

Women's Life



February 2006

How do I show love?

Within the last four weeks, I have sung *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* beside the bed of a dear friend who was facing heart surgery, prayed for another dear friend who had a stent put in, and listened to four very helpful presentations that were part of the January Home Management Seminar. One speaker talked about spending more of my weekend with the Lord by beginning my worship on Friday evening. Another gave me the factual information that heart disease is the number one killer among American women. To combat that, she then gave lots of helpful information about eating and exercising wisely. The third speaker reminded me that "I am just passing through," and there's really no need to hang on to 'stuff.' Finally, the fourth speaker reminded me that the things of the Lord that we pass on to people, children in particular, will carry into eternity.

All of these recent experiences have given me a new focus for February. Oh, yes, the women and the men of SPEP are joining efforts to sponsor a Sweetheart Dessert on Friday night, February 10, but I find myself pondering a longer view. While that may be symptomatic of my age, I hope it's also a sign of wisdom. What do I love? Whom do I love? How do I show that love?

What do I love? Fresh linens on our bed, an unexpected call from my grown kids, an absorbing novel, big American flags flying full, the blue eyes of a Huskie puppy, a talk by candlelight with my husband. But these are all temporal things, not wrong in themselves, but not the longer view. Do I love the thoughts of being with Christ forever? How about the news that someone halfway around the world has come to faith in Jesus? How about a Christian who has acknowledged a particular sin and wants help and accountability to again walk in a God-honoring way?

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

Whom do I love? Many names and faces leap to my mind, and like you, I could list many names. Yet the hard truth is that my call from Christ is to love the unlovely, to love those I find hardest to love. For that kind of love, I must ask Christ to penetrate my heart and love them by His power. After all, I did nothing to endear myself to Christ. So I ask the Lord to give me more of His love for those I find hard to love.

The question that truly lays my motives bare before Christ is the third one: how do I show that love? St. Augustine wrote, “The soul obeys whom it adores,” as a reminder that we act upon our true affections. The Lord has blessed me with you who show me how to love Him better all the time. You remind me of the eternal things and point me to the Lord. May we all do that for one another in this heart month. *Flo*



Measure not God's love and favor by your own feeling.
The sun shines as clearly in the darkest day as it does in
the brightest. The difference is not in the sun, but in some
clouds. Richard Sibbs



Living without

After thirty-three years of marriage, we have a home, roots, stuff. Yet, helping Doug's mom in Dallas keeps us disconnected from the people and things that help define us.

This summer we saw how hurricanes can break all connections people treasure—their life, property, profession, health and dreams. After Katrina and Rita, Texas invited 75,000 people to come in, and many more than that came. For several months, though, the evacuees from New Orleans and south Texas were nameless and faceless. Then, He put some folks in our path that not only lost everything, but cannot return home to pick up the pieces of their lives because the destruction was so total.

(continued from page 2)

And He showed us how His people give thanks in all circumstances, even when they escape with nothing but their lives. (Jeremiah 45:1-5).

Doug overheard two evacuees discussing their recent return to New Orleans, to see if they had homes or possessions to return to. The recent TV news coverage had not prepared either woman for the devastation. One woman said the stench of death swept over her, generating an extreme headache; the other remarked that New Orleans looked like the aftermath of war; both agreed rebuilding would be impossible except in small areas like the French Quarter. Then, they recounted the night the flood waters rose. One woman retreated to her attic, awaiting help from a neighbor, who cut a hole in the upper reaches of her flooded home, pulled her into a small boat, and took her to safety. Thanking God for His care, Doug was humbled when both women praised God for all the blessings of the experience, and then, grabbed his hands and thanked him for being interested in them.

During holiday worship at Park Cities' Presbyterian church, remembering how far I was from my family, and SPEP, I choked up during a moving rendition of Michael Card's *Immanuel*. The lady next to me hugged me, and after services I asked if she were new, too. She said, "Yes."

When I asked where she was from, she said, "New Orleans," and gave a small report of what she had seen on a recent return to what had been her home. She had lost everything, except her life; her brothers and sisters had lost everything as well. She, who had been a prosperous business woman in New Orleans, understood materialism is a new light. And then she asked if I knew what the name Katrina meant. It means cleansing or pure (we get the word purification from it). She looked me straight in the eye and said, "New Orleans needed cleansing!"

Thanksgiving, gratitude, compassion and insight in the wake of irreparable catastrophe—modeled by people who lost what I am uncomfortable living without for a season or two: good lessons to learn, remember and apply!

"Immanuel, our God is with us! And if God is with us, who can stand against us?"

Barbara Smith

Gender and the Church

Kaleo Conference 2006
Feb. 10-11 at Covenant College
(Lookout Mountain, GA)
For more information, contact
Tabitha Kopic (tkopic@covenant.
edu or 706-419-1820).

