



The Cross and Crown

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Once again, it is with a mix of personal sadness and vicarious rejoicing that we share the news that one of our own has graduated into eternity. After a brief hospitalization and years-long struggle with cancer, Jean Copeland passed away in her sleep this past Saturday.

Jean battled cancer for almost seven years, though you would hardly know it. Her disposition was always bright, and her faith was strong. She never wasted time complaining about her situation, but, instead, constantly expressed concern for others; in particular, the younger women in the church whom she mentored. And she was faithful: In the year and a half since we re-launched Sunday services at Resurrection Life, I can count on one hand the days when Jean was absent. She was keen to share her gifts and abilities with the church, volunteering as an aide with the youth Alpha class and an ally in



the Faith and Finance class. Most recently, Jean, following in the footsteps of her aunt, Dorothy Cooper, accepted the assignment to serve as Missions Coordinator.

And then, there were Sunday fellowships. Jean filled tables with home-baked sweet and savory treats for our monthly birthday celebrations. It was always an amazing sight – and we could count on being delighted and surprised by her fare.

Jean, a former design professor at Moore College of Art and French teacher at Masterman High School, won multiple awards for culinary arts, design and French language. She inspired generations of students to achieve their full potential.

I came to know Jean shortly after I started attending Highway Tabernacle, almost 35 years ago. I lived in the same building with her, her sister, Dorothy Copeland-Willoughby, her aunt, Dorothy Cooper, and her grandmother, Ida Cooper – three generations of strong African-American women, full of faith, love and perseverance. Their blessing, legacy and example have left an indelible mark on our church.

Well done, good and faithful servant! Come and share your master's happiness!

Matthew 25:23

Thanks for Praying!

We are so grateful for all that God is doing among us, in response to your prayers!





Please join us in praying

- for the moms and young children who have recently begun fellowshiping with us,
- for God to speak to hearts during this month's missions convention,
- for the students, families and staff at Spring Garden Academy, and
- for serious health needs in our church family.

We're praying with you!

If you're on our mailing list*, you're on our prayer list! If there's anything specific that we can join you in praying about, please let us know.

We love hearing from you! Please do keep in touch!

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* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we understand! Just call or drop us a note, and we'll remove you. (We'll still keep you on our prayer list!)

If you'd rather receive this letter via e-mail, please let us know!

Did you know?

Our neighborhood, Nicetown, was probably named after Hans te Neues, a Mennonite immigrant from Amsterdam who, in 1699, purchased the land that now comprises the Nicetown neighborhood. Nicetown and Tioga were once separate neighborhoods in Philadelphia County (which, at that time, was separate from the city of Philadelphia), but, by and large, they're collectively known as "Nicetown" today.

"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and the one who is wise saves lives."

(Proverbs 11:30)



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