



SUNDAY, JUNE 28 MORNING MUSINGS
TRANSITIONAL PASTOR TED LAND
PALMA SOLA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BRADENTON, FLORIDA

Greetings in Christ Jesus!

Karen Mercer died this week. I doubt seriously if many of the Palma Sola folks knew her. A few of you may have prayed for her over the last year, the final year of a four year battle with Multiple Myeloma.

I met Karen when she was a bridesmaid in one of the first weddings I performed in Arcadia, nearly 35 years ago. Later, she was on the staff of the Presbyterian Preschool there. Her children passed through our Preschool, and later on, when I was announcing horse shows in Arcadia, I called her daughters names fairly often. When Polly and I were working with the Volleyball Team at Desoto High School, they were star players. They are both grown and married now. Their younger brother flies a crop duster. The three of them gathered at their mother's bedside when she made the transition from this life to the life everlasting.

Karen was beautiful, kind, compassionate, a person who lived her Christian faith. She got to see both her daughters married, and her first grandchild born. Her son often "buzzed" her home in the bright yellow Ag Cat that he flies.

Karen was always young to me. It came as a shock to realize that she was the same age at her death as my father was at his. When my father died, on July 2, 1969, two days short of his 56th birthday, I saw him as an old man.

Who is old, and who is young? To my 22 year old self, 56 was old. To my 73 year old self, 56 is young. It all depends upon which end of the telescope one is looking through.

This Sunday's sermon is entitled *A Cup of Cold Water*.

We continue our journey through Matthew's Gospel and the lessons of Jesus to His disciples.

I think sometimes the best examples we have come not from Scripture, or sermons, but from the lives of the saints we encounter. Karen Mercer's children reflect the lessons they learned from their mother.

Maybe I reflect a few of the ones I learned from my father. They were very different, but both taught lessons in how to live a Christian life. And isn't that what discipleship is all about?

Next Sunday, July 5, we will offer a "virtual in home" Communion Service as a part of our prerecorded video worship service. We encourage you to have bread and a cup of grape juice, wine, or cranberry juice on hand when you watch it.

Happy Fourth of July to you all!

...Dad, a happy 107th birthday.

Your Transitional Pastor,

Ted Land