

# Women's Life



April 2006

*Looking for a mentor or a good friend?*

As I read Acts and Paul's epistles, I don't see a program the early church employed for mentoring. Yes, older women (in age, not necessarily in years as a Christian) were charged to "teach the younger women..." in Titus 2, but that seems to have been in the context of living life. I recently read a article that helped me see biblical guidance for finding friends and mentors.

Any woman at SPEP who longs to develop a good friendship or discover a godly mentor needs to look first at the biblical principles for godly friendships. Choose by looking at a woman closely; her life and her proximity to you matter. How well are you getting to know the women in your Fold? Close friendships, as well as mentoring relationships, can develop slowly if a 35-minute drive separates you, even with cell phones and email! But even more important are the biblical signposts needed to choose wisely.

**Mark 12:29-31** gives the two great commandments. Look for a woman whose whole heart and mind love God, a woman who allows that love to flow out to the people in her current world.

**2 Corinthians 5:14-15** reminds us that we are to no longer live for ourselves, but to live for Him who died for us. As women we can easily live for ourselves in exclusivity. Seek women who invite in others, who want to enlarge a circle. While women can crave to possess others in a controlling way, Jesus enables women to reach out rather than remain consumed with personal agendas.

**Colossians 3:1-3** gives us homework! Watch to see if this woman challenges others to live in a way that invests more in God's kingdom than in temporal things. Where does she place her energy, time, relationships, and passions?

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**Colossians 3:12-14** provides a list of attributes that should play out in a potential friend or mentor. Even in difficulties, she should “dress” in compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. She knows how to forgive and loves well, even when others disappoint her.

**Psalms 116** gives wonderful truths about living life. So get together informally at Ledos, Starbucks, or Panera. This time should bring you the enjoyment of each other and the presence of the Lord. Do you hear voices of encouragement, wisdom, honesty, even gracious correction? That’s good! Flattery, manipulation, gossip or self-aggrandizement do not signal a wise investment in a godly friendship or a mentor. Proverbs 12:18 tell us, “Reckless words pierce but a wise tongue heals.”

To learn more of godly relationships, we return to Scripture and look at Jesus. Next, we must consider our reasons for wanting a friend or mentor. Our world speaks of “having our needs met,” of “getting friends,” of “co-dependency.” Do not fall into relationships that bear those images if we long to bear His image and live as women of light.

*Flo Wolfe*

**ed. note:** Flo will continue this topic of friendship/mentor seeking next month.



## **It’s been an exciting year for Ebenezer Ministry**

We opened the program to Annapolis and Broadneck EP churches. God has raised up two wonderful women who are being trained to lead. So, we may be able to expand to four groups come fall!

Please join me in praising God for the mighty way He has been working in so many women’s lives and families. And pray for the women in training for leadership. Please pray that God will unfold His plan for the ministry and that we will be sensitive to His leading, leaning only on His wisdom and truths. Thanks!

*Susie Conord*

**EBENEZER III** will meet Wednesday evening, May 17, 7PM in the Parlor. If you have completed Ebenezer II, you are invited to join us! Questions? Call Susie Conord at 410-721-4971.

*One thing struck me in the aftermath of my mother-in-law's death: we never see a hearse pulling a moving van.*

In the hospital, in the end, she couldn't even keep her wedding rings on. Nor, could she wear the pretty night gowns and bed jackets her nurses knew she loved so. Since her death, her handsome property is left behind for others to appraise and divide.

But I saw a fortune beyond measure crowd about her as she slept into eternity. Sometimes one, sometimes five or six people piled by her bed, holding her hand, feeding her ice or chocolate, and telling her how much she had meant to them—crying, laughing, reminiscing singing and praying—her family, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, and some dear friends trekked down to Baylor Hospital to mark her passing.

At the end, her *stuff* was not her wealth.

Her fortune was her family. She made wise investments in people's lives, and she saved what others entrusted to her—cards, letters, pictures.

So, now we see how she valued us. Her principle of generosity to us was matched by her stockpiling our letters, cards to her, and photos of happy times. Her family and friends were highly esteemed, and that memory is priceless.

Oh, we drove her nuts, maybe disappointed her—and we had a hard time with the things she thought were important (good service, great food, the right liners, forks properly placed, and paper panties on wine glasses). But wanting the right thing done, in the right way can show the right attitude (one of respect and civility) to one's guest—be he or she friend, family, or adversary.

What's the legacy I am leaving that will show my family and friends just how much they mean to me?

*Barbara Smith*



“Mothers write on the hearts of their children what the world's rough hand cannot erase.”

*The Complete Book of Proverbs & Wacky Wit*  
by Vern McLellann

### Daylight Savings Time

It's that time again. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on the first Sunday in April.

