

First Quarter Events

- January 4<sup>th</sup> **Heart to Heart** - Ice breaker night - Meet your match! - Breakfast food - Denise Pennington/Food Ministry
- January 7<sup>th</sup> **Secret Sister's Luncheon** - Gift exchange reveal and drawing for the new year - Tina Linton/Secret Sister's (Anyone wanting to participate for 2018, please come!)
- February 1<sup>st</sup> **Heart to Heart** - Candyland fun - Soup night - Susie Ferguson/Funeral Dinner Ministry
- March 1<sup>st</sup> **Heart to Heart** - Vendors night - starts at 6:30 pm til 9pm - No food this night.
- March 17<sup>th</sup> **Friendship Banquet**- starts at 6 pm - tickets \$10 - Come for good food, fun and fellowship!
- March 31<sup>st</sup> **Easter Egg Brunch** - 10 am til noon - (no bunny) - Yummy breakfast foods the kids will love - for ages 3 to 10 only

Come, join us - have fun and receive a blessing, too!

EventsContact Person

- Special Events Cathy Henry  
330-587-8065
- Card Shower Connie Hoover  
330-232-2132
- Funeral Dinner Susie Ferguson  
330-524-2275  
234-678-7678
- Missions Audrey Rogers  
330-896-1969  
330-338-2054
- Food Ministry Denise Pennington  
330-603-8765
- Baby Shower Donna Walden  
330-819-5362
- Newsletter LeuAnna Taylor  
330-815-1842
- Secret Sister's Tina Linton  
330-715-2134

## A plan to overcome self-defeat

Are you ever tempted to wave the white flag of surrender before the battle is over? Or perhaps before the battle has even begun?

When you face your own personal Goliath-sized dilemma, remember that the giant is never bigger than God. 1 John 4:4 reminds us, "The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." He is already victorious!

So, if you need to overcome a self-defeating attitude, here are a few ways to reclaim that victory:

- Review and renew your attitudes daily. It's not our circumstances that hold us back, but our attitudes in those circumstances.
- Become accountable. This keeps you on track and gives you an objective point of view.
- Relinquish your anger. Unresolved anger will cause you to create seemingly insurmountable obstacles in life and focus on the negatives.
- Get physical! An activity as simple as a brisk walk can improve your outlook.
- Clean house emotionally. Learn to relax, give up perfectionism, and don't be afraid to cry.
- Be proud of who you are and who you are becoming.

"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:43).

Be confident in all Jesus has done and will do. He is mightier than any problem this life can throw at us!

Love,  
Christine Cane  
From Propel Women

## A Recipe to Live By

Blend one cup of love and one-half cup of kindness. Add alternately in small portions, one cup of appreciation and three cups of pleasant companionship into which has been sifted three teaspoons of deserving praise. Flavor with one teaspoon carefully chosen advice. Lightly fold in one cup of cheerfulness to which has been added a pinch of sorrow. Pour with tender care into small clean hearts and let bake until well matured. Turn out on the surface of society, humbly invoke God's blessing and it will serve all mankind.

Submitted by Katie Rogers

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## Faith

"Keep this for me."

What child has not said this,  
And placed a treasure in his Mother's hand  
With strict injunction she should keep it safe  
Till he return?  
He knows with her it will be safe;  
No troubled thought or anxious fear besets his mind,  
And off he runs light-hearted to his play.

If children can so trust, why cannot we,  
And place our treasures, too, in God's safe hand;  
Our hopes, ambitions, needs, and those we love,  
Just see them, in his all embracing care,  
And say with joyous heart, "They are with Thee."

Author Unknown

## Wonna Be a Bear

In this life I'm a woman. But sometimes I wish God had made me a bear. When you're a bear, you get to hibernate. You do nothing but sleep for six months. I could deal with that.

Before you hibernate, you're supposed to eat yourself stupid. I could deal with that, too.

When you're a girl bear, you birth your children (who are the size of walnuts) while you're sleeping and wake to partially grown, cute, cuddly cubs. I could definitely deal with that.

If you're mama bear, everyone knows you mean business. You swat anyone who bothers your cubs. If your cubs get out of line, you swat them, too. I could deal with that.

