

# The Marshan Chronicles

*For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.*



Palm Sunday at Suncoast MCC in Venice with my friend Rev. Rick and the magnificent 12-string player, Margaret!!

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He is Risen!!

Most of you know that Easter is my VERY favorite holiday, so there was lots o' singing this month. Where to begin...

I had one of the "Artist in Residence" concerts early this month at Church of the Trinity MCC. I actually got through about 5 songs solo and one duet with our new minister of young adults, JT Priar, before getting too hoarse to continue. Of course, the talented and faithful Ollie Dill closed the concert with powerful songs and testimony. I was also scheduled to sing with JT on Easter morning. We did several rehearsals – mostly for MY benefit, but he was kind and patient with them.



Dr. David Katz, the music director at Suncoast MCC in Venice had asked me to do music at their church for Palm Sunday, so that came up next. By then I had found a vocal coach/speech therapist to work with me. David was out of town for the week, so I was singing three songs in service and leading music. What a wonderful break that Anjanette helped me lead and the amazing Margaret played her 12-string guitar. You can see her in the header pictures. Honestly, she was great and Anjanette (whose picture I'm searching for) never missed a note – plus Rev. Nancy is no snooze at singing so we were golden.

Easter Sunrise service, my very favorite service of the year was back at Suncoast MCC with Nancy Wilson (you know, Rev. Elder Dr. Nancy Wilson 😊). I just love this service before the whole world has gotten out of bed on a Sunday to see if they have to go to church on Easter. It just feels so special. Nancy and I did our first Sunrise service together in 1986 we think. This one was beautiful.



Cindy got up at 5 to drive to Venice, set up our little sound system, and play guitar for the whole Sunrise service. Then she tore the system down, packed it up, and drove us to our church in Sarasota for the 11 am Easter service. THEN she signed ASL for that whole service. All with her usual humility and grace.



The Easter service was so great. Special music by Kim Wisdom brought fabulous Southern Gospel to the service and JT and I got to sing together. (As I mentioned in service – it's wonderful to sing with someone almost FIVE DECADES my junior!)



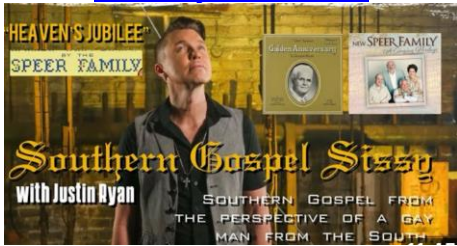
I hope we see you this year! Email me if your church would enjoy a concert.

***Blessings and Gratitude, Marsha & Cindy***

## Southern Gospel Sissy

Please don't forget to follow Justin Ryan & his Southern Gospel Sissy series. It is SO good. (Many of you have asked about Justin's husband, Scott, and his cancer battle.

They're struggling. Keep praying!) Justin has recently received some signs that Southern Gospel artists and fans are watching and deeply appreciating his message. Please tune in to his Easter posts. Here [https://youtu.be/S\\_sCgMeuN7Y?si=TlvA\\_y6id05ZbiN6](https://youtu.be/S_sCgMeuN7Y?si=TlvA_y6id05ZbiN6)



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### Prayer List & Ministry Opportunities

- ✦ Prayers for Justin's husband, Scott, who has been diagnosed with an especially aggressive form of colon cancer. He has finished his chemo and radiation. Those did not clear his cancer, so he will be having a long and

arduous surgery that will leave him with two ostomy bags to live with. He is amazingly positive about all this – impressing even Justin with his hopeful attitude.

- ✦ Prayers for Marsha's voice. Time & aging are no doubt part of it, but she's been unusually hoarse many times recently. She's taking speech therapy/voice lessons to keep all she can. Prayers for persistence and wisdom!
- ✦ Praises for Cindy's continued healing. Honestly, I am so grateful for all her many ministries.
- ✦ Prayers for Justin's weekly recording called Southern Gospel Sissy. Every week he covers the history and make up of another gospel group or song, with clips of their previous concerts, and then sings his own version of the song. Look on YouTube under "Justin Ryan Southern Gospel Sissy" (my favorite is <https://youtu.be/xOK2lXx2JjE?si=QIA1UC43heflrGx>)
- ✦ Prayers that we can get back out singing and sharing the Good News. You have all been amazingly generous.

### What You Have to Say

*"I truly love your song (For Those Tears). I had personal struggles for years. I would go out near the creek on our 20 acres and sing it over and over. Beautiful and inspired by God."*

*"Thank you again for sharing your talents to so many of us displaced teens over the years Many of us have continued the love God. In my case I went on to get a doctorate in theology."*

*"Your music has been such a ministry to my life. I actually sang Come to the Water and at a church contest in 1973. I was 16 and the song means as much to me today as it did 50*

*years ago. Thank you Marsha. And thank you Jesus for letting me come to the water."*

*"I sang your song Come to the Water in church many times. There was a lady who was 71 and going through a lot. She always asked me to sing it with her."*

*"I just heard you on YouTube while we were rehearsing songs with some other women friends. I'd never heard you before. How could I not have heard For Those Tear? It's such a beautiful song. Now this is a song I will sing. It touched my heart so deeply all these years after you wrote it. Thank you."*

### Upcoming ministry opportunities

*More to be determined in spring after Marsha's voice is better!*

**June 9 – Covenant United Methodist Church, Montgomery Village Maryland 10 am service Special Music.**

**August 29 – Affirming Christian Fellowship (formerly TEN) conference in Louisville KY 7pm Crowne Plaza Hotel**

More to list once we're confirmed  
Watch our website for updates:  
[www.BalmMinistries.net](http://www.BalmMinistries.net)

**Please consider reaching me at [ssbalm@aol.com](mailto:ssbalm@aol.com) to book something for your church! We have no fees required at this time!!**

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