

# Women's Life



October 2006

*“Since my youth, O God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds. Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those who come.”*

(Psalm 71:17-18 ESV)

Four of us, before flying back to BWI from the International WIC Conference in Atlanta, chatted about the impact of this theme verse of the conference. Whether we were blessed by early training in the Scriptures or called to Christ later in life, we know the command to proclaim His marvelous deeds. Over meals and in hotel rooms, we had shared parts of our God stories with each other. The variety of God's work made us smile and affirm God's amazing grace.

We experienced more of God's marvelous deeds via God-appointed reunions with Suzy Florence and Sarah Hall. Rhonda met women from her previous PCA church in South Carolina, and I reconnected with a woman, now living in Georgia, whose children I taught almost twenty years ago. God's covenant family always has open arms and reminders of God's people who invested in us and we in them.

Powerful speakers also declared God's deeds while pressing home to us the charge of Psalm 71:18. We must “proclaim your (God's) might to the next generation. Threaded through speakers like Paige Benton Brown, Diane Langberg, Joni Eareckson Tada, and Ligon Duncan, music ministered and generational stories made a strong impression. God's faithfulness from one generation to another often happens because He uses people in weaving His sovereign tapestry. One woman told of being loved into the kingdom when her Christian roommate came to pick her up after many college parties. A mother told of the lessons that she taught to and learned from her Downs Syndrome daughter. Grandmother Jane

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Petete, PCA Director for Women's Ministries, proudly directed the audience of 4000 women to the program page that pictures her with her seven grandchildren. Finally, Dr. Bryan Chapell illustrated his Sunday sermon with a story about his third grade Sunday school teacher. This man wrote to ask, "How are you and how's your walk with the Lord?" even when Dr. Chapell's parents divorced and the boy left Memphis after seventh grade. Letters from this Sunday School teacher continued throughout college, and into seminary.

So the four of us flew home with a keen sense of joyful mission. What ways will the Lord teach us as we seek to proclaim His might to the next generation? This mission is not merely another item on the daily to do list. It's a privilege with eternal rewards! Rhonda Acree's initiating a Tuesday morning *Lambs of the Shepherd* class for three to five-year-olds whose moms attend Bible study, and several women have volunteered to serve in the nurseries on Tuesday. How will you invest in the next generation by declaring God's mighty deeds? Whether grandchildren or covenant children here at SPEP, real opportunity and blessings await you.

*Flo Wolfe*



## Feeling stressed? Want to hide?

Don't! Come to the women's retreat instead. It full of quiet time, friend-building time and learning more about our Lord. In a word: Refreshment!

**Facts and Figures** Retreat: **November 3–5, 2006** at the New Windsor Conference Center (near Westminster, Maryland). Ends Sunday noon.  
Two workshops on Saturday afternoon: 1) Prayer 2) Marriage Room cost: \$130–\$170. Scholarships will be available.  
**September 10:** a Retreat Preview in the Narthex (see a map of the conference center to begin choosing your room).  
**September 17–October 8:** registration in Narthex A.  
Questions? Contact Ree Burroughs (410-987-8906) or Rita Kesner (410-647-7270).

## Mom Moments

What a glorious day! My son Charlie loves going to the park and today was the day to go. We were not moving very fast that morning, but we finally got there. All of his friends were there playing. It was beautiful, with a gentle breeze, not too hot, and well, we made it!

Finally someone to talk to, to share about how awesome our vacation had just been and to find out what had been happening since we had been gone. Someone had organized our group to go scuba diving and was I going to go? Scuba diving?! Well maybe I'll try it!? Why not!

Then there was lunch to be had, so Charlie gets his lunch and now its time to nurse Andrew. Charlie decides to go exploring and, while I was wrestling with how to be discreet, Charlie is getting farther away from me and I have milk all down my shirt while Andrew is bawling his eyes out. Thankfully another mom helped my older son while I was able to work with the crying baby. I still had milk all over me and Charlie now smelled of something foul, but at least the sun was still shining and I had my friends around me to laugh it off and to help me out!

I have two pre-schoolers and many demands in my life just trying to maintain—maintain friendships, a relationship with my husband, with my children, and with my God. I'll be honest with you; I find it very hard some days and even some weeks. I get tired, I get grumpy, I get mad and there are the days where I just cry. I have found that there are times I need to walk alongside another mom, to watch another family in action besides my own to know that I am not alone. There are others who are pursuing the same dreams, goals and possibilities of getting a good night's sleep!

I have found a refreshing spot alongside other moms in a group called MOPS. Mother of Preschoolers is a great way to share moments with your kids and with other moms and their kids at our play dates. And for us moms there are monthly meetings where we are able to share in many moments of laughter, friendship and the opportunity to learn something new. We'd love to hear your stories and to share stories with you. So let's freshen up this fall and breathe deeply, and maybe, just maybe, we'll sleep a little more soundly.

To know more about MOPS please contact Nicola Kangus (410-729-0837) or Crystal Whaley (410-757-1142).

*Rebecca Vahlberg*

## September

It's Pastor Appreciation Month.  
National Mammography Day—  
October 21  
It's Adopt a Shelter Dog month.

