

First Quarter Events

January 4<sup>th</sup> – Heart to Heart – Invite a friend

A slumber party at the church for girls 6 years and up and any heart to heart ladies are invited. Sign-up is required. Girls will be taken bowling and then returned to the church for the night. Movie, games and food before sleep. Breakfast will be served at 8:30 Saturday morning. Sign-up is required. Heart to heart ladies can come to just the breakfast even if not attending the slumber party.

January 13<sup>th</sup> – Secret Sister Reveal & New Luncheon

February 7<sup>th</sup> – Heart to Heart – Soup night

Will be making flannel tie blankets for Pregnancy Solutions & Giving Doll

March 7<sup>th</sup> – Heart to Heart – Pizza & a Movie

“A Case for Christ” will be shown

March 23<sup>rd</sup> – Friendship Banquet

The Newsletter Ministry had a few new sign-ups for this coming year. Thank you! I also would like to say that anyone who has an article, poem, or recipe that they would like to see in the newsletter is welcome to submit it. It would be great to see some original writings from our own church members as well. Articles can best be submitted by emailing them to [hearttoheart.tbc@gmail.com](mailto:hearttoheart.tbc@gmail.com) or can be printed out and given to me at church. I look forward to seeing what we can all do together.

Many thanks to all those that signed up for the various church ministries in November. It's still not too late. If you've changed your mind, simply contact the ministry leader and asked to be added in.

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

## Empty Things

Empty things fill us with frustration. We hate finding the mayonnaise jar empty when we're making a turkey sandwich. We get upset when we're twenty minutes late for an appointment across town and the fuel gauge reads empty. We might even cry if we're in the desert in the middle of August and we reach for our canteen only to find it's empty.

We furnish empty rooms, feed empty stomachs, and fill empty lives with as much pizzazz and activity as we possibly can. Who wants an empty bank account, an empty mailbox, or an empty closet? There's a good reason we don't get enthused about emptiness. We are made in the image of God!

God has a history of filling things and keeping them filled. In less than a week, he filled space with stars, the earth with plants, the sky with clouds, and the sea with fish. He liked that so much that he filled wombs with babies, cities with people, temples with glory, jars with oil, nets with fish, baskets with bread, bodies with life, hearts with gladness, the hungry with food, the weary with rest, the panicked with peace, and the lonely with love. Just about the only empty thing he seemed to approve of was a tomb. But that was because his goal was to fill us up, forever, with himself.

By Caron Loveless  
Hugs from Heaven,  
Embraced by the Savior

It is the consciousness of the threefold joy of the Lord, His joy in ransoming us, His joy in dwelling within us as our Savior and Power for the fruitbearing, and His joy in possessing us, as His Bride and His delight; it is the consciousness of this joy which is our real strength. Our joy in Him may be a fluctuating thing: His joy in us knows no change.

Hudson Taylor

## My Wonderful Daughter,

You're royalty! I've chosen you,  
calling you out of the darkness  
into My marvelous light.

Diligently seek Me first  
with all your heart  
and then watch Me bless you.

You'll discover that  
my plans for you  
far exceed your most incredible  
dreams.

Remember, all things  
are possible because I'm your Father.  
I've given you birth into living hope!

Majestically,  
Your King of Kings

(from – I Peter 2:9; Matthew 6:33;  
Ephesians 3:20; Mark 10:27; I Peter 1:3)

Hugs for Daughters  
Chrys Howard and LeAnn Weiss

Dear Lord, help me to be someone who encourages friendships. Instead of sowing discord wherever I go, let me instead be a beacon of joy. Put in my path those I can minister to, and who in turn can minister to me. I want to drink deeply from the well of friendship so that I may know one of the greatest joys this world can afford.

Thank you for this wonderful gift. Amen

Encouraging Thoughts for Women: Joy

## And Then it is Winter

You know time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years.

It seems just yesterday that I was young and embarking on my new life. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams. But here it is, the winter of my life and it catches me by surprise. How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go?

