

## **Devotion, Week of September 8, 2024**

### **Rev. Jeanne Simpson**

I just spent a week in the hospital, and I must say that even though this is the sickest I have ever been in my life, Emory DeKalb took excellent care of me. As the hospitalist Doctor said when he was getting ready to release me and I thanked him – it wasn't him. He entered the orders, read test results, and the nursing staff there did everything else. They certainly did, as well as the dietary staff. I have decided that nursing staff have hidden wings that God gave them so that they can help the sickest, the crankiest, and the craziest of us. Time and time again, they dealt with my physical disasters and also with the poor man next door who kept trying to escape and cursed them out when they wouldn't let him.

Hospital staff have to deal with the hard realities of illness and death while maintaining a positive attitude and treating their patients with dignity. I would apologize for creating such trouble for them, and they would kindly reassure me that it was OK. They advocated for me with the doctor and the dietary staff, would bring me little extras like extra orange juice, and try not to make much noise in the middle of the night while they were taking vitals, giving out pills, and taking blood. They did a pretty good job because Jim was able to sleep through most of what they did!

The next time you deal with a nurse, nurse's aide, housekeeping staff, or food preparation folks at a hospital, thank them. And if you rate hospitals based on food, Emory DeKalb wins. Eliot confirmed that with me!

Serving others in situations of medical stress requires special gifts of patience, hope, and I think an abiding faith in God. I was prayed for and blessed, even by staff who admitted they were Bama and Gator fans on Saturday while we watched the UGA game! I am convinced that I healed faster due to these incredible people, as well as all of you at two different churches and my family who became prayer warriors. Thank you for caring for me and Jim.

*Jeanne*