

10/16/20

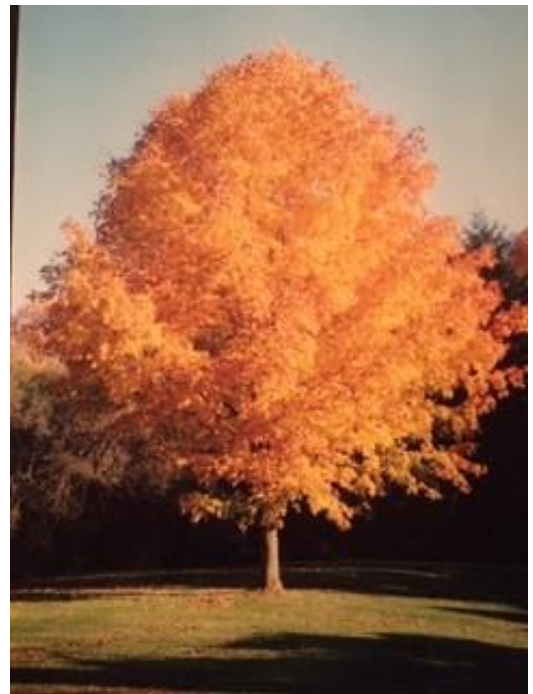
When we were about to move into the First Church parsonage in Madison, workmen arrived one day to clean out an overgrown thicket of brush behind the house. As the buzz saws worked, we discovered telltale signs of what, at one time, had been a “secret garden” of some kind in the middle of the yard . One remnant was the large stump of a tree and out of that stump a new sapling was happily growing. The arborists were eager to buzz it down too, claiming it was “just a sucker” and not a real tree at all.

I remember saying something like – “ Well, it looks healthy to me and IT certainly thinks it’s a tree! Please leave it...”

During the 15 years that we lived there, the tree grew steadily, developing a beautiful silhouette and boasting stunning yellow leaves in the Fall... AND, when looking at down at the base, we were amazed to see that the “sucker” had finally merged itself entirely with the old trunk to produce one of the tallest trees in sight!!!

It became our “inspiration tree” – a resurrection tree! ... for though chopped down and appearing dead, NEW LIFE emerged. Small at first, it persevered, grew and became a “bonafide” tree on its own merit.

So many lessons!!!



Never give up ...
Don't let anyone dismiss your life by calling you a “sucker!” ...
Root yourself deeply in the spirit of God and
anything can happen if you have faith that it will ...

That tree could have been the inspiration for “Hymn of Promise”, composed by Natalie Sleeth in 1985!! Add this link to your browser and listen ...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vljO26OhOXQ>