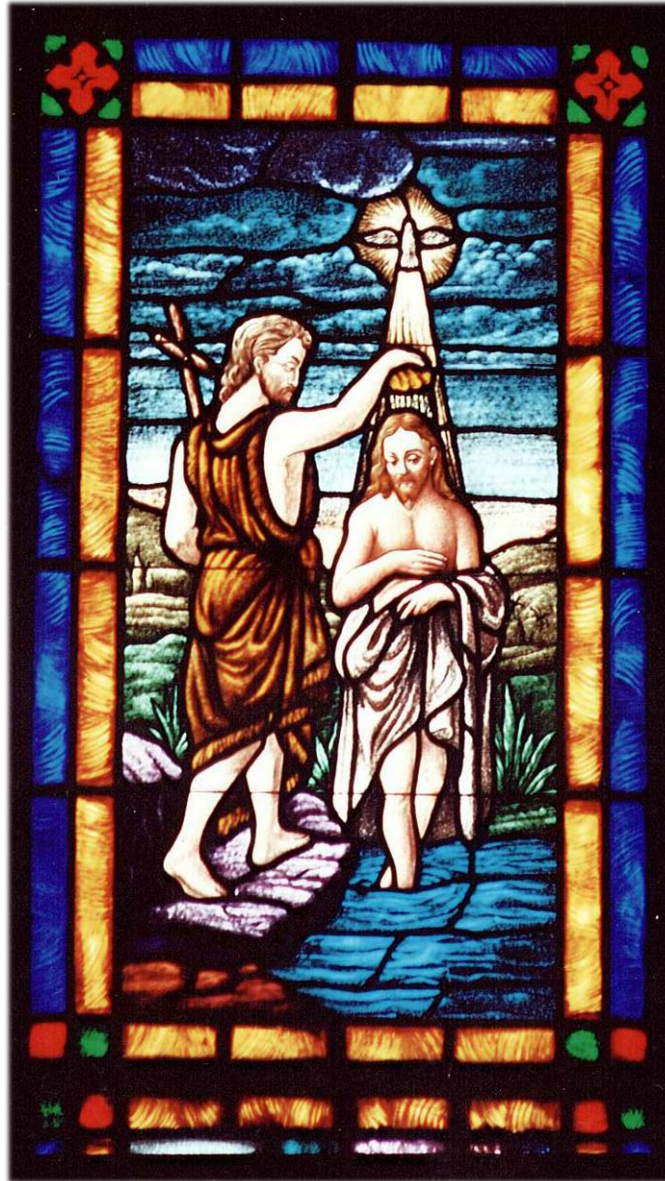


**"FOR ALL OF YOU WHO WERE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST HAVE CLOTHED YOURSELVES WITH CHRIST"**

**Galatians 3:27**

# **SANDRA'S BAPTISM**



***"SANDRA'S STORY"***

## **INTRODUCTION:**

The following description serves as a poignant example of how our Lord can touch the hearts and minds of all his children; no matter their physical condition. What, to the human eye, appears as an individual without the ability to comprehend due to physical limitations, in the eyes of God is perfect beyond description. Only he knows each one of us better than we know ourselves.

Certainly these words applied to a feisty, fun seeking lady named Sandra. Although lacking the ability to care for herself physically, or communicate the desires of her heart verbally, she still found ways to get her point across; even though many times using methods that were surprising and shocking to those in her company.

However, in spite of the ruckus she sometimes created, those around her reserved a place in their hearts where only her name was written. Sandra, the free spirited lady, attracted friends like a bee to honey. This could easily be recognized by the residents' patience when they observed a display of her persistence, frequently using only her eyes accompanied by gestures that were considered border line as to political correctness. Simply stated, Sandra's resolve brought about change while at the same time teaching others a lesson in persistence.

Given the challenges she daily faced, down deep inside, it was evident the residents loved her with all CAPITAL LETTERS. She simply added color and ATTITUDE to every gathering; no matter who was present. If she ever moved away, it would leave a formidable spot to fill; one that would probably be impossible. Sandra's place belonged only to her; and to no other individual. She stood up for what she believed and insisted on being heard; all without the use of spoken words.

As the seasons arrived and departed in the health care facility where she resided, God worked his way into her heart all in his perfect time and manner. Therefore, on a mission to accomplish something that was incredibly important to her, Sandra demanded the attention of Activity Director Tim Trafford in record time. He witnessed her holding her nose and then pointing with the one finger that worked toward the sky. Upon determining that he was not interpreting her message, she would not let up! Throughout a three week period of time, the back and forth communication between the two sounded like this:

**Tim:** "Are you telling me that it stinks in this room?" Whiffing the air with his nose, he would reply, "IT DOES NOT SMELL BAD IN HERE!"

**Sandra:** She would grunt, frown, and wear an overall expression of displeasure at his stupidity. Not once! Not twice! This would go on day after day!