I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like. But here it is. My friends are retired and getting grey. They move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me, but I see the great change. Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant, but, like me, their age is beginning to show, and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd be.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore, it's mandatory! Cause if I don't on my own free will, I will just fall asleep where I sit!

And so, now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did! Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done, things I should have done, but indeed, there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not in your winter yet, let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long!

Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not! You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life so, live for today and say all the

things that you want your loved ones to remember and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!

"Life" is a gift to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one! Live it well, enjoy today, do something fun, be happy, and do have a great day!

Submitted by Freda Williams

## Simple Taco Soup

We first sampled this chili-like soup at a church dinner. It's a warming dish on a cold day. And since it uses packaged seasonings and several cans of vegetables, it's a simple taco soup to prepare. -Glenda Taylor, Sand Springs, Oklahoma

**Total Time:** Prep/Total Time: 25 min. **Yield:** 8 servings (about 2 quarts).

## Ingredients

- 2 pounds ground beef
- 1 envelope taco seasoning
- 1-1/2 cups water
- 1 can (16 ounces) mild chili beans, undrained
- 1 can (15-1/4 ounces) whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 can (15 ounces) pinto beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 can (14-1/2 ounces) stewed tomatoes
- 1 can (10 ounces) diced tomato with green chilies
- 1 can (4 ounces) chopped green chilies, optional
- 1 envelope ranch salad dressing mix

## Directions

In a Dutch oven, cook beef over medium heat until no longer pink; drain. Add taco seasoning and mix well. Stir in the remaining ingredients. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 15 minutes or until heated through, stirring occasionally.

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## Sherry's Book Corner/Adult Column

Hello ladies! I think winter is upon us! The snow is blowing every which way outside my windows and our flag is keeping up with the branches of our evergreen trees. A sight to behold I must say! Most of you know how much I love the outdoors, so you will not be surprised when I tell you I just came inside from reading my Bible. Since it is so windy, I sat on our front porch where I could get out of the cold. Oh, for the love of the great outdoors!

I was going to feature something about Christmas, but then I thought about the new year approaching, so I changed my mind! The stories in this inspirational devotion book are like little treasures to our eyes and our hearts. They are little keepsakes to tuck away when we may grow weary or sad. We as Christian women have a wonderful responsibility to pass on His love and direction to those in our lives.

This was written by Jane Jarrell. Think about it. "To me, the word "home" means so much more. In school, students are grouped by homeroom. In business, employees obtain information from the home office. While cooking, we prefer homegrown fruits and vegetables. In baseball, you are safe when you reach home plate." Our homes, wherever they are, or whomever they are with should be filled with strength and love... from us.

Until next time, may your home be filled with love and peace in 2019!

In Him,  
Sherry Kline Bolitho

Adult Book:

Title: Blessing At The Well

Inspirational Devotions to pass blessing from generation to generation

Devotions compiled by: Betty Robison

Publisher: LIFE Outreach International

Price: Not listed

Stories of love and devotion will highlight your day and others when shared. Drawing from the well of lessons learned from mothers, grandmothers, and others will help your inner spiritual thoughts to pass on through the ages. Each story features Passing On the Legacy and a Prayer.

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

Hi kids! It is still snowing and my birds look very hungry! I am glad Randy and I put out plenty of food for them! Who knows, maybe tomorrow we will be outside walking around in snow shoes! Do any of you out there have snow shoes? You'll have to let me know!

Since we are facing a new year, I thought this would be a cool book to feature for you! When I think about it, the more we learn about our Heavenly Father the closer we can walk with Him. And I like being close. I hope you do, too! Since we are going into a new year, I found this book to be very timely. Once you read this, you may just want a copy of your own.

Since we winter in Florida my thoughts and prayers are always with you and your families. May you have the best winter ever and be the best you can be in all things. The author of this book wrote the bestselling series, the Riverboat Adventures series, and the Viking Quest series. I'm going to have to check these out!

Until next time, enjoy the word of God! And....Happy New Year!

