

Celebrating Life...
By Rev. Brenda Hunt

"They are not dead, who leave us this great heritage of remembered joy. They live on in our hearts, in the happiness we have known in the happiness we know, in the dreams we shared. They still breathe in the lingering fragrance windblown from their favorite flowers. They still smile in the moonlights silver and laugh in the sunlight's sparkling gold. They still speak in the echo of the words we have heard them say over and over again. They still move in the rhythm of dancing grasses. They are not dead, their memory is warm in our hearts, comfort in sorrow. They are not apart from us for love is eternal and those we love are with us throughout eternity." Author unknown

They still speak, those we love who are said to die...it is only the body that dies away, who we really are, is eternal...We have each one been to at least one-too-many funerals, memorials or celebrations of life...we have sat thus so, listening to words that make sense or make no sense, hearing music or not, staring out an open window, closing our eyes...sometimes the words, the music, the out of doors are a source of our re-member-ing and other times it has felt like it all just ought be over with let's get on with whatever....I had led services for any number of years before I understood what it means that "They are not dead...they live on in us....through us."

One of the first stories I heard about Teri's sister Viki was about her open house Sunday dinners...she invited people in to eat, to share, she gave them a place to be...And so it makes sense to me that those we love those we have been loved by are alive for as long as we manage to pass on those things they have been and done for others...we do keep them with us.

So for those who have made our lives richer by their presence and their presents, we can honor them by giving away what they gave away...

Prayer: For today, Divine, help me give to others that which has been given to me...this day, every day.