Finally, experiencing a moment of revelation, Tim loudly inquired, "ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME YOU WANT TO BE BAPTIZED?"

Sandra's face lit up with glory and relief. Raising her thumb in an affirmative signal meant her mission had finally been accomplished.

Therefore, Tim and Melody went into action making preparations for this big event. They offered Sandra the option of either being immersed or sprinkled. If she wanted baptism by being placed totally under water, he would use the Hoyer lift and a galvanized tub to accomplish the task. Sandra's decision was to be sprinkled.

Also, realizing Sandra was leading the way for other residents to make the same decision, Tim and Melody carefully organized the event with pleasure and respect. They recognized fully the significance of the act in the eyes of God that this child had finally reached a spiritual level that her Creator desired. He had been beckoning her toward him throughout her earthly life.

On Sandra's special day, guests, residents, and friends were invited to gather in a large area of the health care facility. It was evident how special this day was to all those in attendance. As the writer stood beside Sandra, this brave young woman looked up with worried eyes signaling signs of fear. Planting a kiss on her forehead, the writer whispered, "Don't be afraid. You are in the hands of Jesus." Locking eyes with the writer for a long time, she finally relaxed followed by her lips suddenly forming into an enormous smile.

Furthermore, as the writer observed the many guests that had arrived for this special moment in Sandra's life, the joy that exuded from their souls was indescribable. Her earthly father; an individual that had been through all the ups and downs with this beloved daughter, displayed eyes that shimmered with a veil of tears. All the restless nights and unconditional love he had been asked to endure had been worth the effort. This daughter, whom he dearly loved, was forever dedicating her life to Christ. In addition, given her physical challenges at this point on her earthly journey, he recognized that her Heavenly Father was using her to touch the hearts of many individuals. Sandra, his daughter that had once been physically perfect, was now rewriting the definition for the word "COURAGE".

Finally, just prior to being baptized through sprinkling, the minister went down on bended knee beside Sandra and stated, "Before I baptize you, I must ask you a very important question. Have you repented of your sins and accepted Jesus..... (Before he could finish with "as your Savior," this young woman's thumb that served as her one and only form of communication, was raised up in the air so quickly that the minister had to jerk his head back in order to save his nose.) Needless to say, laughter filled the entire area around this beautiful ceremony.

**Luke 15: 10**

**"In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.**

(Program below)



*Sandra Greer*

*Tuesday June 25*

*1:45 p.m.*





*Welcome.....Tim Trafford*

*Opening Prayer.....Rev. John Woody*

*Scripture Reading.....Annie Grant*

*Special Song.....Melody Childers & Lisa Pitts*  
*“What a day that will be”*

*Message.....Dan Masters*

*Baptism.....Rev. John Woody & Dan Masters*

*All Sing.....Melody Childers & Lisa Pitts*  
*“Amazing Grace”*

*Lyrics found on back of page of this program*

*Closing Prayer.....Mark Kilgore*



## SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 28: 19 - 20

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of age.*



## SONG

### “Amazing Grace”

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now I am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved!  
How precious did that grace appear,  
the hour I first believed.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun!  
We've no less days to sing God's praise,  
then when we first begun.



***MEET SANDRA  
GREER, CHILD OF  
GOD!***



**CLOSING:**

In the beginning portion of Sandra's story, do you recall the prediction made by Tim Trafford that other residents would follow in the footsteps of this brave young woman? Ladies and gentlemen, that is exactly what transpired! Just a short time later, a resident that had attended this special baptism, gave her life to Christ and followed Sandra's lead.

In closing, let us contemplate together how God's hand was at work throughout Sandra's story with the following points:

- 1) Sandra had been placed under the care of two very spiritual activity directors that possessed unimaginable love for each resident; meaning they were constantly tuned in to their needs. Since the writer does not believe in coincidence, it must be stated that the Holy Spirit had his hand on both of these special people, as well.
- 2) God displayed tremendous patience in allowing Sandra to take her time in making the decision to follow him; in spite of her stubbornness regarding free will.
- 3) An earthly father was chosen for Sandra that had not only tenacity, but such unconditional love that he never left her side. Although she would constantly go astray from his teachings, he would hang right in there.
- 4) After Sandra's unfortunate accident, she was viewed by her Heavenly Father as worthy of his abounding love. He never gave up on her.
- 5) Sandra was led by the Spirit to make a decision regarding baptism that would impact many people.
- 6) Baptism for Sandra was not an easy decision from a physical point of view. Facing every moment of the rest of her life with the realization that she was totally dependent on others for every move, made submitting to baptism a major decision. It required placing herself at the mercy of others all the while being on display. God held her in his arms throughout the service, and surrounded her with a community of believers.
- 7) Sandra was used as an example of the necessity of witnessing to others in an enormous way. Given her personal testimony, what are we all waiting on?

*"GO YE"!*