**Change your clocks!**  
It's that time again. Put  
your clock back one  
hour on Oct. 29.

## This month in history

Anna Edson Taylor went over  
Niagara Falls in a barrel, the first  
person to survive such a stunt—  
October 24, 1901

Nylon stockings first sold in the  
U.S.—October 25, 1939

Statue of Liberty was officially  
unveiled and dedicated—October  
28, 1886

Luther posts his 95 theses at  
Augsburg—October 31, 1517.

## Memory Medicine

Yes, God has showered so many good things on me! Still, sometimes I wonder why He doesn't take away the bad things?

First, He doesn't take away bad things, for these very thorns reveal His glory. (2 Corinthians 12:1-10) Is that what my life is about, bringing glory to God on the days life hurts?

Second, He permits personal pain, as well as corporate, to show me what is in my heart. The evidence is sobering—and rarely a transparent reflection of His grace. (Deuteronomy 8:2)

Third, He lets bad things remain in my life because He is working on a bigger canvas. When times are good, I am all too prone to rely on me, myself and I! The sorrowful, black threads in my life may just be the outlines you need to see, as God is weaving your life together. I learned a few invaluable lessons from the black threads God wove through the life of Barbara Black, a friend, who is a decade younger than I. Though she now lives in a nursing home, profoundly disabled by Multiple Sclerosis she battles not just for her life—but for her friends in prayer. How she daily endures is a well-defined example for me to consider it all joy that the cross I bear is a momentary affliction. If He chooses to increase its weight, her forbearance shows me His strength is sufficient.

Fourth, bad things are often His perfect antidotes for my bad memory. C. H. Spurgeon warned, “Memory is very treacherous, by a strange perversity—it treasures up the refuse of the past and permits priceless treasures to lie neglectful.” It's easier for me to remember slings and arrows, than the constant shield God is. No matter how amazing His rescue, gifts, or personal care, I too quickly forget His benefits. Pride is what causes my memory loss. Pride made me think I was better than I was, and it continues to diminish my memory, especially if I do not daily rehearse His goodness to me, even before I was born. David understood this. (Psalm 103:1-2)

God tried to impress the danger of forgetful pride on His people before they entered the promised land. (Deuteronomy 6:10-12; 8:10-14) Sure enough, they forget to remember how mighty their God was, and lost the gifts God planned, and prevented their children's entry into Canaan. (Numbers 13-14)

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Whom or what do you fear that is insurmountable? Is it bigger than God? Do you imagine your forgetful pride might affect your children's spiritual inheritance?

Sing a new song, just for today—praising God helps us remember His greatness and our need. And our families just may enjoy a new tune as well!

*Barbara Smith*

A link to meet Barbara Black ([www.pds-thirdfloor.com/bblack.html](http://www.pds-thirdfloor.com/bblack.html))



## **Does Women's Ministry have a purpose?**

The purpose of Women's Ministry at Severna Park Evangelical Presbyterian Church is that every woman might know Jesus Christ personally, commit herself to purposeful Christian living, and extend the kingdom of Christ in her home, church, community, and throughout the world. This purpose is fulfilled in a variety of opportunities that allow each woman to respond in faith to the Gospel, study the Scriptures, serve, and fellowship together.

Goals:

- To encourage women to study Scripture and apply biblical solutions to real life situations
- To mobilize women to serve women of SPEP and the greater community
- To facilitate fellowship among the women of SPEP and reach out to others
- To network via written and oral communications with SPEP members, regular attendees, missionaries, and our sister EP churches.

# Flats and things

## Blueberry Scones

Makes 8

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 3 tablespoons sugar, plus more for sprinkling tops
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- $\frac{3}{4}$  teaspoon salt
- 6 tablespoons ( $\frac{3}{4}$  stick) cold unsalted butter
- $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups fresh blueberries, cleaned
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon zest
- $\frac{1}{3}$  cup heavy cream, plus more for brushing tops
- 2 large eggs, lightly beaten

Adjust rack to center of oven, and heat to 400°. Place a Silpat\* on a baking sheet, and set aside.

In a large bowl, sift together flour, 3 tablespoons sugar, baking powder, and salt. Using a pastry blender or two knives, cut in butter until the largest pieces are the size of small peas. Stir in blueberries and zest.

Using a fork, whisk together the cream and the eggs in a liquid measuring cup. Make a well in the center of dry ingredients, and pour in cream mixture. Stir lightly with fork just until dough comes together. Turn out onto a lightly floured surface, and knead a few times to mix well.

Pat dough into a 6-inch square about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches thick. Using a floured knife, cut into four 3-inch squares. Cut squares in half on the diagonal to form eight triangles. Transfer to prepared baking sheet. Brush tops with cream, and sprinkle with sugar. Bake until golden brown, 20 to 22 minutes. Transfer scones from baking sheet to wire racks to cool.

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[www.christian-homemaking.com](http://www.christian-homemaking.com)

\*note: Silpat is a non-stick pad. You can use non-stick spray instead.





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