

# Thank You

Fields of Grace Parish -

How can I begin to thank all of you for calling my sister, Pastor Heidi, to serve as your faith leader? At the time I am sure it seemed like a bit of a risk...she was coming from many years of working on a huge event at the churchwide office in Chicago...but it was indeed a match made in heaven!

At the time, no one knew you would be providing the opportunity for her to live her final years fulfilling the dream of a little farm with a bountiful garden and chickens (thankfully she listened and did NOT get any of her beloved cows). She was drawn to the farming community and rural living with an open mind and heart...she wanted to learn and understand. Heidi was a country girl at heart!

Recently I read the Christmas poem, "Sitting on the Hillside" by Ann Weems. I thought of you.

## **Sitting on the Hillside**

Most of us who gather in Bethlehem  
on this night are not the star seekers.  
We've not traveled our dreams  
month after month and year after  
year, pouring over predictions and  
promises.

Most of us sit on the hillside tending  
our sheep, business as usual.

Oh, we've heard rumors of stars,  
but we don't really give ourselves to  
seeking.

After all, there's more than enough  
to do in the daily tending.

We're simply not on the lookout for  
stars, nor expecting any light in our  
darkness.

I suppose the important thing is, in  
the light of the glory of the Lord,  
to recognize the voice of an angel  
and to get up, and in spite of our  
sheep, to go even unto Bethlehem  
to see this thing that has happened.

I am sure Heidi ruffled a few feathers  
while serving as your faith leader but she did  
so out of love and a sincere desire for FOG to  
grow and survive the inevitable changes we  
are seeing today in organized religion. She  
often told me, "I don't want FOG to fade  
away on my watch!" She wanted the parish  
to prosper and grow. She wanted to lead you  
on that journey.

Heidi was not afraid to die; she was just  
sad to not have more time with her friends,  
family, and YOU.

Thank you for the friendship, generosity,  
and love you gave my dear sister, Heidi. She  
was an angel on earth (of course, I am a bit  
prejudiced) with vision, drive, faith, and a  
beautiful singing voice.

We miss her dearly but know she is get-  
ting things done in heaven!

We hope to see all of you again soon.

Sincerely,  
Tracy Hagstrom Durant  
and family

*(If you wish to send a card to Tracy, her address  
is 102 Maplewood Pl., Buffalo, MN 55313-1246)*