



Advent 2024





**Peace from Fear**  
*Colored Pencil*  
*Myrna Ellison*

It is a familiar beginning. A new star lit the night sky, heralding the birth of the Son of God. A group of humble shepherds, while faithfully watching over their flocks, were visited by an angel who proclaimed the glory of the Child's birth.

"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people" (Luke 2:10). They were told that this Holy Child was the promised Messiah (Luke 2:11). This Child was to be the promised Lord, the Savior of a fallen world, the Redeemer of Israel. They went straightway following the star to see for themselves and found Him, as the angel said, "wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger" (Luke 2:12). These foreordained shepherds then bore witness to the world of His birth.

Contact the artist: [myrnaell@swbell.net](mailto:myrnaell@swbell.net)

11" x 14"



Mary & Celedonio Cruz at McAllister Park

**Pastel by Tom Ellis**

**Mary & Celedonio Cruz celebrate  
57-year love & marriage...find comfort  
in the shade on a warm day,  
in McAllister Park, San Antonio  
“your rod and your staff, they comfort me...”**

**Psalm 23**

**A psalm of David.**

- <sup>1</sup>The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.  
<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters,  
<sup>3</sup> he refreshes my soul.  
He guides me along the right paths  
for his name's sake.  
<sup>4</sup>Even though I walk  
through the darkest valley,<sup>[a]</sup>  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.  
<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
<sup>6</sup>Surely your goodness and love will follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
forever.



**Shepherd's Star**  
*Colored Pencil*  
*Myrna Ellison*

"In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage'" (**Matthew 2:1-2**).

But the star did not only appear to the Magi, it also beckoned shepherds. The shepherds represent social poverty and yet it was they who received the message about the birth of the Messiah (not influential politicians or priests) and it was they who 'made known' the good news. In God's Kingdom, peasants are prophets and the first shall be last (Lk 13:30).

Contact the artist: [myrnaell@swbell.net](mailto:myrnaell@swbell.net)

11" x 14"



## Twilight

*Pastel by Tom Ellis*

### Genesis 1

#### The Creation of the World

- <sup>1</sup> In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
- <sup>2</sup> The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.
- <sup>3</sup> And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.
- <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.
- <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.
- <sup>6</sup> And God said, "Let there be an expanse<sup>[a]</sup> in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."
- <sup>7</sup> And God made<sup>[a]</sup> the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so.
- <sup>8</sup> And God called the expanse Heaven.<sup>[a]</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.
- <sup>9</sup> And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so.
- <sup>10</sup> God called the dry land Earth,<sup>[a]</sup> and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.
- <sup>11</sup> And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants<sup>[a]</sup> yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so.
- <sup>12</sup> The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.
- <sup>13</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

Contact the artist: [tomellis1@me.com](mailto:tomellis1@me.com)

11 1/4" x 8 1/4" \$NFS





**Reconciliation Bridge**  
*oil*  
*T. Bishop*

Reconciliation Bridge, usually known as Stari Most ('Old Bridge'), was painted from a 1929 photo. On November 9, 1993, the 16th century bridge, World Heritage Site, was bombed during the Bosnian War, a conflict waged from 1992 to 1995 known for bitter fighting, shelling of towns, cities and ethnic cleansing. Mostar Bridge was rebuilt in 2004 and came to symbolize not only the mindless destruction of modern warfare but also human solidarity and reconciliation. In the old photo, a tree is inexplicably growing in a building.

Many believe reconciliation is a process that can lead to peace but is not quite the same. Peace can be created through reconciliation as well as justice, grace and love.

In Ephesians 2:13-22 states that "In Jesus, divided peoples are reconciled. But now in Christ Jesus, you who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."

Contact the artist: [trudy.bishop@sbcglobal.net](mailto:trudy.bishop@sbcglobal.net)

11" x 14" NFS



## THE LIGHT AFTER THE STORM

*Acrylic Paint on Canvas Board*

*John Gaska*

Luke 1:78-79 ...because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.

A former pastor liked to remind us there are ALWAYS storms in our lives. We are either in the midst of a storm, just coming out of a storm, or we are heading into a storm, just on the horizon. The sun bursting forth from the storm clouds, reminds us that God is ALWAYS with us, even though the storm clouds block out the sun. Peace can still come to us in those dark times when we take a moment to focus on Him. Jesus literally calmed the storm when the disciples were in the middle of the Sea of Galilee, including experience fishermen, were terrified. Christ like a lighthouse, guides "our feet into the path of peace."

Contact the artist: [jgaska@live.com](mailto:jgaska@live.com)

11 x 14 \$100

**COKER METHODIST CHURCH**

Love GOD + Serve Others+ Change the World



**High on the Hill**  
*Acrylic*  
*Melinda Boner*

**"They must turn from evil and do good;  
they must seek peace and pursue it"**  
1 Peter 3:11 NIV

I often thought that a time spent in the woods would be calming and peaceful in and of itself. But following Peter's advice I think we need to pursue peace.

