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From the Chaplain (June 2005)

Dear Friends,

**“I am the vine, and my Father is the gardener.”
- John 15:1**

Isn't it great to look out and see the beauty of God's creation? The trees are so green, the flowers are beautiful and the gardens are beginning to produce. I know many of you had gardens. They were for enjoyment as well as for providing food for your family. There are some truths we can learn from gardening.

- **First, we are not the head gardener. No matter how hard we try to make our gardens perfect, surprises happen because we are not in control. That is the nature of gardening. Sometimes there is a bountiful harvest, sometimes frost comes early and the produce is lost. But we learn to trust that the Head Gardener knows what He is doing and His timing is always perfect.**
- **We were never promised a rose garden. Life is not always going to come up roses. But that is okay; it can still be exciting, meaningful and lovely, as we trust in the promises of God.**
- **Pruning is necessary. The apple tree, the rose bush and maybe our lives bear more fruit with a little pruning. It doesn't feel good at first, but we will reap a bountiful harvest later. Let God have His way in your life.**
- **We reap what we sow. If we sow seeds of bitterness and discontent our actions will follow accordingly. If we sow seeds of joy and peace, we will know the peace and blessings of God.**
- **There is life after death. Every year there is the miracle of new life bursting forth from what appeared to be dead. Many plants lay dormant under winter's cold mantle, only to leap from the ground with new life. So too it is for us. When our lives are buried in Him we surge forth with new and vibrant life – His life.**

Praying that the garden of your life is blooming beautifully for Jesus!

In His Service,

Chaplain Sandy Anenson
