

Supporting Christian Unity in the Alfred Community



You Are My Son shine †

"...you make me happy when skies are gray. You'll never know dear how much I love you. Please don't take my sunshine away." Sings a short chorus of the lyrics from an old song named, "You Are My Sunshine".

My mother used to sing this song to us (her three sons) when we were but knee high to a duck. Mom was very gifted musically and gave up her childhood dreams of pursuing a career in music, "for the love of a man and to raise a family". These were the words my older brother used to describe Mom's selflessness to the minister that would be officiating at her funeral services in North Carolina. Mom was called home one year ago today as this is being written.

Mom gave up a lot through the years to see that we had what we needed as a family. She cheerfully subjugated her needs to see that her children's needs were met first. This may not seem especially noteworthy to some of you because most folks could say the same of their mothers. What makes this so remarkable to me though is the sheer number of children my Mom raised.

In the role of "mother" our Mom helped raise a good number of my older brother's friends and acquaintances. And then my friends, and then my younger brother's friends, and so on. And then there are the many neighborhood kids ~ Not just in the neighborhood I grew up in but in each of the neighborhoods she called home throughout her life as she moved from one place to another.

My family and I had the blessing of hearing near overwhelming testimony of my mother's loving influence at her services in North Raleigh. Doves of people of all ages, including children, stood patiently in line to share their unique story with our family of how Mom touched their lives. We will always remember how they shared in our loss but even more so their heartfelt words expressing the legacy of joy, compassion, and sunshine that Mom brought to so many people.

Mom was especially good with children because as my older brother so deftly explained, "She never forgot what it was like to be a child." That childlike faith and the love of God shone through Mom like a light to everyone she encountered. I believe that this is what saw our mother through her years here on earth and prepared her to claim her place at the right hand of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit when she was called home.

She had beams of the Son shine round about her. And I can hear her singing with the heavenly hosts beckoning us to sing the refrain, "Please don't take our Son shine away."