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The Most Beautiful Flower

The park bench was deserted as I sat down to read
Beneath the long, straggly branches of an old
willow tree. Disillusioned by life with good reason to frown,
For the world was intent on dragging me
down.

And if that weren't enough to ruin my day,
A young boy out of breath approached me, all tired from
play. He stood right before me with his head tilted down
And said with great excitement, "Look what
I found!"



In his hand was a flower, and what a pitiful sight,
With its petals all worn - not
enough rain, or too little light. Wanting him to take his dead flower and go off to
play, I faked a small smile and then shifted away.

But instead of retreating he sat next to my side
And placed the flower to his nose
and declared with surprise, "It sure smells pretty and it's beautiful, too. That's
why I picked it; here, it's for you."

The weed before me was dying or dead. Not vibrant of colors, orange, yellow or
red. But I knew I must take it, or he might never leave. So I reached for the
flower, and replied, "Just what I need."

But instead of him placing the flower in my hand,
He held it mid-air without reason or plan. It was
then that I noticed for the very first time
That weed-toting boy could not see: he was blind.
I heard my voice quiver, tears shone like the sun
As I thanked him for picking the very best one.
"You're welcome," he smiled, and then ran off to play,
Unaware of the impact he'd had on my day.
I sat there and wondered how he managed to see
A self-pitying woman beneath an old willow tree.
How did he know of my self-indulged plight? Perhaps from his heart, he'd been blessed with true
sight.

Through the eyes of a blind child, at last I could see
The problem was not with
the world; the problem was me. And for all of those times I myself had been
blind, I vowed to see beauty, and appreciate every second that's mine.

And then I held that wilted flower up to my nose
And breathed in the fragrance
of a beautiful rose
And smiled as that young boy, another weed in his hand
About to change the life of an unsuspecting old man.

-Author unknown



Upcoming Events

- **April 19** 5k Run **Princeton NJ**
- **April 26** Baltimore Block Party
- **April 26** The Big Sweep **Frederick**
- **May 4** Special Needs Sunday **Mt Airy**
- **May 24** Quarterly Prayer Brkfst **MVC**
- **June 6/7** Men's Choir Performance Wkend
- **June 13/14** Men's Choir Choir Perf Wkend
- **Oct 10 -11** Men's Advance Weekend

Service Project Report

Attached is a picture of the Monday Night Table's Outreach at Hope Alive. Hope Alive is a Christian shelter for Homeless Women and Children. Many times these women and children have had to flee their homes due to abuse or other circumstances. Sue Oehmig, is Hope Alive's, Founder and Executive Director, and we knew each other through a previous church affiliation and bible study. When the call went out to have service projects by table, I suggested Sue's ministry to the rest of the table. The idea was overwhelmingly and graciously received.

After exchanging some phone calls and emails, we received a project list and notification that we would also be serving with a group from the Knights of Columbus. At the end of the day, together we accomplished most of Sue's list, which for the Monday night Waterboyz was cleaning and organizing of a family room, located in the main house, as well as, tearing down and reconstructing of an office space, located in The Joshua Center. The Joshua Center is a recently converted barn on the property, that serves as the on-site adult and child development center.

All involved were blessed by the opportunity and experience and it also allowed me to reconnect with Sue and her husband Mike. Other connections were made and based on the nice thank you letter, we received from Sue, I learned later that week, Paul Foss spoke to her church's mission and outreach committee. It looks like another ministry connection was made and the body is still growing.

Hope Alive's web site is : <http://www.hopealiveministries.org/> — Jeff Bohraus



Meet Dave Sefcik



Dave has spent 25 years in the supermarket industry in a variety of positions. Recently he accepted a position as a Weights and Measures Coordinator at NIST.

Dave, his wife and three children attend the Church of the Redeemer in Gaithersburg and has been active in Children's Ministry for more than ten years.

When asked why he was involved with the Waterboyz, Dave responded, "There is no doubt in my mind that this is where God wants me to be. God has been doing a great work in my life since my first table meeting almost a year ago. It has brought me greater accountability, has helped me see and apply the Word in a new and fresh way, has helped me be more disciplined in my Scripture memorization, prayer life, and witness, has challenged me to grow and mature to anew level in my faith, and most importantly for me, has helped me get outside myself.

I also have a heart and passion to help men grow in their personal relationship, faith, love, knowledge, and service of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I believe God has called me through the Waterboyz to help build and strengthen the church by taking ordinary men and helping them become mighty warriors for the Kingdom.