

Saturday - March 23

Create in me a clean heart, Oh God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Psalm 51:10

I have been downsizing for a few years now off and on. I go through a box or two at a time looking at the articles of memories. It has been bitter sweet remembering the joys and pain associated with them. Then I have to make a decision. Which box does this memory go into; toss, donate, or keep. Ok, I have another box, one with a question mark, in a waiting pattern to be decided later.

I found all my past report cards from grade 1 on up through college. The joys were so sweet but the lows still stung a bit. I read each one and thanked God for each. Looking back I could see how God was working in both the good and the bad times. I made peace with these and put them in the toss box.

Going through ornaments was especially difficult because so many are tied to old memories. So I set many aside to give to my daughters. But there was a little angel I remember being on the Christmas tree when I was young. It reminded me of my family, most have passed. But the little angel reminds me of the family picnics, vacations, big holiday gatherings with relatives. This one little angel I kept.

I ran across an old letter from someone who had attended a talk on women of the Bible I had given years ago. My memory was that I had done a poor job and just wanted to crawl away. But as I reread her letter, I remember her finding me after and telling me how my words had opened her heart and how she had learned so much about biblical women. I remember how surprised I was. Did she have the right person? But I learned that God can use even our inadequate words to bless others. I will keep this one letter to remind me that God can use even me.

Nancy Heaver

Prayer: God of love and forgiveness, guide our steps as we take inventory of our actions, attitudes, and beliefs. Help us decide what we need to toss, to keep, and to change to be more like You. Holy Spirit, begin a transformation in us and envelop our souls so that we may reflect Your holy love. Amen.