If you're a bear, your mate EXPECTS you to wake up growling. He EXPECTS that you will have hairy legs and excess body fat.

Yup, wanna be a bear!

Submitted by Barb Rawdon



## Crock Pot Winter Dinner

1 lb. chicken tenderloins  
1 lb. Polish sausage  
2 onions, chopped  
1 (28 ounce) can pork and beans, with juice  
1 (15 ounce) can ranch style beans, with juice  
1 (15 ounce) can great northern beans, drained  
1 (15 ounce) can butter beans, drained  
1 cup ketchup  
1 cup packed brown sugar  
1 tablespoon vinegar  
6 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled

In a large skillet, brown chicken tenderloins in a little oil and place in a large crock pot that has been sprayed with nonstick cooking spray. cut sausage in 1-inch pieces and add to crock pot. combine onions, 4 cans of beans, ketchup, brown sugar and vinegar, add to crock pot and stir gently.

Cover and cook on LOW for 7 to 8 hours or on HIGH for 3 1/2 to 4 hours. When ready to serve, sprinkle crumbled bacon over top. Serves 4-6.

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A beautiful woman uses her lips for truth, her voice for kindness, her ears for compassion, her hands for charity and her heart for love. For those that don't like her, she uses prayer.

Prayer is the one thing everyone can afford to give.

## Sherry's Book Corner/Adult Column

Hello ladies! Years ago, my mom gave me a copy of this book. I loved it so much after she passed away I began getting my own copy. Then one of my dear friends here in Carrollton saw me reading it one time and she grew interested in it. Now it is one of my birthday presents I give to her. We enjoy reading the same devotional every day. It's just another thing we have in common, our love for our Heavenly Father.

I thought it would be a nice way to start the new year. You can purchase this book on Amazon or you can order it from Dailey Guideposts. Call (800) 932-2145, or write to Guideposts, PO Box 5815 Harlan, Iowa 51593. You will meet people just like you and I as you read this spirit-lifting devotional. You will be blessed everyday with their stories and bible verses. A day wouldn't be the same without my copy.

May all of you have a blessed winter and I will see you on our return from Florida.

In Him,  
Sherry Kline Bolitho

Adult Book:

Title: Daily Guideposts, a daily devotional

To become a member, go to:

Daily Guideposts.org

Facebook.com/dailyguideposts

Email [DailyGPEditors@guideposts.org](mailto:DailyGPEditors@guideposts.org)

Or write to Daily Guideposts Editor, Guideposts Books & Inspirational Media

Members can also receive each day's devotion on their computer, tablet, or smartphone.

At year end, each devotional for each day for 2017 will be compiled into a single book that can be purchased.

## Sherry's Book Corner/Children's Book

Hi kids! Since I have been your Sunday school teacher for many of you, I know you love to read. So... who loves the library!?! We do! I sold this book to our local library and it has become one of my favorites. I looked up the meaning of the word library in my dictionary and this is what I found. Library 1. A collection of books, pamphlets, computer programs, etc., esp. one arranged for easy location of desired material. 2. A building, room, etc. containing such a collection. So, I may ask, who wants to go to the library?

I think you will enjoy this fun read about a young girl on her trip to her local library. When I was growing up I loved going to the library. It was located on Market Street in downtown Akron, Ohio. My dad would let me walk there from school and he would pick me up on his way home from work. It was a most treasured time in my young life. Books are still a passion of mine. As I say on my telephone recorder, "Explore the world, read a book."

In Him,  
Sherry Kline Bolitho

Children's Book:

Title: The Library Book

By: Tom Chapin and Michael Mark

Illustrated by: Chuck Groenink

Publisher: Atheneum Books For Young Readers/Simon & Schuster

Price: \$17.99

Age group:4-adult

This library is a very special place to be. You not only check out books...you'll just have to read and see.

