

# Women's Life



September 2005

This summer the women's Sunday school class has studied J.I. Packer's *Knowing God*. This modern classic helps people consider the attributes of God in order to know Him better. The author gives more than a listing of the 'omni' words such as omnipotent and omniscient; he writes chapters with such mind-engaging combinations as God's goodness *and* severity. The class has looked at the greatness of God, including His plan to send us a Savior, and to give us abundant life.

Six women served as facilitators and the women in the class added insights from their study done throughout the week. For example, we learned that people have often tried to define God as a sort of Santa Claus, a mistaken idea that implodes when it tries to explain evil. We looked at the righteousness and the wrath of God, topics often avoided, even in our own minds. We humans get into trouble when we create limitations and personal idolatries of the One who told Moses, "I AM."

Packer constantly takes us to Scripture where we see and hear who God is through the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This summer's study reminds me that SPEP's mission statement begins, *Discovering in Christ the greatness of God*. Studying the Bible yields far more than earthly wealth or egotistical pride. We are humbled, encouraged, and fortified through this journey of discovery in the Word.

When I compare earlier Christians to myself, I find a very different approach to biblical wisdom in terms of living out the Gospel. Modern Christians don't seem to know God as well as previous generations. We want God to bail us out, to speak audibly, or to answer our fleece. Earlier believers knew that guidance *from* God was directly related to knowledge *of* God. The more they knew of God's character and His desires, the more they could live in conformity to Him. Their knowledge *of* God gave them knowledge *from* God.

(continued on page 2)

Thus, *discovering in Christ the greatness of God*, must be a process of being in the Word; I know no shortcuts. I do know of several corollaries, however: study with pen and journal; study in solitude; study with friends; study with a mixture of believers and seekers; study with tools easily accessible in computer software. As we make discoveries from the Word, we are changed, actually conformed more to the image of Christ.

How, then, shall we go about *sharing those discoveries with others*? First, we can't share what we don't have a handle on ourselves. So begin to study the Word, both in a quiet place where the Holy Spirit can lead us into truth, and with someone else (like the small groups and women's Bible studies that begin in September). Second, do some homework, whether we ask questions of the text, buy a study guide, or answer the questions the Bible study leader gives. Knowing more *of God* will allow us to hear more *from God*. *Flo Wolfe*



## **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

## *From the heart*

One of my favorite pastimes is reminiscing about the births of my children. I delight in remembering the details of the event. Not just the actual birth but I love to navigate through the hours and even days leading up to the blessed event. With vivid images my memory allows me to replay the myriad emotions which I encountered.

And I just love recalling all of it! Christ had called me to Him before my third pregnancy began so the anticipation of that birth was escalated by my belief that Jesus would be present—and I would be able to talk to Him. He would be there to listen to me and comfort me and help me know what to do. And He did. I saw Him everywhere. He manifested Himself through my two dear friends who kept vigil with me through a long night of labor. He was there to lend support through the comforting words of the midwife who spoke of progress and it shouldn't be too much longer now. Through prayer, He provided me (and my weary companions) with renewed strength for moving a child from one residence to another. I'm still moved to tears when I recall the shouts of joy from my husband who I know echoed God's delight at the sight of our sweet baby. I fix my eyes upon this precious creation and feel so close to God. He just seemed so very there; magnified somehow by the presence of His newly minted image made in this child.

I don't understand all the reasons for this I just know my heart swells when I think on these things (even the births of kittens, puppies, and guinea pigs). God may have other plans for me but I'm guessing I won't have anymore babies. However I can't imagine not seeing anymore births. Fortunately for me I have found a place where this fascination I have with the experience of birth can be more than just a memory. I have become a doula. What's a doula? An odd word which was coined to describe someone who assists a laboring woman. I'd venture to say doulas have been around since about the second generation of humanity but I don't have the hard facts to back that up! So now I have the privilege of helping others in this most sacred time. Whether they're believers in the Creator or not, He's there. I know. I see Him.

*Shonette Gable*

Did your parents ever say something to you that still hurts to think about?

Want something different for your children?

Find out how at the *War of Words Seminar* Oct. 7 & 8.

**Bible Studies beginning**  
*2 Peter and Jude*: Thurs. nights Sept. 8–Nov. 17.

*Acts*: Tues. mornings beginning Sept 13

### This month in history

The Mayflower set sail for Virginia: Sept. 6., 1620

California becomes the 31<sup>st</sup> state: Sept. 10, 1850

### Special Days in September

It's Be Kind to Editors and Writers Month

Sept. 11 is Grandparents Day

US Postal Service founded: Sept. 26, 1789

Elvis Presley on the Ed Sullivan Show: Sept. 9, 1956

### Beyond child care

We would like to enhance our Tuesday morning Bible Studies with a children's program. Member of SPEP? Have a heart for children? Want to help us build something great? Contact Flo Wolfe.

It was a rainy day around lunchtime and we were ready for some TexMex therapy to brighten our blues, so we went to **The Pachanga Grill** in Odenton where, “Every meal is a fiesta.”

