

God's changing creation

One thing we can always know with certainty: nothing stays the same; everything is constantly changing. We see this in the natural world around us, in the lives of our loved ones, and in our own lives, too. God's transforming power is always ready to help us transform spiritually as well, as we change from infancy to maturity in our spiritual lives.

My own life has gone through a great many changes since I became a Christian and joined the Mennonite Church. Most recently, I have retired from the role of Professor of Rhetoric, Composition, and Literature at Bluffton University and accepted the new role as editor of *timbrel*. While I enjoyed my many years of teaching, I am now looking forward to hearing from *timbrel* readers and spending more time at our "farmette," a small organic operation of fruit, berries, vegetables, chicken, sheep, and cattle. Two of our married children live with their families on our place, providing me with the blessing of seeing six of my grandchildren nearly every day.

The beauty and astonishing wisdom of the natural world surround me each day, and truly strengthen my soul. In my own life, nature has been a gentle and profound teacher. It was through nature that I first began to know God and understand God's care through the beauty and complexity of the natural world.

As I watch my grandchildren playing joyfully among the wildflowers and songbirds, I know that they, too, experience God through creation.

Yet, our obligation is to do more than simply observe and enjoy God's creation. In this issue of *timbrel*, we can learn what a number of women across North America are doing to care for God's creation. Perhaps we will be inspired to enter into dialogue with others about our responsibilities to care for God's creation as Christian women. Perhaps we will be inspired to do even more to care for the created world. 🌱

Sister Question for September-October

What is the most significant transition you have experienced in the last 10 years? Tell us which decade of your life this was for you, and how you managed the transition. Send your answer to PattyB@MennoniteWomenUSA.org, so we can print a sampling of replies. Include your name, city, and state.



Patricia
Burdette

Cover: Nekeisha
Alexis-Baker
takes a rest in her
garden in Elkhart,
Ind. (see story pp.
4-6).

Photo by
Bethany Keener