## Songs We Love

Francis Scott Key, 1779-1843, author of our national anthem was born in Frederick, Maryland, the son of a famous Revolutionary War hero. He was active in the Episcopal Church, but was trained as a lawyer who served as District Attorney of Georgetown in Washington DC. During the War of 1812, he was sent by President James Madison to negotiate the release of a friend held by the British, but was held back on shore because of the intense bombardment all night. But when it stopped in the early morning light, he was almost afraid to look across the water to the ship that held the prisoner that he was trying to free. As he looked in the early morning light he saw our flag still hoisted and flying triumphantly.

He hastily wrote on the back of an envelope the feelings that engulfed him as he watched the Star Spangled Banner wave proudly. A month later he published his poem, but it wasn't put to music to become our national anthem until March 3, 1931.

Oh say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous  
fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof thru the night that our flag was still there.  
Oh say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

The Star Spangled Banner

*Text:* Francis Scott Key, 1779–1843

*Music:* John Stafford Smith, 1750–1836

Submitted by Ruth Warren

## Panera Broccoli Cheese Soup

Ready in: 1 hour 10 minutes

Serves: 4

1 tablespoon melted butter  
½ medium chopped onion  
¼ cup melted butter  
¼ cup flour  
2 cups half-and-half cream  
2 cups chicken stock  
½ lb. fresh broccoli (chopped into bite size pieces)  
1 cup carrot, julienned, grated  
¼ teaspoon nutmeg  
8 ounces grated sharp cheddar cheese  
salt and pepper  
crusty bread or bread bowl  
2 cups whole milk

Sauté onion in butter. Set aside. Cook melted butter and flour using a whisk over medium heat for 3-5 minutes or until you see a noticeable golden-brown color in your pan.

Slowly add in the chicken stock and whisk again to combine. Simmer contents covered (stirring occasionally) for 20 minutes on medium heat. Add the broccoli, carrots and the sautéed onions, into the pot. Stir, add the milk and half & half. Cook covered over low heat 20-25 minutes but do not bring to a boil. This may cause the milk to curdle.

Add salt, pepper & nutmeg. Note: you can purée half of your soup in a blender or with a handheld immersion blender if you choose however it isn't a requirement. Continue to cook the soup on low heat and slowly add the grated cheese a handful at a time and stir to avoid clumps. Once all the cheese has been added is melted, remove from heat, and serve immediately. Suggestion: serve with crusty bread or in a bread bowl.

Refrigerate leftovers after they have cooled and store in an airtight container up to 5 days in the refrigerator.

## Meadowlarks

It was a pristine, state-of-the-art spring day in Washington state - snow-capped mountains, sparkling bays, brilliant flowers. Driving along a picturesque country road, we passed a well-groomed farm with a trim rail fence and saw a neatly lettered sign that said:

PLEASE DRIVE QUIETLY

Some music notes followed the letters. We puzzled over the meaning until we spied another sign fifty yards further. Trailed by more music notes, it read:

MEADOWLARKS SINGING

I had a great urge to yell at Jack, “*Pull off the road. Stop the car! Turn off the engine!*” so we could sit and hear the stillness – and the meadowlarks singing!

There are times in my life when I need to pull off to the side of the road, stop the clamoring engine of the world around me, and *listen*. Listen to God...And listen to His meadowlarks singing.

But I’m usually going too fast to listen. I’m too busy to stop. Rushing too headlong to hear.

This morning I read the words of a familiar psalm – a psalm that fairly breathes quietness:

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul... Psalm 23:1-3

In the bustle of brimming-full days, when I hear only strident voices and roaring engines, God’s meadowlarks keep singing. But how can my heart be cheered, or my soul be stirred, or my

spirit be lifted up in joy, when I don’t *hear*? How can He lead me beside the still waters when I’ve kicked into passing gear in the fast lane of life? How can God *restore my soul* when I don’t take time to sit at the feet of Jesus?

*Father God, in my everyday business, in the bustle and hustle of my days, in the clamor of the world around me, remind me to take frequent moments to pull off the road, stop the car, turn off the engine, and listen to You and to Your meadowlarks ...singing.*

Cause me to hear thy loving kindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee. Psalm 143:8

By: Carole Mayhall

From: When God Whispers

Glimpses of an Extraordinary God By an Ordinary Woman

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## Contented Living

Nine requisites for contented living:

Health enough to make work a pleasure;

Wealth enough to support your needs;

Strength to battle with difficulties and overcome them;

Grace enough to confess your sins and forsake them;

Patience enough to toil until some good is accomplished;

Charity enough to see some good in your neighbor;

Love enough to move you to be useful and helpful to others;

Faith enough to make real the things of God;

Hope enough to remove all anxious fears concerning the future.

Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

## Kids say the Funniest Things

WHAT WOULD YOU DO ON A FIRST DATE THAT WAS TURNING SOUR?

I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns. - Craig, age 9

WHEN IS IT OKAY TO KISS SOMEONE?

When they're rich. - Pam, age 7

The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that. - Curt, age 7

The rule goes like this: if you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do. - Howard, age 8

IS IT BETTER TO BE SINGLE OR MARRIED?

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. - Anita, age 9

HOW WOULD THE WORLD BE DIFFERENT IF PEOPLE DIDN'T GET MARRIED?

There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there? - Kevin, age 8

HOW WOULD YOU MAKE A MARRIAGE WORK?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty even if she looks like a truck. - Ricky, age 10

## The Fire

An article in National Geographic several years ago provided a penetrating picture of God's wings.

After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage. One ranger found a bird literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree. Somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked over the bird with a stick. When he struck it, three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings.

The loving mother, keenly aware of impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise.

She could have flown to safety but had refused to abandon her babies. When the blaze had arrived, and the heat had singed her small body, the mother remained steadfast. She had been willing to die so those under the cover of her wings would live.

*He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.*

Psalm 91:4



## Look Up

Everyone that knows me knows that I have a soft spot for dogs. I have “rescued” most of the dogs I’ve had the pleasure of owning. Currently I have two dogs – Gretchen and Sadie. I’ve had Gretchen for five years and Sadie for nine. Sadie had been abandoned at a veterinarian’s office by her previous owner. She had not been abused, just abandoned, but she was put in a kill shelter and when I found her online she was scheduled to be euthanized. (Sadie is a black Lab mix and I learned that big black dogs are euthanized more often than any other dog type because people always seem to gravitate toward the dogs with color vs an all black dog.) When I took her home, she was only about a year old and was still developing her sense of what the world was like. I found that Sadie was a very intelligent dog and learned things very quickly.

At the time of my adopting her, I had a neighbor that put off fireworks for almost every holiday. My parents lived with me and they wanted to coddle her when the fireworks were put off, telling her how “it’s okay” and making her think that maybe something scary was really going on. I wanted her to know it was just noise and nothing scary at all. So, I took a lawn chair out and sat in my driveway with Sadie at my side when the fireworks started up the next time. At first when she heard the loud noise she would jump, startled at the noise, but each time they went off, I would get her attention and tell her to look up. The first couple of times I had to raise her head with my hand, but she soon caught on, and each time she heard the boom and I said look up, her head would go up searching for the fireworks lighting the sky. Soon I didn’t have to say look up, she would just look up immediately when she heard the boom, waiting for the colored lights. She liked watching the fireworks and I noticed that every time she heard

a loud noise of any kind after that she would immediately look up, watching for the flashes of light in the sky. Loud noises no longer frightened her at all. When what was before a scary event occurred, it was now something that excited her because she was looking for something beautiful to happen.

Gretchen was terrified of the noise of fireworks when she first came to me, but she is getting more comfortable though still not at ease yet with it all. Now Gretchen goes under a table trying hard to ignore the noise and Sadie is sitting on a chair looking out the window to catch a glimpse of bright lights.

In life there are many things that are like loud noises – fear of failure, financial difficulties, health issues, problems at your job or the lack of a job, and others. When the loud noise of these things we find scary cause us to be fearful, full of stress and worry, our first inclination is usually to try working through these things on our own. But the life events that explode around us can be gotten through more efficiently and always with better results than what we could do on our own, simply by getting still, and with confidence and trust send up a prayer to God. He is bigger and more powerful than any problem we can imagine. By praying about what is troubling or frightening, you will find something beautiful in both the asking and in the response –so, just look up!

LeuAnna Taylor

*The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.*

Psalm 18:2

*I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.*

Psalm 34:4