Place: The Pachanga Grill

Location: 8395 Piney Orchard Pkwy

Price Range: \$2.00 - \$15.00

Service: Very friendly and quick.

Parking: Limited in front, plentiful around back.

Kids: Crayons, kids menu

Seating: Adequate indoor and outdoor

As we pulled up to the front of the shopping center we noticed the extensive outdoor seating usually available (except on rainy days such as this.) As we entered, Bailey was handed crayons, a special kids cup and kids menu—ahhh, it’s kid friendly. Our chips were thick corn chips—yummy! The salsa was medium spicy, not too “tomatoey”, and just the right consistency. It was not at all smoky, but a good overall salsa. Then we looked on the menu and noticed a Texas Chimichanga! Well, this sure earned extra points in my book! However, this particular day I branched out and ordered the Chile Verde Enchiladas. So I was not surprised when my green, jalapeno sauced meal was served, although the punch it had sure awoke my tongue. (Now remember, Chris is the hot palate. I am more of a medium myself). The pork was very tender, but could have used a little more cheese. The rice was very good: fluffy with just the right mix of spice. The lunch menu affords rice with your entrée, but not beans.

The service was quick and very friendly, and we were seated immediately. I could definitely try some other entrees at some other point, but I think I will stick close to the Dena\* for now. But remember, the best therapy is TexMex therapy!

\*Dena=Pasadena



Once upon a time 11 Pioneer Girls, some moms and leaders left the comforts of their homes and traveled to Catoctin Mountain. There they pitched their colorful tents in the woods and slept on the ground. The outhouse and the water pump were on the far side of an open field. A campfire and camp stove replaced their kitchens. Owls hooted at night, lightning flashed in the distance, and daddy-long-leg spiders walked upside-down on tent walls. Stars and flashlights lit their way at night, and the moon rose late, peeking through tent windows and filling the open field with its glow. The girls cooked hot dogs and marshmallows on sticks, made delicious pancakes for breakfast and carried water to clean the dishes.

Because the president of their country was camping nearby (we don't think he slept in a tent), the road through the park was closed. That meant an open air ride in the back of a pick-up truck along beautiful country lanes to get to the vans. With lunches packed and scavenger hunts in hand, the pioneers hiked to Cunningham Falls. How good peanut butter and jelly tasted with bare toes dangling in pools of water running over the rocks! Some of the girls found a place to slide with the water under the falls over smooth, water polished stone.

The afternoon hours slipped away as everyone swam and played and bathed in the lake at the park. Then there was supper to prepare, games to play and, of course, a campfire. Some of the girls and moms took their flashlights for a night-time hike, exploring forgotten trails through the woods, looking for bears. They discovered a pump house and found their way back to camp all by themselves. Afterwards, flat on their backs in the open field, they counted the stars.

On Sunday morning there was lots of work to do – packing everything up to go home. But each person had prepared something to share with the group during worship time. In a big circle around the campfire, they sang praises to the Lord of Heaven and Earth, gave thanks for His protection throughout the weekend, read and recited verses from the Bible and remembered what a good God we serve. Then all the grubby girls and tired moms drove back to their comfortable homes in cars loaded with camp gear, laundry and leftovers. They dreamed of waterfalls and starlight, campfires and adventures and next summer's pioneer campout.

*Karen Larson (an impartial observer)*

## *This month in Women's Ministry*

MOPS begins its new year on September 14. in MC 3. If you are the mother of a preschooler, please join these encouraging monthly times.

**Single Moms:** on the first and third Tuesday evenings, Datina Hall and Joyce Dubler lead the regular meetings. On the second and fourth Tuesday evenings, Gail Miller is teaching the book *Boundaries in Dating*. Both groups meet in the church Parlor at 6:45 PM. Free childcare is provided.

An **Appreciation Dessert** will be held on September 20 at 7:30 in MC 3 for all women who lead any of the SPEP Women's Ministries.

**A Faith That Works**, a practical study for women who work outside the home, will meet in MC 3 at 7:30 PM on September 21. The topic will be stress management.

**Moms of College Kids** will meet 9–10AM on September 24, in the Ministry Center. If you have a college student, please consider praying for him/her with other concerned moms.

**Scrapbooking Daze** will meet 9AM–6PM on September 24, in the Ministry Center. Bring your supplies and a snack. We can work together on preserving memories and enjoy the fellowship.



### **Toast really does fall butter-side down**

British schoolchildren dropped thousands of buttered and unbuttered pieces of toast from their tables. The results were that the buttered side will hit the flour first more often. In fact, the side of the toast facing up on the plate will hit the floor first more often than not, even if it has no butter.

Simply put, when the bread falls, it begins to flip. It generally only has time to flip over before it hits the floor, given average kitchen table height. (They did find that if it was dropped from a higher height the toast usually landed unbuttered side down.)

From *Condensed Knowledge* by mental\_floss)



**SEVERNA PARK**  
*evangelical presbyterian*<sup>ch</sup>

110 Ritchie Highway  
Pasadena, MD 21122

Flo Wolfe, Dir. of Women's Ministries  
Barbara Smith, Newsletter Coordinator  
Micki Parkinson, Design and Editing

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