

Women's Life



July 2005

With this year's SPEP emphasis on connecting, I have thought a great deal about those connections that bloom into friendships. Many famous people have taken a stab at defining the word. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." In 408 B.C. Euripides wrote, "Friends show their love in time of trouble," but Proverbs 17:17 reminds me, "A friend loves at all times."

In June, Dave and I bid farewell to DeWayne and Vickie Davenport, good friends who became family when our children married each other. DeWayne's job has now taken them to Augusta, Georgia. In the last nine years, we have worked on each other's houses, eaten together on many Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons, and journeyed together to see our *kids*. Our friendship became solid by the activities, laughter, tears, and prayers we shared. Thus, when the move came, it hurt and left a void in what had become comfortable.

Other friendships seem to lie dormant for years and then spring to life again.. In 2001, I met in Virginia with 14 other women, all friends from college days. Many of us had not seen each other for over 30 years, but we are all Christians. We took an entire weekend to share where the Lord had brought us during those missing years. We praised God, marveled at His grace and mercy, wept and giggled, and have gotten together each June ever since. We now read a book in preparation, and each woman leads the discussion of a chapter. We also go to movies, eat out, and reconnect, bringing family photos, and even memorabilia from campus life in the 60s. It's a refreshing time!

There's a poster in my office that reads, "Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay for a while and leave footprints on our hearts. And we are never, ever the same." There is no doubt that

(continued on page 2)

friendships enrich our lives. Then how do we build and foster such friendships? In the D.C. area, where moves are common, it sometimes feels easier to remain in a shell and not invest in relationships. However, I don't see the turtle posture as a Christian's option, because we are called a *fellowship* of believers. One very ordinary way to stay connected is available through emails and cell phones. While both can be annoying, used carefully, they can keep us in touch. Cards, notes of encouragement, and doing things together never go out of style either. The key is often time and, as a friend of mine says, "triangling God" into the conversation. I cannot truly "bear the burdens" of another unless personal time and transparency have been cultivated between us. May we benefit from Winnie the Pooh's classic advice about friends: "You can't stay in your corner of the forest waiting for others to come to you. You have to go to them sometimes."

Flo Wolfe



Playground Memories

I stifle the memories of playground games; reviving them means remembering the pain of not being chosen—of not being wanted on the team, whatever the game at hand. Agility, speed and coordination were never my primary strengths. So, the truth that God chooses members of His team panics me. Not only do I want for righteousness, I come with decided emotional, mental and physical limitations!

Yet, He says, "I have chosen you." (Deuteronomy 7:6; Ephesians 1:4) Before I was conceived with all the genetic and spiritual shortcomings that make me, me, God chose me, for a position on His team. "No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing." (Ephesians 2:10 from *The Message*)

Playground Memories (continued)

Unlike my former classmates, who chose me if a playground teacher intervened, God figured out a purpose and position for me; now, I am His possession, situated, located and living in the High Tower of His Name. He chose me not because I play well with others, but because He teaches each of us to play like His Son. This is the source of my happiness: being chosen, and being certain of this choice.

Yet, the world remains like a playground filled with hurting hearts watching others *being chosen* for what they long for. Some have despaired of ever being valued by anyone, including God. Their attitudes and actions may warn off those who approach with the news of God's unconditional, irrevocable choice. Seven hundred years before Christ came, Israel warned off the prophets who called her to repentance; God called, held out His hands, and they told Him to stay away! (Isa. 65:2-5)

Whom, then, could He send to those who were too blind and dumb to see their need? One man heard Him ask, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" (Isaiah 6:8) One man saw His glory fill the Temple, and said, "Send me!"

When you hear God chooses a team for Himself—a priesthood, a holy nation, a people whose God is the Lord—is that what you say? "Send me!" Send me onto that playground, and tell the hurting, helpless and hopeless, You the God of all grace, want them—and You want each so much, Your Son secured their freedom to come to You.

Right now, God chose to tell you He loves you—so very much that He gave His only begotten Son, so that believing in Him, you will not perish, but have eternal life. (John 3:16-17) Hearing Him call you, saying yes and joining His team will show you He had you in mind before you wandered onto the playground, hoping someone would want you. (John 15:16)

Barbara Smith



Fresh Meat?

Before I joined the women's ministry team, I thought you had to be an experienced leader, the obvious incarnation of the Proverbs 31 woman, or at least someone who looked like June Cleaver. The steering committee said they were looking for some young blood, fresh meat, and used lots of expressions that made me feel like I was going to be devoured. Very intimidating! However, Flo Wolfe, our fearless leader, told me she believed in me. I prayed and felt that God was telling me it was my time to serve.

