To everything, there is a season

By Chaplain William Stewart

I guess I'm getting older, but for me there is not much of a better way to lift my spirits than hearing an oldie, but goodie on the radio. Although their names sound a little silly to me now, if I think about it much, those classic bands named after every creature imaginable just had a feel to them like no other. Whether it was the Beatles, Byrds, Monkees, Turtles or Zombies, they just had a style about them that still today makes me want to sing along with them. Maybe my greatest enjoyment came from the various messages most all of their songs would contain. As I was sitting outside looking at the beautiful red and yellow leaves turning on the trees the other day, one in particular came to mind.

One of my all-time favorites was written and performed by a group called the Byrds, entitled "*Turn! Turn! Turn! (To Everything There is a Season)*." Back before our society became ultra PC (no, I am not talking about computers), a fair amount of popular music would refer to various scriptures or concepts found in the Bible. This one by the Byrds is a reference to chapter three in the book of Ecclesiastes, where it talks about the many seasons of life and the happenings in life. I suppose, between the seasons changing right now, along with the state of our nation still at war, it leads me to ponder once again this great scripture.

Life can certainly be difficult at times, but more often, it can be so beautiful. Rarely do the very difficult times last; it is simply a season of life that will eventually change. I believe it is very healthy for everyone to realize this, especially those who are facing a season that is not so pleasant. To know that life, like the seasons, is dynamic and it is often the very difficult times that make us appreciate even more the good ones, if we will simply notice. The pilgrims, who lost so much on that first winter in America, were still able to give thanks to the lord, understanding that life is so good and blessings will always be right around the corner, even when we may not be able to readily see them.

In this special holiday season, my prayer is that each of us will be truly thankful for all the incredible blessings we have been given by God, our creator and sustainer. That we will expand our families in love, to include those around us who may be missing their loved ones back home; to give hope to those who may be going through a difficult season in life. And, that more than anything else, we all earnestly pray that a new season will be on the horizon for our nation, moving us from war to peace. Truly, there is a time and season for everything. Seasons greetings and may God warmly bless you all!

Heads Up Yokosuka

Community Announcements

Child and Youth Programs (CYP) Fine Arts Exhibit – A CYP Fine Arts Exhibit will be held today from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Yokosuka Youth Club (formerly the Yokosuka Teen Center), building 1257. The exhibit will showcase a variety of artwork created by CYP members in ages 9 to 18 years. An art contest will also be held with a winner from each age group selected by a panel of judges for each project category. The entire CFAY community is invited to attend and see the artwork of our youth displayed in real art exhibit fashion. Contact the MWR CYP Coordinator Lee Leach at 241-4100 or by e-mail to lee.leach@fe.navy.mil for more information or to volunteer as a judge for the art contest.

Chapel of Hope International Christmas Celebration – Join the Chapel of Hope for a wonderful time of music, singing, food and fellowship as Christmas is celebrated with the Yokosuka community at the International Christmas Celebration Dec. 13 at 5 p.m. Contact the Chapel of Hope at 243-6773 for more information.

The Yokosuka Semper Fi Society Toys for Tots Campaign – The Yokosuka Semper Fi Society is collecting new, unwrapped toys for children in local group homes, hospitals, single-parent military families in Yokosuka and orphanages in surrounding countries. Donation boxes are currently located at the Navy Exchange in Yokosuka, Ikego and Negishi. Fundraising barbecues and commemorative Toys for Tots coin sales will also be held this holiday season in the commissary red brick area. The last day to donate is Dec. 20. The Semper Fi Society's goal is to collect 2,000 toys. Contact Sgt. Ato Waithe at 243-6303 for more information.

Navy College Office (NCO) Tuition Assistance (TA) – NCO TA/Electronic TA (ETA) Briefs are conducted on the first and third Thursday of each month at 11 a.m. Command TA/ETA Briefs are provided for groups of eight or more at your location. Contact the Navy College Office at 243-8131 or by e-mail to navycollege_yokosuka@fe.navy.mil for more information.

Seahawk Community Announcements and Article/photo Submissions – Deadline for community announcements and article/photo submissions for the Seahawk is the Friday before the next Seahawk edition. E-mail your submissions to Seahawk-Umitaka@fe.navy.mil. Include your contact information in the body of the e-mail. Contact the Seahawk editor at Seahawk-Umitaka@fe.navy.mil or call 243-2567/3003 for specific submission requirements or for more information.