In Him,  
Sherry Kline Bolitho

Children's Book:

Title: Girl Talk

52 Weekly Devotions

By: Lois Walfrid Johnson

Publisher: ZonderKidz

Price: \$12.99

By praying, talking, and journaling about the world you face, you will also discover God knows exactly how you feel. Each story is different and will guide you how to react in God's way.

At the end of each story you will enjoy Let's Pray About It. Also, there is plenty of space to write you own thoughts and feelings. If you ever reach a point no one cares, you'll learn, God does.

## Songs We Love

This year the Christmas carol "Silent Night" is celebrating its 200<sup>th</sup> birthday. The story of how it came about has been written about for almost as long and normally incorrectly, but here is the true story of how it came about and how it went from a simple song in a little village in the Alps to a world-wide beloved Christmas favorite.

In 1818, a roving band of actors was performing in towns throughout the Austrian Alps. On December 23 they arrived at Oberndorf, a village near Salzburg where they were to re-enact the story of Christ's birth in the small Church of St. Nicholas.

Unfortunately, the St. Nicholas' church organ wasn't working and would not be repaired before Christmas. Because the church organ was out of commission, the actors presented their Christmas drama in a private home. That Christmas presentation of the events in the first chapters of Matthew and Luke put assistant pastor Josef Mohr in a meditative mood. Instead of walking straight to his house that night, Mohr took a longer way home. The longer path took him up over a hill overlooking the village.

From that hilltop, Mohr looked down on the peaceful snow-covered village. Reveling in majestic silence of the wintry night, Mohr gazed down at the glowing Christmas-card like scene. His thoughts about the Christmas play he had just seen made him remember a poem he had written a couple of years before. That poem was about the night when angels announced the birth of the long-awaited Messiah to shepherds on a hillside.

Mohr decided those words might make a good carol for his congregation the following evening at their Christmas eve service. The one problem was that he didn't have any music to which that poem could be sung. So, the next day Mohr went to see the church organist, Franz Xaver Gruber. Gruber only had a few hours to come up with a melody which could be sung with a guitar. However, by that evening, Gruber had managed to compose a musical setting for the poem. It no longer mattered to Mohr and Gruber that their church organ was inoperable. They now had a Christmas carol that could be sung without that organ.

On Christmas Eve, the little Oberndorf congregation heard Gruber and Mohr sing their new composition to the accompaniment of Gruber's guitar.

Weeks later, well-known organ builder Karl Mauracher arrived in Oberndorf to fix the organ in St. Nicholas church. When Mauracher finished, he stepped back to let Gruber test the instrument. When Gruber sat down, his fingers began playing the simple melody he had written for Mohr's Christmas poem. Deeply impressed, Mauracher took copies of the music and words of "Silent Night" back to his own Alpine village, Kapfing. There, two well-known families of singers — the Rainers and the Strassers - heard it. Captivated by "Silent Night," both groups put the new song into their Christmas season repertoire.

The Strasser sisters spread the carol across northern Europe. In 1834, they performed "Silent Night" for King Frederick William IV of Prussia, and he then ordered his cathedral choir to sing it every Christmas eve.

Twenty years after "Silent Night" was written, the Rainers brought the song to the United States, singing it (in German) at the Alexander Hamilton Monument located outside New York City's Trinity Church.

In 1863, nearly fifty years after being first sung in German, "Silent Night" was translated into English (by either Jane Campbell or John Young). Eight years later, that English version made its way into print in Charles Hutchins' *Sunday School Hymnal*. Today the words of "Silent Night" are sung in more than 300 different languages around the world.

Silent night, holy night  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child  
Holy infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace  
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth



Silent night, holy night  
Wondrous star, lend thy light  
With the angels let us sing  
Alleluia to our King  
Christ the Savior is born  
Christ the Savior is born

Article by Howard Culbertson. For more original content like this, visit: <http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert> Submitted by Ruth Warren

## The “I Am’s” Are the Real You

One other thing you can do to build healthy self-esteem is become a student of what the Bible says about you. The following is a list of “I am” verses. Study one every day for two weeks and when you get through with the list, start over again – or find others! Soon these verses will become part of your very being, part of who you think you are and who you see when you gaze into the mirror:

I am...

