floral Decorations and Witness Donations

Poinsettias will be used to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas. However, instead of all the donations being spent on flowers, most of your donations will go to **Thornwell Homes**. You may donate in memory or honor of someone with the suggested minimum donation of \$8.00. Please fill out the form below, tear off, and place in the offering plate with a check or drop it off at the church office by December 8th.

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Please use first and last names for any person being remembered (not Dr., Mr., Mrs., etc.)



December 1, 2015

Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church, Covington:

Each year during the Christmas Season, we at FPC, Covington, like to show our appreciation and gratitude to our church staff members who give so much of themselves on our behalf throughout the course of each year.

We ask for your participation in this effort by making a contribution to a special fund that we establish annually for this purpose. You may contribute in several ways: leaving your contribution in the FPC offering plate, bringing it by the Church Office, or mailing it to the Church. Please ensure that you label your check and/or your envelope, "2015 Love Gift" so that it will end up in the right place. It would be helpful if your contribution were made in a separate check, rather than making it a part of your regular contributions to FPC.

Please make sure that your "Staff Love Gift" reaches the Church by Sunday, December 13, 2015. (Or by December 17, if you mail it.) Your generosity is much appreciated, in helping us to show our love to our devoted Church Staff Members.

Sincerely,

Gary Boteler  
Finance Team