



JANUARY Hug~in~a~Mug Vol. 81

REFLECT, REFRESH & REJOICE!!!

But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life (John 4:14, KJV).

Leaving a challenging "2022" behind us, my precious friends in Christ, I am a bit giddy *today reflecting on this 81st Issue of the HUG, just days from my 81st birthday!* And my scripture choice is of course a springboard ... of our wellspring promise from our loving God, the Holy Spirit within we believers!

This last Christmas week whirlwind saw a heart-warming Hymn Sing service Christmas Eve, lots of cooking and eating, being with my adult offspring, the gift exchanges and traditional level of excitement.

And it left me with about two quiet days of deep, deep quiet reflection. I weighed and measured the personal losses this year, passing of friends, tragedy experienced by dear ones around me, illnesses and diseases seeming gone rampant... and I counted my blessings every day to be given a restored and healthy heart, replaced and lubed and ready to run! I am so refreshed physically with a strength and energy I can hardly recognize. Praise the Lord, thank you God for a newfound peace. Color me grateful, humble, and enormously blessed.

Scripture tells us then to be mindful, that ***"we are that wellspring of the water & Word"*** that He gives us!" In any urgency, as fisherwomen, we need to pull up our hip boots, or snow boots as we, East of the Cascades say... bait our hooks, wade into the streams, ***and allow the Holy Spirit to work through us***, as John says.

Who can imagine or brainstorm the ways? In fact, as leaders and participants, in our **re-flections**, perhaps we need to consider **re-directions** and some **re-solutions** or new solutions leading to **re-freshing**, and come up with **re-warding** outcomes and solutions, YES???

We are to be excited to be stepping into the first few weeks of the new year. This can be a great and growing year for our precious societies as we meet "changing currents" and challenges: dwindling numbers, aging population, meeting young & professional women on their platform with their needs... swap recipes, have cooking classes, offer childcare, hold an after work happy hour with free, take-home casseroles!!!

The love, our love, comes in different shapes and sizes... and shall be our reward. It's that **"REJOICE"** piece of the puzzle.

So, I close with the time-honored Benediction from Numbers 6:

²⁴ *The LORD bless you and keep you;* ²⁵ *the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;* ²⁶ *the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

⁽²⁷⁾ *"So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."*) Amen

*Abundant Blessings to you All,
Patricia Reck, Hug~In~A~Mug Author*