February

Great American Pie
Month
Random Acts of Kind-
ness Day—Feb. 17.

This month in history

Rescue of the real Robinson Crusoe
(Alexander of Selkirk)—Feb. 2,
1709.

The 15th Amendment to the
Constitution was ratified, guaranteeing
the right of citizens to vote, regardless
of race, color, or previous condition of
servitude—Feb. 3, 1870

Monopoly first
went on sale—
Feb. 6, 1935

Pilgrim's Progress published—Feb.
18, 1678.

A prize is inserted into a Crackerjacks
box for the first time—Feb. 19, 1913

This month in Women's Ministry

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

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

Thursday evening Bible Study

Ebenezer II: for graduates of Ebenezer I begins Feb. 7, Tuesday mornings, 9:30AM or evenings, 6:30PM (Ministry Center).

Ebenezer III begins in May for graduates of I and II.

Coffee Fellowship: each Sunday, between services

Merry Widows: noon, February 4

MOPS: February 8 (and check the weekly bulletin for MOPS' playgroup places)

MOPS Steering Committee: February 22

Leadership Team: February 21 in Flo's office (Want to be a part of Women's Ministry? Contact Flo)

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

Boundaries in Dating: February 7 and 21, 6:45 PM. Childcare available

A Faith That Works will resume if someone can take on the leadership of that group

Moms of College Kids: February 25

Scrapbooking Daze: February 25

Sweetheart Dessert

7:30 PM on Friday, February 10 (Auditorium)

More details on page 6.

Looking to the Future

All EP Church Women's Retreat with Carolyn Custis James speaking and Cindy Bauchspies leading worship, March 31-April 2.



Thats and things

Surfing the Web

The Discipline of Simplicity (www.christianwomentoday.com/growth/simplicity.html)

Understanding Men in the Workplace (www.christianwomentoday.com/workplace/differences.html)

Kitchen Basics: Pots & Pans tells you about the different types and how to choose (www.christian-hOMEMaking.com/kitchenbasics.html)

Mix-And-Match Soups (www.christian-hOMEMaking.com/mixandmatchsoups.html)

10 Ways To Sneak Some Extra Fruits And Vegetables In Your Family's Diet (www.christian-hOMEMaking.com)

Substitutions and Equivalents tells you what ingredients can be substituted and how. (www.christian-hOMEMaking.com/subeq)

The Sweetheart Dessert

It's a joint venture between MOC (Men of the Church) and Women's Ministry. On Friday evening, February 10, we hope to create a bit of romantic atmosphere in the auditorium and celebrate.

How?

- Couples are invited to find a wedding picture, scan it digitally and send it to Court Blatchford so we can enjoy a slide show and guess the identity of some of our couples.
- Bill Beans will MC a special SPEP version of *The Newlywed Game*.
- There will be sparkling cider to toast with and desserts, coffee and tea.
- To add a touch of class beyond our standard Styrofoam, we are asking each couple to bring 2 forks and spoons, as well as 2 cups and saucers.

We'll begin at 7:30 PM, and we hope you'll join us. Just sign up in the Narthex after Sunday services or call Flo Wolfe at the church.

Easy Chocolate Lover's Cheesepie

Makes 10 servings.

- 3 packages (8 oz. each) cream cheese, softened
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups (12 oz. pkg.) Hershey's Mini Chips Semi-Sweet Chocolate, divided
- 1 extra serving-size (9 oz.) graham cracker crumb crust
- 2 tablespoons whipping cream

Heat oven to 450°.

In large bowl, beat cream cheese and sugar with electric mixer until well blended. Add eggs and vanilla; beat well. Stir in $1\frac{2}{3}$ cups small chocolate chips; pour into crust.

Bake 10 minutes. Without opening oven door, reduce temperature to 250°; continue baking 30 minutes or just until set. Remove from oven to wire rack. Cool completely. Cover; refrigerate until thoroughly chilled.

In small microwave-safe bowl, place remaining $\frac{1}{3}$ cup chips and whipping cream. Microwave at HIGH (100%) 20 to 30 seconds or just until chips are melted and mixture is smooth when stirred.

Cool slightly; spread over top of cheesepie.

Refrigerate 15 minutes or until topping is set.

Cover; refrigerate any leftover cheesepie.

Source: Developed and Tested by the Hershey Kitchens



Behind the Scenes of *Women's Life*

Flo Wolfe, Director of Women's Ministries

Micki Parkinson, Design and Editing



SEVERNA PARK
evangelical presbyterian^{PCUSA}

110 Ritchie Highway
Pasadena, MD 21122

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SEVERNA PARK, MD
PERMIT NO. 214