

UNDER THE SHADE TREE

November 2015

Volume 1, Issue 1

WELCOME TO MY SHADE

Come sit with me and visit under my shade tree where we'll discuss a myriad of topics. They may be serious, helpful, creative, or tickle your fancy. Kick your shoes off, have a glass of iced tea, and take a break from our busy world.

I come from a family of shade-tree mechanics who repaired their numerous vehicles on a grassy yard, shaded by an ancient oak tree. Over the years, we seldom took a car, truck, or tractor into a repair shop and never for maintenance like oil changes, new brakes, etc. Auto repair was my father's avocation, trickling down through my brothers and me, and our sons. Yes, a girl, made auto service and repairs a priority for life. That way, I've always driven vehicles I could depend on and kept them running for years. I changed flat tires, oil, and batteries and replaced a few parts on my cars, vans, and pickup.

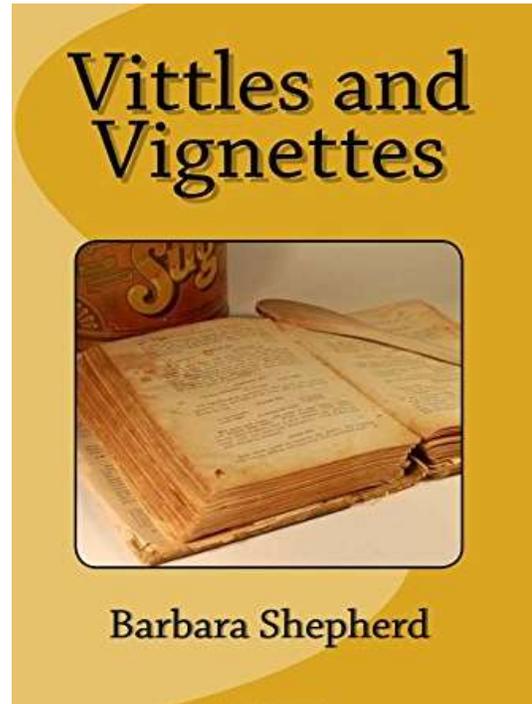
Just as shade-tree mechanics have no schedule for repairs, neither will I for newsletters. Check back as I sandwich them in – between cooking, bigger writing projects, gardening, family events, painting, genealogy, quilting, and other activities.

Welcome! Thanks for stopping by. Come back again soon.

WORDWRIGHTS-OKC CHRISTIAN WRITERS CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2015

Current and former members of Wordwrights met for a festive luncheon at an Edmond hotel in November to celebrate 20 years of assistance and encouragement to local writers who publish in Christian and secular publications. To learn more about the group, click on the Wordwrights tab.

<http://barbarashepherd.com/wordwrights>



Filled with 250 favorite family recipes and seasoned with some of my poems, articles, and short stories.

MY NEW COOKBOOK IS HERE!!

Sit back and read, then make cooking fun again. You'll love the slow-cooker ease of making Beef Stew with an Italian Kick and lots of new colorful salads. Yes, it includes my guarded Praline recipe!

Happy cooking to you. 

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ON A SERIOUS NOTE

Saying goodbye to dear friends tests our mettle. Carolyn had two daughters and four grand-children. We share two of those grandchildren, since her older daughter and my younger son married and, with God, created those precious kids. Carolyn’s photo from long ago was displayed at the funeral. Blonde with blue eyes, Carolyn always had a perfect hairdo and makeup; she wore a lot of red and a genuine smile. During her last weeks with her younger daughter, they created a poignant tribute for the funeral service – a video montage of Carolyn’s life from family photos.



Carolyn

Curled-blond hair, flawless makeup,
 All decked out in Christmas
 Red, perfect for a photo shoot.
 Ocean-blue eyes and radiant smile,
 Laughter at the ready, her
 Years on earth too few – we will
 Never forget sweet Carolyn.

WORK TO DO

Saying a final goodbye causes us to remember those we no longer have in our lives and prompts us to think of our own mortality. What do we need to accomplish before our last days here on earth? And, what about those “housekeeping” duties – have we written our will, updated our beneficiaries on insurance policies and financial accounts, prepared for our funeral and burial or, at the very least, made our wishes known to our close family members? I know I have work to do. How about you?

Under the Shade Tree doesn’t plan to debate politics or highly-sensitive issues. Religion is a personal choice, and I won’t try to convert you – except, I’ll mention this one thing today since it ties in with final goodbyes. If you haven’t made peace with God or your higher power, you might sit under your own shade tree this afternoon, open a Bible to John 3:16, and pray.

Thanks for sharing a few minutes with me,
Barbara



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