I don't know what I was expecting at that first meeting, but what I **did** not find, was fluff (to use Suzy Florence's expression). I **did** find women who truly seek to glorify God and build community. I **did** not find a social hour, coffee break, or gossip session. I found women who strive to make an event truly serve the women of the church, not just an event for an event's sake. I found women who lift each other's spirits and encourage each other as we have our monthly brainstorming meetings. Every aspect of an event or ministry is prayed over; we lift our voices in praise to our Heavenly Father, and ask him to give us wisdom and guidance as we seek His will for His people. I take great joy in looking around the table at the faces of women who are committed to serving God and are so open to new ideas. I personally throw out every crazy idea that comes in my head. Some go over like lead balloons, and some turn out to be good ideas. They never make fun of me, either way. Now, Suzy, on the other hand, is very quiet and thoughtful, and when she puts an idea on the table the rest of us usually just sit there for a second and think, "Wow, that's really true. How did we miss that?" I am being fed spiritual meat, instead of being the meal, as I had feared.

45% of SPEP has been attending this church for 5 years or less. The steering committee wants to serve all the women of the church. We would like the experience and insight that comes from all walks of life: single women, single moms, working women, those single again, or stay-at-home moms. We want people to enjoy using the gifts God has given them. We want your ideas, your thoughts, your needs, and we want to know how the church can serve you. Don't make us guess! Please prayerfully consider joining the team, and ask Flo Wolfe for more details. I hope to see you soon, smiling at me across that table!

Jennifer Plant

This month in Women's Ministry

Sunday School Class for women meets in the Parlor at 9:30 during the summer quarter. We are studying J.I. Packer's *Knowing God*.

A six-week Bible study of Psalm 119 meets on Tuesdays at 9:30 in the Ministry Center. We will not meet on Tuesday, July 12, due to VBS. We will have our last meeting on August 2.

Home Management Seminar meets from 9 AM – 1 PM on Saturday, July 23. Don't miss this opportunity to meet other women and learn how to be good stewards of our homes.

The registration fee of \$5.00 gets you morning coffee and lunch. There's no better deal in town!

VBS is always looking for willing hands. Consider coming to help with a friend or coming to work at VBS and meeting new friends. The children are constructing a model of the tabernacle this summer. Hope to see you July 11-15. Call Michele Prince at the church for more details.

First summer dessert: July 23 at 7:30 PM at Barb Smith's home. Please bring a dessert to share. This is easy and relaxing fellowship. Bring a dessert to share and enjoy a night out with other women from SPEP. Call Barb for directions to her Severna Park home.

Single moms meet on the first and third Tuesdays with Datina Hall and Joyce Dubler. The group meets in the church Parlor at 6:45. Free childcare is provided.

Boundaries: on the second and fourth Tuesdays, Gail Miller is teaching the book *Boundaries*. The group meets in the church Parlor at 6:45. Free childcare is provided.



Special Days in June

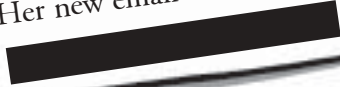
July is Eye Injury Prevention
Month

July 4 Independence Day

Email change

Micki Parkinson got her old
user name back.

Her new email address:



This month in history

First Hershey Kisses made: July
1, 1907

First postage stamp: July 1 1847

First parking meters: July 19,
1935

Ice Cream cone invented: July 22,
1904

Corn flakes invented: July 30,
1898

Did you know?

An etiquette writer of the 1840's advised, "Ladies may wipe their lips on the tablecloth, but not blow their noses on it."

(ed. note: every good thing has to start somewhere!)

All EP churches women's retreat

March 31-April 2, 2006

The speaker will be Carolyn Custis James (*When Life and Beliefs Collide*).

Want to write for *Women's Life*?

- 1 - Be encouraging. No guilt trips please.
- 2 - Be practical and where-we-live.
- 3 - 500 words or less. Ever wonder why *Women's Life* is a quick, easy read? It's because the articles are kept short.
- 4 - Deadline = 15th of each month. Send it to Micki at: muffnme@comcast.net

Recipes

Colonial Bread (bread machine)

Makes one 1½ pound loaf

(original recipe called for ⅓ cup molasses and butter instead of margarine)

- ⅓ c. yellow cornmeal
- 1¼ c. boiling water (1¼-1½ cups)
- 1 tbsp. +1 tsp. molasses
- ¼ c. Splenda—granular
- 1 tbsp. margarine, softened (I use Smart Balance Buttery Sprd.)
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2¼ tsps. yeast
- 3½ c. unbleached flour

Pour cornmeal into a bowl. Carefully pour boiling water into cornmeal, stirring to make sure it is smooth. Let stand to cool for about 30 minutes. Stir in molasses and splenda, margarine and salt.

