Heart to Heart News

Fourth Quarter Events

October 5th - No Heart to Heart meeting

- October 8th ~ Concert with the Perrys @ 2 to 4 pm
- October 14th Trunk of Treats in the church parking lot -3 pm to 5 pm



FILL THEM WITH

Fall 2023

October 15th - Chili Supper & bonfire starting at 5 pm

October 22nd - Samarítan's Purse Shoebox's available to take home and fill

October 27th-28th - Seedline Bibles will be with us - 27^{th} starting at 3 pm, 28^{th} starting at 9 am, Bibles dedicated 29th during services

November 4th - Heart to Heart Thank you banquet at noon. Be sure to sign up at the welcome

desk.

November 12th-Concert with the Tribute Ouartet @ 2 to4pm

November 19th - All Nation's banquet @ 6 pm

November 26th - Concert with the Needams @ 6 pm

December 7th - Heart to Heart @ 6 pm Bring your favorite appetizer and join us for a Christmas Party! Sign up at the welcome desk and list your appetizer. And bring an ornament for exchange.

December 25th - Christmas Day



December 31st - New Year's Eve



November...

Heart to Heart Ministries New & Renewal - the time to sign up for a new ministry or renew your ministry choices from the current year. Try a new ministry for the new year!

Cookie tray orders will be taken all this month - final day will be the 26th. The trays come in only one size containing 6 dozen cookies. We are looking for anyone new who would like to bake with us! If you do, please see Peggy Somosko.

Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box ministry. Start planning for all the things you can squeeze into that shoe box for the child in the age group and gender you choose. The deadline for bringing them in will be November 12th.

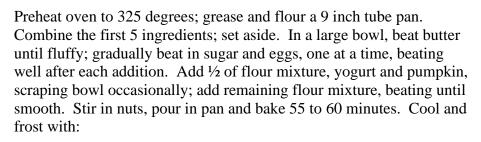
Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Baskets. Starting at the end of October food, household items, and monetary donations will begin being collected. A list of suggested items can be found at the help desk when this drive begins. Please check expiration dates. If items are outdated or too close, please don't bring. If you know of anyone that needs help during the holidays, let the Pastor, Audrey, or a deacon know so they can be provided for. Also, please remember to bring in your Acme receipts. A basket on the welcome desk has been provided for the receipts.



Easy Autumn Pound Cake

Geraldine Boggs

2 ¹/₂ cups sifted flour
1 tsp. baking powder
¹/₂ tsp. baking soda
¹/₂ tsp. salt
2 tsp. cinnamon
¹/₂ cup butter, softened
1 ¹/₂ cup sugar
3 eggs
1 cup plain yogurt
¹/₂ cup canned or fresh cooked pumpkin
1 cup chopped walnuts



Cream Cheese Frosting 1 (3 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened slightly ½ tsp. vanilla

Combine and beat on low speed until fluffy, gradually beat in 2 cups sifted powdered sugar. Spread on cake.

A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance ~ Proverbs 15:13

"Be cheerful. Of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important."

Be Thankful!

By Margaret Bilbon

When you wake up in the morning and watch the sun creep through A dark and dismal flock of clouds that shaded it from view, And you listen for the song of birds that heralds each new day. Then be thankful for your blessings and bow your head to pray. Just say a simple, "Thank you, God," for home and friends and neighbors,

But most of all say, "Thank you," for the blessings of your labors. Be thankful for your country and the freedom of this land That allows a man to pick or choose the lifestyle he has planned. Be thankful for the freedom to worship as you please And know that family, home, or wealth will never be besieged. When the day has ended, and the sun sinks in the west, Be thankful for a chance to say, "I've always had the best."

Submitted by Brenda Angelo

Lady's Yearly Exam

I went to the doctor for my yearly physical exam.

The nurse started with basics.

She asked, "How much do you weigh?" "135," I said. The nurse put me on the scale. It turns out my weight is 180.

The nurse asked, "Your height?" "5 foot 4," I said. The nurse checked and saw that I only measured 5'2".

She then took my blood pressure and told me it was a little high.

"Of course, it's high," I screamed. "When I came in here I was tall and slender! Now I'm short and fat!"

She put me on Prozac.



Marcie's Book Corner

The secret thoughts of an unlikely convert by Rosaria Champaign Butterfield

Hi girls, even though I think it came way too fast, my favorite season, fall, is here!!! Cool nights and warm days, apples, pumpkin pie, and leaves with an array of colors fill my thoughts. Corn stalks, hay bales, mums in full bloom and cute scarecrows decorate our porches. Enough dreaming for now, onto the book review.

