

## Miracles and Marigolds

Scripture Reading: John 6:2

*And a great multitude followed him because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.*

Our son Donnie was 2 and a half years old when God called him home. Born in January of 1969 with a congenital heart defect, we needed a miracle. Two days later he became the youngest infant in the SE to survive open-heart surgery. "Miracle" would become a very special word for us.

At a garden center in the Spring of 1971, he selected a tray of tiny yellow marigolds for planting in our garden. When his father came home and asked about his day he said "Come, dad, we planted 'mar-i-cles'." I chuckled at the mispronounced word, but Donnie knew about miracles. He found delight every day in the flowers.

Months after his passing, I found myself in the garden collecting the seeds from his "mar-i-cle" plants. I placed them in a small jar on the kitchen windowsill for remembrance.

We all need miracles today, and we often receive them unaware. A baby's birth, first steps, a sunrise or sunset, a rainbow, and even a miracle vaccine. I will be at the garden center soon. The tray of tiny marigolds will again find its way to our garden where "mar-i-cles" will follow.

*Prayer:* Come, Lord, give us miracles and prepare our hearts so we may see, acknowledge, and receive them.

-Submitted by Carole Guffey for the Seventh Reading of Lent.