1. A child of God (Rom. 8:16)
2. Forgiven (Col. 1:13,14)
3. Saved by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8)
4. Justified (Rom. 5:1)
5. A new creature (2 Cor. 5:17)
6. Led by the Spirit of God (Rom. 8:14)
7. Kept in safety wherever I go (Ps. 91:11)
8. Casting all my cares on Jesus (1 Pet. 5:7)
9. Doing all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)
10. Bringing every thought into captivity (2 Cor. 10:5)
11. Being transformed by a renewed mind (Rom. 12:1,2)
12. The righteousness of God in Christ (2 Cor. 5:21)
13. An imitator of Jesus (Eph. 5:1)
14. Filled with laughter and rejoicing (Job 8:21)

Barbara Johnson  
Splashes of Joy in the Cesspool of Life

Woman was taken out of man; not out of his head to top him, nor out of his feet to be trampled underfoot; but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be loved.

Matthew Henry

## Zany Miscellany

Jair, a judge of Israel, had 30 sons who rode 30 donkeys, and controlled 30 towns.

Judges 10:3-4

Ibzan, a judge, had 30 sons and 30 daughters. Judges 12:9

Abdon, another judge, had 40 sons and 30 grandsons who rode on 70 donkeys. Judges 12:14

The familiar story of Jesus saying, “If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her”, is found nowhere else in the Bible. In fact, it isn’t even found in many manuscripts of the gospels. John 7:53-8:11

Abraham’s father was named Terah. Genesis 11:26

The term “scapegoat” comes from the use of a goat that was to receive the sins of the people and be released into the wilderness.

Leviticus 16:10

Thomas, the one who is always ridiculed for skepticism, is also known as Didymus. John 20:24

Fun Facts About the Bible You Never Knew by Robyn Martins

### To get a fresh start, do these eight things:

1. Be born again.
2. Accept God’s forgiveness.
3. Freely forgive others.
4. Learn all you can from your mistakes.
5. Turn your weakness into your strong point.
6. Accept what you cannot change, and with God’s help, turn it into something beautiful.
7. Put the past behind you.
8. Get up and begin again.

Source Unknown

## Candy Cane Cake

3 1/2 cups of cake flour, spooned and leveled  
2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder  
3/4 teaspoon baking soda  
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt  
1 cup (2 sticks) butter room temperature  
1 1/2 cups granulated sugar  
6 large egg whites, at room temperature  
2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract  
1 1/2 cups buttermilk, at room temperature  
3 candy canes, crushed (after crushed about 1/4 cup)  
peppermint bark, roughly chopped, for decorating



Preheat oven to 325 degrees F. Lightly grease three 8 inch round cake pans and line with parchment: grease parchment.  
Whisk together flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt in a bowl.  
Beat butter and sugar with an electric mixer on medium-high speed until pale and fluffy, 3 to 4 minutes.  
Add egg whites, one at a time, beating just until mixed. Beat in vanilla.  
Reduce mixer speed to low, and beat in flour mixture and buttermilk, alternately, beginning and ending with flour mixture, just until mixed.  
Divide batter among the prepared pans.  
Bake until a wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean, 25 to 30 minutes.  
Cool in pans on wire racks, 5 minutes, then invert onto racks to cool completely.  
Place one cake layer on a cake stand or plate. Top with 1 cup frosting and sprinkle with half of the crushed candy canes.  
Repeat one more time. Cover top and sides of cake with the remaining frosting.  
Press bark into frosting on the sides of the cake.

## 7 Minute Frosting Recipe

4 large egg whites  
1 cup granulated sugar  
1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar  
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt

3 tablespoons water  
1 tablespoon corn syrup

Bring 2 inches water to a gentle simmer in a large saucepan.  
Place egg whites, sugar cream of tartar, salt, water, and corn syrup in a clean bowl.  
Place bowl over saucepan and cook, whisking on low speed with a hand mixer, until mixture registers 160 degrees F on a candy thermometer, 8 to 9 minutes.  
Remove bowl from saucepan and continue to whisk on medium speed until thick, glossy peaks forms, 2 to 3 minutes.