Rosaria Butterfield, is a former tenured professor of English and women's studies at Syracuse University, converted to Christ in 1999 in what she describes as a train wreck. Her memoir *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert* chronicles that difficult journey.

Raised and educated in liberal Catholic settings, Rosaria fell in love with the world of words. In her late twenties, allured by feminist philosophy and LGBTQ+ advocacy, she adopted a lesbian identity. Rosaria earned her PhD from Ohio State University, then served in the English department and women's studies program at Syracuse University from 1992 to 2002. Her primary academic field was critical theory, specializing in queer theory. Her historical focus was 19th-century literature, informed by Freud, Marx, and Darwin. She advised the LGBTQ+ student group, wrote Syracuse University's policy for same-sex couples, and actively lobbied for LGBTQ+ aims alongside her lesbian partner.

In 1997, while Rosaria was researching the Religious Right "and their politics of hatred against people like me," she wrote an article against the Promise Keepers. She received a letter from Pastor Ken Smith, then-pastor of the Syracuse Reformed Presbyterian Church. It was a kind and inquiring letter. She said, "*it encouraged me to explore the kind of questions I admire: How did you arrive at your interpretations?* How do you know you are right? Do you believe in God? He didn't argue with my article; he asked me to explore and defend the presuppositions that undergirded it. I didn't really know how to respond to Ken's letter, but I found myself reading and rereading it."

Rosaria encountered something that turned her world upside down - the idea that Christianity, a religion she had believed to be problematic and sometimes downright damaging, *might be right about who God was*. That idea seemed to fly in the face of the people and causes that she most loved.

In 1999, after repeatedly reading the Bible in large chunks for her research, Rosaria converted to Christianity. In this book, she details her conversion and the cataclysmic fallout—in which she lost "everything but the dog," yet gained eternal life in Christ. God used a humble couple's simple invitation to dinner to draw her—a radical, committed unbeliever—to Himself.

Today, Rosaria is married to Kent, a Reformed Presbyterian pastor in North Carolina, and is a homeschool mother, author, and speaker. In her acknowledgments, she writes... "*God, why pick me*"? Her current heart's desire is for people to put the hands of the hurting into the hands of the Savior, who equips us to walk and grow in humility.

Like me, do you know, or love someone you think will never come to Jesus as their personal savior because they're too radical, angry, uninterested, or too far from God. Rosaria's testimony will change our thinking! Let's pray for these people, remembering these verses:

<u>Rom 1:16</u> "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes..." <u>Luk 1:37</u> "For nothing will be impossible with God."

Rosaria's book may be found at the library and many bookstores around the country. You may also find a number of **Rosaria's videos** on YouTube at the following place:

"Rosaria Butterfield's YouTube Testimony"



Submitted by Marcie Robinson



For the Kids ...

Review of Max Lucado's children's book Anxious for Nothing

Perhaps like you, I am concerned about what children are facing every day in their young lives. This is an especially helpful book for today's tweens and teens. *Max says it best!*

Our kids are under tremendous stress and pressure, with a rapidly changing culture demanding more and more from them. More attention, more screens, more intensity, more fear. *Anxious for Nothing* helps young people overcome the anxiety and pressures of today's world and come to a deeper understanding of God's loving presence as promised in *Philippians 4:6-7.* In this chaotic age of social media, packed schedules, and an increasing awareness of the world's problems, it's normal for kids to feel overwhelmed sometimes. But the good news of the gospel has not changed. This encouraging book will help tweens and teens take control of their feelings, develop emotional understanding, and choose to focus on God's truth.

Max Lucado offers the readers:

- ...biblical hope and powerful strategies to help them flourish amidst struggles
- ...encouragement that God is near, He cares, and He listens
- ...truths to claim for themselves in difficult moments
- ... practical ways to work through their worries and rely on God's faithfulness

This special edition of Anxious for Nothing also includes:

- ...a note to kids from author Max Lucado
- ...application questions, journal prompts, and activities that guide kids In Christ-focused mindfulness
- ...callouts and infographics featuring relevant Bible verses, and takeaways
- ...sidebars addressing technology-related stress

Practical, motivating, and biblically grounded, **Anxious for Nothing** (Young Readers Edition 8-12yrs) is a timely book for kids who feel overwhelmed, lonely, or anxious, or who simply want to experience God's abundant joy and peace.

