



FAITH matters

April 7, 2025

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace
as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with
hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Romans 5:13

In these days, how many of us hold on to hope?
In these days, how many of us are professing and practicing Christians?
In these days of division, hatred, anger, sorrow, hopelessness, how many of us
continue to believe in the Good News that we are ALL children of God who loves
each of us more than we mere humans can possibly understand?

I have felt physically 'kicked' when I recently heard from an old, old friend that her
prayers and those of the faith-based organization for and with whom she has
been a leader are in support of all that is being done by the current
administration. She is a Christian. I have family members who equate 'Christian'
with such supporters and live in fear of what lies ahead.
I hear of families divided by what is happening on a daily basis. And just had a
short conversation with a medical professional who doesn't get vaccines. In
these days...

We are called to love and to serve. We are called to be peace builders.
We are called to welcome the 'alien among us'. We live in a community where
two families live in hourly, daily anxiety and stress about what happens next and
when that may happen.

Look at the action words in that Romans verse - fill, joy, peace, trust, overflow,
power - they are not passive. We are called to serve, to do the work of the
kingdom, to speak truth to power and to love.

It is spring, Joan Walsh England is quoted saying:

“To put a seed in the earth
is to be a mother. (What example is more hopeful?)
To feed a bird on snowy days
is to be a host to God.”

How much more vital is it to take action now against evil and hope for
compassion, wisdom and peace?

“Praise to the God who is well acquainted with the wilderness but will not
abandon us to it.”

Faith Matters! Amen!

~Written by Pat Sheafor

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