Submitted by Brenda Angelo

## Love is the Answer

Once I was feeling so worthless –  
Unsure of just where I fit in.  
Then you came to me, my precious Lord,  
And restored my faith once again.

You knew I was troubled,  
So You took my hand  
And spoke to me softly,  
So I'd understand...

That our worth isn't measured  
By wealth or by fame,  
But by all the love we give  
To others. Lord, in Your name.

We could start with just a smile –  
Perhaps a gentle touch  
Or the all important hug  
That means so very much.

So I no longer feel worthless;  
I have so much love to give.  
You filled my heart with more than enough  
To last me as long as I live!

Doris A Orth

## Armor

As I've written about before, my cousins and I like to meet up each year at the Christmas in the Woods event held each October in Columbiana, Ohio – it's a fun tradition. This year it seemed winter had come early. The temperatures were down but the anticipation to go was still very high. Then again, it's Ohio so it might be extremely cold in the morning but warm up considerably by early afternoon. As it turned out, the temps stayed down but I had planned my attire fairly well. The only parts that got really cold were my hands and feet. When the day arrived, it was 37 degrees in the parking lot and as I was told by one of the vendors there, the temps drop about 10 degrees when you get in the protection of the trees and vendor stalls. It was a cold day but who cares when you are having fun with friends.

My cousin, Rhonda who is usually the one most prepared for any situation, was the one unfortunately not prepared for how cold the day turned out to be. She thought she had planned out her attire well, but it fell short and she was freezing right from the start of the morning. As we made our way from stall to stall, Rhonda bought items as she went along that she could wear to protect herself from the cold. There was a stall where she bought a heavy sweatshirt jacket that she put over the one she originally wore, and at another stall she purchased a warm knitted scarf that she wrapped around her neck twice. A little further on she purchased a warm pair of alpaca knitted gloves to keep her hands warm and at another stall that made items from alpaca wool, she bought a pretty hat. She had not anticipated buying much when she came that day, but that all changed when she found out how cold it was and how unprepared she was. She did buy a few other items there but pretty much all her purchases were being worn from the time of purchase. And she wasn't alone in that. The vendors that sold any kind of clothing to stay warm such as sweaters, hats, gloves and socks were near selling out of stock and that was just the first day of a four-day event! When Rhonda saw me pull gloves and then a knitted head band out of my pockets, she said, "Well, look at you Mary Poppins." That was at the beginning of the morning and she was just beginning her search for warmer wear. Before the end of our day together, though the day was still cold, we were all warm enough to enjoy it to its fullest and have fun.

As I walked with Rhonda that day and watched her find protective items against the cold, I was reminded of the armor that we as

Christians are told to put on to protect ourselves from the evil of this world. God gave us a plan of protection that includes every part of us – from the tops of our head (our minds) to the soles of our feet (where we stand). His plan is to keep us strong in the faith and knowledge of our place in this world. We belong to a Father who cares for our wellbeing, and He gave us tools to protect ourselves. We have the Bible, God's Word to show us how. The book of Ephesians has a list of ways to surround ourselves with God's love and protection to aid against anything the world can throw at us, to help us stand strong. The one thing not listed here is fellowship – the joining of forces with likeminded people to support one another in hard times. That is what the church helps provide, and I know from personal experience how powerful that can be. The Bible gives us a knowledge of what is true, what is good, a road to salvation, and an anchor for our faith. All these things are necessary to live a life that can stand and not fall when the lies and other peoples fear try to invade our lives, to take away what's good. A lot of people think that because of our faith we are weak and cowards for not being aggressive and hard. If those people can see that we are not weak, timid people but strong in our faith, minds and bodies, maybe they will change and come to know God as we have. How we live and the face that the world sees should never be one that God would not approve of but be one that lets the light of God shine thru. So, protect yourself and be an example to the world.

LeuAnna Taylor

*Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit...*

Ephesians 6:11-18