Php 4:6-7 (KJV) *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto*

God. 7. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Anxious for nothing, by Max Lucado, ©2021; 192 pages, Tommy Nelson publisher. *Young Readers Edition - 8-12yrs* This book may be obtained from your local library or bookstore. FYI There is also an adult version of this book.

Submitted by Marcie Robinson

"And it was Night"

As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night. ~John 13:30

Elie Wiesel's book *Night* starkly confronts us with the horrors of the Holocaust. Based on his own experiences in Nazi death camps, Wiesel's account flips the biblical story of the Exodus. While Moses and the Israelites escaped slavery at the first Passover (Exodus 12), Wiesel tells of the Nazis arresting Jewish leaders following Passover.

Lest we criticize Wiesel and his dark irony, consider that the Bible contains a similar plot twist. On the night of Passover, Jesus, expected to free God's people from suffering, instead permits Himself to be arrested by those who would kill him.

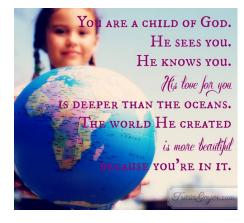
John ushers us into the holy scene before Jesus' arrest. "Troubled in spirit" over what awaited Him, at the Last Supper Jesus predicted His betrayal (John 13:21). Then, in an act we can scarcely comprehend, Christ served His betrayer bread. The account reads: "As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night" (v. 30). History's greatest injustice was underway, yet Jesus declared, "Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him" (v. 31). In a few hours, the disciples would experience panic, defeat, and dejection. But Jesus saw God's plan unfolding as it should.

When it seems as though the darkness is winning, we can recall that God faced His dark night and defeated it. He walks with us. It won't always be night.

Tim Gustafson Our Daily Bread March – May 2022 Inspiration isn't always light and fluffy. (Don't we wish it was!) And sometimes creativity comes so that we can offer just the right words, messages, or images to hurting friends.

Here are 5 ways to breathe God-messages:

- 1. **Start with God's Word.** God's Word is truth and is where all creativity comes from. Read meaningful passages and delve into the creativity of God's Word. I love the poetry of Psalms. The word images always inspire me!
- 2. **Pray for God's inspiration.** "The Sovereign LORD has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed," Isaiah 50:4 (NIV). Pray that God will give you a well-instructed tongue to inspire and bless someone else.
- 3. **Fill yourself up first.** Before I even opened Facebook I spent time with God. I read numerous chapters from the book of John. I marveled at the compassion Jesus had for those who dared to trust Him. My heart grew thankful over His compassion for me, and soon my full heart was ready to spill out.
- 4. **Pray for words, messages, or images that can be a gift to others.** "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver," we read in Proverbs 25:11. Those "words" can be shared in numerous ways!
- 5. Find creative ways to share God's truth. This morning my heart was drawn to creating a visual message for so hurting friends. This is what I came up with:





Foil-Pack Chicken & Broccoli Dinners

Pat Taylor

1 (6 oz.) pkg. Chicken Stove Top Stuffing mix
1 ¹/₂ cups water
4 cups broccoli florets
1 ¹/₂ cups shredded cheddar cheese
¹/₄ cup real bacon bits
6 small boneless skinless chicken breasts
¹/₂ cup Kraft Classic ranch dressing



Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Combine stuffing mix and water. Spoon into center of 6 large sheets of foil sprayed with vegetable cooking spray. Top with remaining ingredients. Fold foil to make separate sealed packets. Place packets on a rimmed baking sheet. Remove from oven after 30 minutes. Let sit for 5 minutes. Then cut slits in foil packets to release steam before opening the packets.

Keeping On

A child played with an inflatable superhero toy. When he punched the towering figure, it flopped over, then bounced back upright on its round base. Despite constant pummeling, nothing the child did could keep the superhero flat on its back.

We can feel like the superhero toy: We get knocked down by situations we cannot control. We're off balance, our breath thumped out of us. At these times, we need to find our own ability to bounce back.

The book of James encourages us to persevere so we might attain "the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him" (James 1:12 NIV). He reminds us that God is with us. When Satan attacks, finds our Achilles heel, and knocks us over, we need to dig deep into reservoirs of faith, tap into God's Word, and pop back up, fighting the fight He's put before us. We can't be passive, or we will be demolished.