Peace I pray for you.

Contact the artist:  
[melindaboner42@gmail.com](mailto:melindaboner42@gmail.com)

42" x28 ½" NFS



**The Family Farm**  
*Pen and Ink*  
*Melinda Boner*

**" It is to one's honor to avoid  
strife,  
but every fool is quick to  
quarrel.**

**Proverbs 20:3**

**Seek Peace wherever.**

Contact the artist:  
[melindaboner42@gmail.com](mailto:melindaboner42@gmail.com)

12" x15" \$75



**Cardinal in Pine**  
*Colored Pencils*  
*Melinda Boner*

**Romans 1:7**  
**New International Version**

**7 To all in Rome who are loved  
by God and called to be his holy  
people:**

**Grace and peace to you from  
God our Father and from the  
Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Greetings by Paul and Peter.  
Peace is the total well being and  
a security that only God can  
provide.**

Contact the artist:  
[melindaboner42@gmail.com](mailto:melindaboner42@gmail.com)

16 1/2" x 13 1/2" \$50



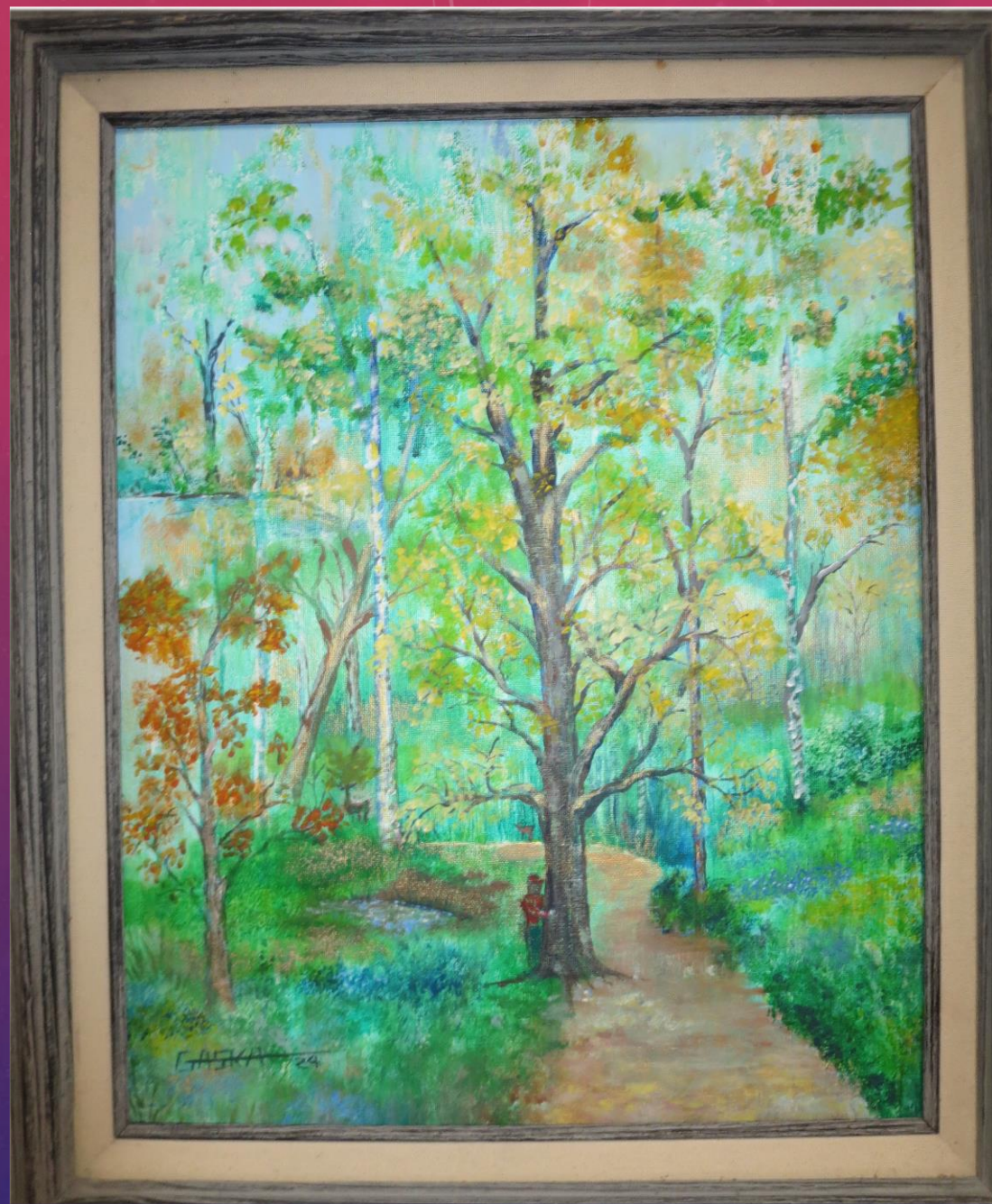
**Autumn of Life**  
*Acrylic*  
*Hai Nguyen*

Along with beautiful scenery, autumn often conveys a deeply felt symbolism of the transitions in our own lives. The beauty of autumn can teach us to embrace change, let go of what we no longer need and hopefully, find peace and beauty in our daily lives. Acceptance of life's transitions can bring its own form of peace.

