

## Devotion, Week of August 2, 2026

**Rev. Jeanne Simpson**

Last Saturday the Good Shepherd Clinic, now merged with the Urban Clinic of Atlanta, held its annual Tomato Sandwich Party, and raised over \$50,000!! Not just on tomato sandwiches or on the cakes that were auctioned off, but also on generous contributions. It's such a fun thing to do – you pay for your ticket and then go through a line, getting your bread and tomato slices, as well as other goodies like cheese ball samples, slaw, pickles, chips, cookies, and ALWAYS peach cobbler (with whipped cream if you so desire).

I ate like I was starving to death. There is nothing in this world better than a fresh tomato sandwich with tons of mayo, salt, and pepper, on white bread. Has to be white bread, has to be lots of mayo, has to be thick with tomato slices. And yes, it was drippy. I didn't care. Now the only other thing in the world as good is Kathy Banke's coconut cake, which is becoming famous around these parts. She brought it to Nancy Phillips' memorial service reception, but normally you don't see it except at this party, when it gets auctioned off. I've gotten the winning bid 2 previous times, and last year I was so upset when the Mayor of Morrow outbid me (at \$700), I told Kathy if she'd make me one, I'd give \$500 to the clinic. She did, and I did. This time, I got it for the bargain price of \$220. One year her cake went for \$1000.

Now Jennifer Rohrbach brought a concoction this year that is the most decadent thing I ever saw. When I looked at it, my blood sugar level went up. It was a rectangular brownie cheesecake with chocolate and peanut butter chips, nuts, and 30 small Reese's peanut cups in it, and 10 large Reese's peanut cups stuck on top of it (along with chocolate syrup). A heart attack waiting to happen. Hers sold also for a good amount, and I hope those folks had a doctor on call when they ate it.

All of this fun is to provide money for the free medical clinics to operate. Medical staff volunteer, along with other staff (like Nancy Phillips), but money is needed for equipment and medical supplies. They even have a free dental clinic. We as a church support this community mission, and folks like Jim Phillips and Greg Durden serve on the board. So consider giving funds to help those without health or dental insurance in our community who desperately need services. Jesus will be pleased. And next year, come on over to Southlake, have a great tomato sandwich, and just try to outbid me on Kathy's cake. I dare you.

*Jeanne*