Perseverance means staying in the fight and refusing to give up. This attitude empowers us and makes the victim mentality dissipate. It builds confidence, one fight at a time. Keep on keeping on - it's a powerful life tool.

3 – Minute Devotions for Women

Songs We Love

Fredrick Faber was the son of an English clergyman. He was also an enthusiastic proponent of the Anglica church. Attending Oxford University, he followed the teachings of Calvin with strict devotion. Shortly after he graduated he became an Anglican minister in Elton, England. However, the Tractarian movement was sweeping the church of England, and leaders of this movement had views that deeper religious growth could only come through a return to formal ceremonies of the past. Faber joined this movement and aligned himself with its views, leaving the Angelica church after only three years of ministry. He joined the Catholic faith with a new title, Father Wilfrid.

Faber soon became concerned with the lack of congregational singing and began composing hymns to chronicle and honor the history of the Roman Catholic church. "Faith of our Fathers" was one of the songs he composed. Although this song was specifically written for this denomination, it's a favorite of Christian Faith with ideals of liberty and freedom, and that appeals to men and women of all generations. Faber's life was short. He died at the age of 49 and had composed over 150 hymns during his life. He was granted, by the Pope, a doctrine of Divinity.

"Faith of our Father's, holy Faith, We will be true to thee till death." The words of the song help us believe that no matter the storm, dungeon, fire, or sword, we will be true to God till death. That's how my dad lived his life. And I truly want nothing more than to live my life with the Faith of my father.

Submitted by Peggy Somosko

Faith of Our Fathers

Faith of our fathers, living still, In spite of dungeon, fire, and sword; Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy When e'er we hear that glorious Word!

Our fathers, chained in prisons dark, Were still in heart and conscience free;



How sweet would be their children's fate, If they, like them, could die for thee!

Faith of our fathers, we will strive To win all nations unto thee; And through the truth that comes from God, We all shall then be truly free.

Faith of our fathers, we will love Both friend and foe in all our strife; And preach thee, too, as love knows how By kindly words and virtuous life.

Refrain:

Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.

A Time of Renewal and Spiritual Blessing

No one like to be sick and yet we know It takes sunshine and rain to make flowers grow . . And if we never were sick and never felt pain. We'd be like a desert without any rain, And who wants a life that is barren and dry With never a "cloud" to "darken the sky" . . . For "continuous sun" goes unrecognized Like the blessings GOD sends which are often disguised, For sometimes a sickness that seems so distressing Is a "time of renewal" and a "spiritual blessing".



Helen Steiner Rice

I'm a Woman Defined by God

Who defines a woman? We already know we cannot trust the definition of our culture, since it defines women in terms of the physical. The goal of a fallen culture is to be sexually attractive because it is emblazoned with lust. (See Romans 1:26, 27)

Though it begins with apparent innocence, young girls become enmeshed in the fantasy of growing up to be beautiful and desirable. After all, nearly every childhood movie alleges that it is the young and beautiful who marry and find happiness. Yet we've grown up and discovered that attractiveness is not enough to hold a family together. This dream rings hollow in our culture, with more than half of all marriages ending in divorce.

Yet from the very beginning God created women to support, to complete – not to compete. This is the case whether a woman is married or single. Women are nurturers by nature, and this strength can be translated to the professional as well as personal. Whether a woman is a single doctor or a stay-at-home mother, she can still bring the nature of a servant to any level. Not simply because she is a woman but because she is a Christian. We have a genderless command to "above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins…Each one should use whatever gift he has receive to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:8, 10)

Independent of our marital, professional, or social status, our talents and abilities are not to be used to serve ourselves, but to serve others. We each have an opportunity to serve God in our unique sphere of influence. God plants each of us in various soils to accomplish His purpose.

God defines us because He has chosen us. He separated us from the world to bring us back to Himself. He delivered us out of darkness into the light so that we would declare His praises. We belong to Him, purchased by the priceless blood of His son. Because Jesus thought you were something worth dying for, you can be truly alive. He exchanged His vibrant, abundant life for your gray and lifeless one.

By whose definition will you live?

Lisa Bevere You Are Not What You Weigh

Arktifacts and More

Manna tasted like honey wafers. Exodus 16:31

In ancient Israel, men closed a deal by exchanging sandals. Ruth 4:7

The Levites had a mandatory retirement age of 50 years. Numbers 8:25

During a famine in Samaria, a donkey's head sold for 80 shekels of silver. 2 Kings 6:25

Moses' brother and sister were mad because he married a Cushite woman. Numbers 12:1

If a Hebrew person found a bird's nest full of birds, he could take the babies but had to leave the mother bird behind.