James 3:18 says, "And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace." Godly wisdom leads to peace.

Contact the artist: Hai Nguyen

16" x 20" NFS



## **TRANQUIL PAUSE**

*Acrylic Paint on Canvas Board*

*John Gaska*

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as your trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Whenever I walk in the woods alone, I can't help but feel the presence of the Holy Spirit and a sense of peace and calm. Back home in Wisconsin, autumn was a time of great beauty. The birch trees with their white bark, and golden foliage brighten up even a rainy day, as seen here in this painting. The sound of rustling leaves from a combination of a gently blowing wind, and raindrops slowly cascading from one leaf to another down to finally rest on the ground. As I take shelter under a large tree, I reflect on peace, just one of the nine "fruits of the Spirit". How many spiritual fruits can you remember? (Turn to Galatians 5:22-23 to check your answers).

Contact the artist: [jgaska@live.com](mailto:jgaska@live.com)

16 x 20 \$100



## Why Are We Called Sheep

*Colored Pencil*  
*Myrna Ellison*

I read an article that made me consider why Jesus' followers were labeled sheep and he, a shepherd. Here is a summary:

1. Sheep follow others blindly. Many people say sheep are stupid. Perhaps they are just "challenged." (That was a little insulting but I have seen it and done it)
2. Sheep are emotional and recognize the shepherd's voice. They will fear a stranger's voice and flee.
3. Sheep are not meant to carry burdens. Other animals are good for carrying things, but not sheep "Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you" (Psalm 55:22a).
4. Sheep will settle for less. When sheep are thirsty, they will stop at a dirty puddle right in front of them instead of going for the clean, still waters ten feet ahead because they lack discernment and judgment and need a shepherd.  
"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters" (Psalm 23:1-2).
5. Sheep are valuable. Sheep were treated as prized possessions in Jesus' day because they provided meat, milk, and wool.

Retrieved from <https://www.christianparenting.org/articles/why-jesus-compares-us-to-sheep-its-kind-a-funny/>. Why Jesus compares us to sheep (it's kinda funny)

Contact the artist: [myrnaell@swbell.net](mailto:myrnaell@swbell.net)

11" x 14" \$50 unframed \$75 framed





**Finding Peace**  
*Colored Pencil*  
*Myrna Ellison*

<sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 4:6-7**

Peace through the words of God

Contact the artist: [myrnaell@swbell.net](mailto:myrnaell@swbell.net)

18" x 12" \$75 unframed \$125 framed



## South Padre Sunrise

*Photograph*

*Pam Fosdick*

Inspired by Mark 4:37-39 ... after a day of preaching parables, Jesus and his disciples got away from the crowd into a boat. As he peacefully slept, a big storm blew up and caused big waves. They woke Jesus asking if cared they were going to die. He said to the wind and waves "**Peace. Be still.**" And they did just that and then he asked them where was their faith. They were in awe that even the wind and water obeyed him. After reading that, I thought of the powerful waves at sunrise on South Padre Island ... the water stills on the beach and the sunlight is His light & peace.

8.5" x 11" (Framed 11" x 14")

\$25.00

Contact Pam Fosdick, (210) 317-8243



**Rose of Peace**  
*Watercolor*  
*Melinda Boner*

But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.  
Isaiah 53:5

Throughout history, roses have held profound symbolic meaning, representing love, beauty, and resilience. The Peace Rose, in particular, embodies the universal longing for harmony and understanding in a world plagued by conflict and division.

This class project reminded me that the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him.

Contact the artist:  
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17 ¼" x 13 ¼" NFS



## **Farm Fall Sunrise**

*Photograph*

*Pam Fosdick*

Inspired by God's Invitation in Isaiah 55 and specifically verse 12 (NIV) ... "You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands."

Every sunrise and sunset at our family's Iowa farm brings us joy, peace and praise to God for the generations before us who faithfully lived, served and celebrated.

8.5" x 11" (Framed 11" x 14")

\$25.00

Contact Pam Fosdick, (210) 317-8243



**High on the Hill**  
*Acrylic*  
*Melinda Boner*

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42" x 28 1/2" NFS