### April

It's National Pecan Month

Take Your Daughter to Work Day—Apr. 4

National Eggs Benedict Day—Apr. 16

### This month in history

The Hostess Twinkie was sold for the first time—April 6, 1931

The TV Dinner was introduced by Swanson—April 6, 1954.

The first dictionary of American English was published by Noah Webster—April 14, 1828

Martin Luther was excommunicated by the Catholic Church—April 17, 1521

“In God We Trust” was included on all U.S. coins—April 22, 1864

## *This month in Women's Ministry*

**Acts of the Apostles Bible Study:** Tuesday mornings, 9:30–11:00 (MC 2)

**2 Peter and Jude:** Tuesday mornings, 9:30–11:00 (Narthex B)

**Ebenezer II:** Tuesdays, 9:30AM (MC 3) and at 7:30PM (MC2)

**Thursday Evening Bible Study:** God has answered the prayers of His people. To Him be the glory. We now have a Thursday evening study:

*Addictions: A Banquet in the Grave.* Barb Smith will lead this group through Ed Welch's classic about all the idols we can follow. Whether you need biblical hope and accountability about alcohol, food, shopping, TV/computer time, drugs, smoking... this is a class that the Lord may use to help you. Class meets at 7:00PM, Thursday evenings (Narthex B, in the back of the sanctuary).

**Coffee Fellowship:** each Sunday, between services

**Merry Widows** will meet at noon on April 1

**MOPS:** April 12 (and check the weekly bulletin for MOPS' playgroup places)

**MOPS Steering Committee:** April 26

**Leadership Team:** April 18 in Flo's office

**Women's Life:** deadline is April 15. Email articles no longer than 500 words to Micki (████████████████████).

**Boundaries in Dating:** April 4 and 18 at 6:45PM (Parlor). Childcare available

**Single Moms:** April 11 and 25 at 6:45PM (Parlor). Childcare available

**Moms of College Kids:** April 29

**Scrapbooking Daze:** April 29 from 9AM–6PM in the auditorium

### Special Events

**All EP Church Women's Retreat:** March 31–April 2

**Send-off for Chris, Suzy, and Bailey:** April 2

**Good Friday Service:** April 14

**Easter Sunday:** April 16

**Great budgeting series going on:** check the bulletin for details

## *Living it*

*Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.*

(Galatians 5:25)

This verse has always interested me. If we already “live by the Spirit” why do we need the second half? How is keeping in step different from living?

Paul thought the second half was important—and different from the first—or he wouldn’t have added it. Let’s see what we can come up with.

“Live by the Spirit” is passive. It has to do with our new life in Jesus Christ. We see ourselves as sinners, ask for forgiveness, accept Him as our Savior and become part of God’s family. These all happen because of the Spirit’s work in our hearts. We wouldn’t do any of those things on our own—He begins working in us before we are even aware of it. He makes us alive in Him.

Earlier Paul wrote that if we live by the Spirit we put aside the “desires of the sinful nature”—ugly things like sexual immorality, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, and selfish ambition. Instead, living by the Spirit grows love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

It seems to me that’s where keeping in step comes in. The word the NIV translates as “keep in step” means to “walk in line, follow, to be in rows”—like a soldier. We are to walk along the path or according to the line that the Spirit, Himself, lays down.

This is the active part of the Christian faith—keeping in step. We reject the path of what we know to be wrong and determine to follow what we know to be right. Coming to faith in Christ is only the beginning. For it to be real, it has to continue on from there. It has to make a difference in the way we live and how we make our choices—Christian faith is active.

So, how do we know what the Spirit lays down? I have a lot of really interesting books on my shelves. But I operate as if the information will just ooze into me from the shelf—it hasn’t yet. To know what God wants for us, we need to take the Bible off the shelf and read it (then we’ll know what He wants and how to

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judge what is right) and spend time in prayer (building a relationship by talking and listening).

*...those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.*

*...those who are led by the Spirit of God are [daughters] of God.*

(Romans 8:5,14)

*Micki Parkinson*



## *Photos and things*

**Meet Reformed Singles Online:** Dean L. Scott, a member of Evangelical Reformed Church in Tacoma, Wash., started SovereignGraceSingles.com in January 2005. The purpose of SGS is to give an opportunity for single men and women committed to the Reformed faith to meet other Christians of like mind and persuasion. Check it out at: [www.sovereigngracesingles.com/sgs4\\_3/](http://www.sovereigngracesingles.com/sgs4_3/)

Mutual encouragement wanted:

1 - I'm looking for a dedicated bicycling partner to bike once a week.

2 - Are you a sister *Flybaby*? I'm looking to partner with another flybaby\* for mutual encouragement.

If you would like to be involved in either of these, call Nancy Henry (410-960-3066).

**\*ed. note:** If you haven't heard of the FlyLady, she's a Christian who runs a website to help us get organized, keep our houses clean and keep the daily routines that reduce stress and help fight depression. Go to: [www.flylady.net](http://www.flylady.net) for more information.



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