Deuteronomy 22:7

After Moses was given the Ten Commandments, he wore a veil over his face because he glowed. Exodus 34:33-35

When Lot and his daughters moved out of Zoar, they lived in a cave. Genesis 19:30

When meat was being boiled for a sacrifice, the priest got to stick a fork in the pot and keep whatever it brought up. 1 Samuel 2:13

Elijah outran Ahab's chariots from Carmel all the way to Jezreel. 1 Kings 18:46

> **Fun Facts About the Bible You Never Knew** Robyn Martins

> > *********

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing . . . ~ Romans 15:13

Do it Afraid

Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. ~ I Corinthians 16:13

I love to read! Ever since I was young I have had a love of books. My father never understood and whenever he saw me settle down with a book he would find some chores that needed done. To him reading was just a waste of time. I had to resort at times to locking myself in the bathroom or reading by flashlight under the bedcovers at night. And as an adult, I have gotten so involved in a book that I've read all through the night and until dawn the next morning to finish it. It's amazing where a good book can take you!

I like to check out the continuous book sale at the library whenever I go there, which is often. I pick up books by authors I know and sometimes just because the book title catches my eye. That's how I came across the book by Madeline Martin called *The Keeper of Hidden Books*. It was wonderful and led me to read two other books by the same author, *The Last Bookshop in London* and *The Librarian Spy*, then finding other authors that write books in the same genre such as Sara Ackerman and Karen Robards. I'm still finding there are others and I'm adding them to my list of books I want to read. All these books are historical novels that take place just before to shortly after World War II. Of course, the characters are fictional in these novels but the events taking place during that time were very real. It was a very dark and fearful time.

Hitler was a very charismatic man coming into his own and people flocked around him to gain favor and take up his cause. He in turn did his best to turn Europe into an Arian nation. He started by emptying the asylums where people with both physical and mental handicaps were housed and moved on to gather up anyone who was considered "imperfect" and then focused on the Jews. He considered the Jews as subhuman, and his followers agreed. He spread fear everywhere he went with the help of the Nazi army. People were dragged from their homes and never seen again. Ghetto's, work camps and death camps were used by Hitler to control and bring whole countries into submission. And in the process he annihilated tens of thousands. Not all Germans were Nazi sympathizers, some were just victims of their circumstances. They either had not had an option to leave, was naïve thinking nothing was going to happen, or just waited too long to leave and then could not. They just had to keep their heads down and do their best to survive.

When the Nazi armies entered a city such as Warsaw, Poland they went about establishing control over everything. Everyone was issued ID papers that had to be on their person 24/7 and needed to be available upon request at any time. Anyone not in possession of their ID papers when asked for was shot or held for interrogation, usually never to be seen again. Ration cards were issued so their food and supplies were controlled. Even the libraries were made to only have books by German authors. Some libraries were closed altogether, and books not deemed politically correct to them were gathered up and burned. And they cordoned off part of the city of Warsaw to form a Ghetto where Jews were placed until later being emptied and the people sent to work or death camps.

These were dark times all over the world, and few countries were spared. Cities like London, England knew nightly bombings while soldiers and tanks laid waste to parts of France. In the US, camps were set up in multiple states to house American Japanese and American Germans out of fear that they would assist our enemies.

I know these things happened many years ago but there are still places in the world where many of these same issues are being felt – fear of not being politically correct, persecuted for their religious beliefs, war areas like Russia and the Ukraine, and especially for women and children - sex trafficking, being controlled by male family members where the male even has the power of death over her, having no rights at all. Unfortunately, some of these things are going on right here right now in the United States. In reading the books I mentioned above it was brought home to me more than ever how brave the people were that both lived through that time or died trying. I don't know how brave I would have been had I been there. They saw what needed to be done and figured out how to do it. And they did it afraid. Afraid if by not doing what had to be done, not only could they lose their own life, but many others could as well. The Bible tells us to fear not but when faced with such dire circumstances it is hard to not feel fear. It's our humanity kicking in the flight or fight in us, and it would be monumental to stand fast and do what needs done. They did. That should be a fine example for us today. So, stand fast to your faith in Jesus Christ and know that He is always with you. Trials will come but He will never leave us. When those trials come, stand fast and do it even if afraid.

LeuAnna Taylor

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.