

## What's New in my Writing World

**My next book, *Newness of Life*, is almost finished.** I am writing it over Christmas break and it will publish as an e-book the first week of January. It's a short, quick read like my last book, meant for busy people. Please share the news with your friends as we delve into Ecclesiastes together and learn about God's perfect timing.

**I've created a new Facebook group for online Bible studies.** At the request of several readers, the Facebook group should be an easier-to-use, more private form of interacting with other readers than posting answers on my blog. Join the group by [visiting this link](#). I will post a question each weekday morning during the study. The next study will be held January 9—February 3.

**With your help, I have a chance to the inside track on getting published.** As a member of Kelly Balarie's [Fear Fighting](#) book launch team, I have a chance to win a meeting with a publisher, agent, or marketing expert in 2017. **Here's how you can help me win this contest!**

1. I am writing a post that will link to Kelly's site. The post with the most votes will win. **When the post goes live in the next week or two, I will contact you** via email or Facebook and ask you to [visit this site](#).
2. When my post is linked up, it will have a voting number. **You must enter the number of my post to cast a vote for me.** That's all you have to do!
3. **I will need HUNDREDS of votes** to win. So please, when you receive the notification, ask all your friends to cast a vote for me right away. Each person may enter only once, so I need many people to vote.

**I can't do this without your help, and I thank you in advance for your vote!** You can help this writer's dream come true MUCH faster than I ever expected, friend!

## Sneak Peek

Here's an exclusive view at my writing schedule for the next several months.

January 9-February 3: *Newness of Life* online Bible study

February: blog post series on marriage

March-April: New book and online Bible study for Lent

May: New book and online Bible study about healing from past hurts

*Sarah Gerenger*



## January Favorite Things

My husband is such a great gift-giver. I feel pretty wearing his Christmas gifts to me: jewelry by [Kendra Scott](#).

Winter birds are visiting my "bird porch." Juncos from Canada get along nicely with cardinals, chickadees, finches, nuthatches, and Carolina wrens. I see several kinds of woodpeckers too.

Reading some excellent books this month:

[Designed to Pray](#) by Kelly Dell O'Stanley

[The Listening Life](#) by Adam McHugh

[Raising an Original](#) by Julie Lyles Carr

And lots of magazines as I hit the treadmill!

## Exclusive Content Just for You

### **Asclepias (Butterfly Weed)**

At my writing guild meeting in November, I had five minutes to write on this prompt:

*Some people change when they see the light; other when they feel the heat.*

This is the result.



*Asclepias in my garden*

I want to be a seed that germinates best after the freeze, thaw, freeze, thaw cycle.

A native wildflower, one who sets deep roots. A strong and resilient beauty.

I want to wake to the early March rays, the light diluted through low clouds. The seed that cracks open when frost still threatens.

A brave seed who grows down and up simultaneous, drawing deep from spent deaths of nature's detritus, one who shoots up green despite the dark depth and chill.

Not a needy cucumber or bean or tomato, which needs warm soil and hot sun. Not a desperate climber quick to set seed.

I want to be satisfied with my limited bloom. My week of orange glory, my service to the passing monarch, flying northeast on her brilliant journey.

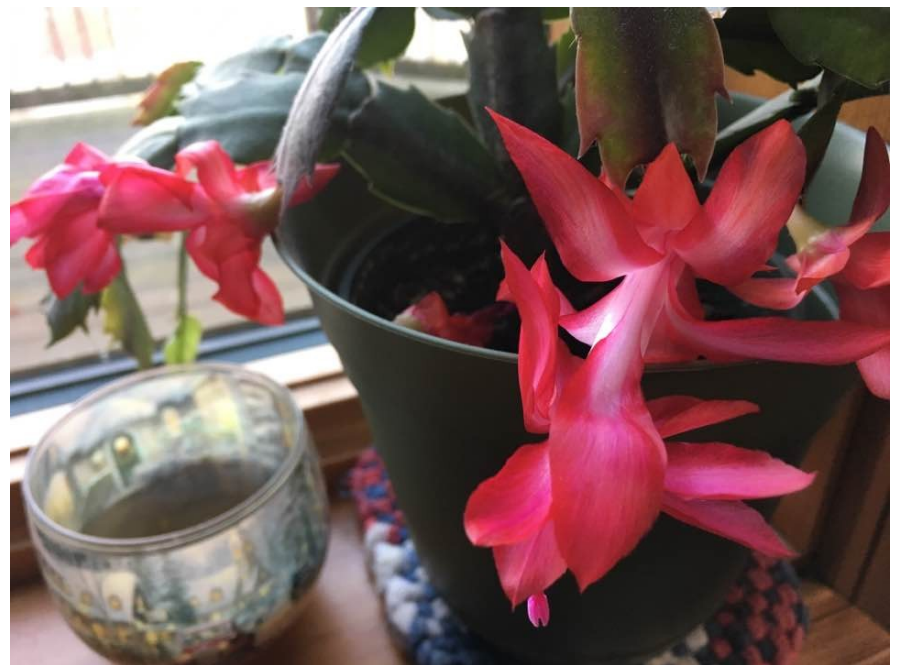
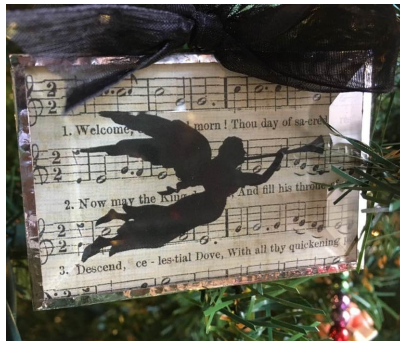
I want my seeds to burst from a dry fall capsule, carried by the wind on their tufts of shining spun silver.



## A Walk In My Woods

Yesterday the temperature climbed into the 60's and I enjoyed a wonderful walk outside. A pocket of spring, with the birds twittering in the branches, right inside a December day. Cold days are sure to come, but I praised God for the promise of new life on my walk.

This month I'll share with you photos of my house at Christmas. I pray a blessed 2017 for all my readers!



*Sarah Geringer*