In the bread pan, place the ingredients in the manufacturer's order.

Select Basic bread cycle and start machine. Check the dough 5 min. into kneading, add liquid if necessary.

From: www.cooksrecipes.com

Micki

Substitutes:

Splenda Powdered Sugar (for garnishing cakes and pastries)

- ¾ c. Splenda—granular
- 2 Tbsp. cornstarch

Place ingredients in blender jar. Cover and blend until Splenda is a very fine powder. Makes the equivalent of ½ cup powdered sugar.

From: www.splenda.com

Substitutes (continued)

Splenda Powdered Sugar Glaze

Makes 1/3 cup glaze.

1½ c. Splenda - granular

¼ c. cornstarch

5 tsp. water

Place Splenda and cornstarch in blender jar. Cover and blend until Splenda is a very fine powder. Pour into a small bowl. Add water and stir well. This recipe makes a thick glaze. Add more water for a thinner glaze.

To flavor the glaze add any of the following; 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract, 1 drop maple flavor, 1 tsp. lemon zest, 1 tsp. orange zest, or 1/2 tsp. rum flavor.

From: www.splenda.com

Light Corn Syrup Substitute

Makes almost 2 cups.

2 cups granulated sugar (or Splenda)

¾ cup water

¼ teaspoon cream of tartar

Dash of salt

Combine all ingredients in a heavy, large pan. Stir and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to a simmer and put cover on it for 3 minutes to get sugar crystals off the sides of the pan. Uncover and cook until it reaches soft ball stage. Stir often.

Cool syrup and store in a covered container at room temperature. It will keep for about 2 months.

From: www.recipegoldmine.com



Micki's Corner

God's love always amazes me. With all the promises in the Bible, it shouldn't, but it does. He's amazed me again.

Glenn went to Pittsburgh for Renee's graduation (the doctor told me to stay home). One of the ceremonies would be webcast, so I could still be part of her graduation.

When the time came, I turned on the computer and... we had no internet.

I fell apart. The things I said and thought about God were awful. If it were me, I would have struck me dead right then! Glenn kept calling me on his cell phone and holding it up so I could listen to parts of the ceremonies, but that only made me more frustrated.

It was when I started asking God how He could be so cruel—why would He let me know of a webcast and then not let me see it—that I realized what I'd been saying. God is never cruel. Someone else is.

I spent the rest of the day asking for forgiveness. I didn't go to sleep that night until I went to God again, consciously holding Jesus' hand.

Wondering where God's love comes in? When Glenn got home, he was checking out some things on that new phone of his and he found a video file. He hadn't taken any video—he hadn't even read those directions yet.

We played the file to see what it could be. A tech angel must have been assigned to Glenn that day. As he held the phone up for me to hear, someone pressed a button. We saw a video of Renee walking across the stage, getting her diploma and walking down. Nothing else, just those few precious seconds.

God is so good. His love is boundless. And He still does miracles to prove it. As I add this to my other life stories and keep reminding myself of them, I hope I'll trust Him more the next time.

Micki



Thats and things

On the web

Recipe Gold Mine has thousands of recipes including copycat restaurant recipes, conversion tables, non-food recipes (beauty, home remedies and cleaning) and craft recipes, too. Go to: www.recipegoldmine.com/

Want the rules to a sports game, ediquite, kids game? Go to: www.everyrule.com/

Fun Trivia Quizzes has an event wizard. You can make up trivia questions, customised answer sheets, puzzle pages for players and all the scoring and planning information you'll need for your event. God to: www.funtrivia.com

Find out how your bank rates. Go to: www.bankrate.com/brm/safesound/ss_home.asp

Want to know the meaning and history of your first name? Go to: www.behindthename.com

Make your own version of a time capsule page. Put in the day you were born and generate a sheet with history from that day—who was president, hit songs and tv shows, even the cost of bread. Go to: <http://dmarie.com/timecap/step1.asp>

Behind the Scenes of *Women's Life*

Flo Wolfe, Director of Women's Ministries

Micki Parkinson, Design and Editing



110 Ritchie Highway
Pasadena, MD 21122

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