



BY THE WAY

Bethany Baptist Church Women's Ministries Newsletter

For the Beauty of the Earth



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A couple years ago we were visiting my parents on a Sunday afternoon. I remember walking outside to get something out of the car and looking up into a shower of maple seeds helicoptering down from the tree across the driveway. I stood there a minute, transfixed.

I remember gathering piles of those things and throwing them up into the air, delighted to watch them come spiraling down. I think my brother and I even got the ladder out one time to climb up and throw them off the roof. A thought sprang to mind as I stood there and remembered this: God designed these little whirlygig wonders. What joy He must have had in creating these...and in knowing the joy they would bring to the people He would create.

At that point I was rather surprised to realize that in the past several years especially, I had become somewhat immune to the simple beauties of God's creation around me. I had begun to rush, rush, rush to and from activities, my mind consumed by my busy schedule and personal thoughts, unaware and unthankful for the visible encouragement and joy God gives through his created world. In those moments by the driveway, I sort of vowed to myself that in the coming year, I would begin to look up, look around, and get out there...to be refreshed and thankful for the beauty of the earth. The following is just a

small list of some of the things I'm truly thankful for...things that always bring a smile to my face.

- billowing, white thunderheads on a lazy path across summer skies
- the whistling whisper of a breeze through pine boughs
- a swirling, whirling dust devil playing across a field
- the smell of a freshly dug garden...and the marvelous feel of the earth in my hands
- the hush of a gentle winter snow...and the wild shrieking of a violent one...and the high adrenaline of driving in snow...and laying in the snow to make a snow angel while watching the flakes falling down...and waking in the morning with the surprise of a world covered in white, reminding me of the cleansing blood of Jesus
- the pearl pink of early morning fog over a smooth-as-glass lake
- the smell of sunshine...especially on the clothes or hair of a child who has played outside all day
- the roughness of tree bark while climbing in the branches
- digging and designing in the sand
- tiger lilies beside roadsides in July
- watching the fireflies come out on summer evenings
- water splashing over rocks in a mountain stream
- Seeing my own frosty breath on a crisp winter morning

Earth continued on page 5



“...are the things that fill my mind important?”

Cluttered Minds

Recently our four year old received a new Memory Game as a gift. It has such cute and updated pictures compared to our old game and none of the corners are bent. He had never played the Memory Game, so during a quiet time we sat down to play. I expected that he would struggle with the game some, so I carefully explained the directions and we did a few cards for practice before getting started. As we began playing the game it became apparent that his memory was sharper than mine. When we were done, we had tied! We played a couple of more times right away with pretty much the same result. He was delighted, and I did what many of us do these days with events of our day; I posted it on Facebook.

As I have thought about the results of that game, I have come to the conclusion that the mind of a four year old is much less cluttered than the mind of a woman somewhere over forty, or maybe it's just somewhere over fourteen. As a woman, a wife, a mom, a friend there are many things that consume our brain power. The question most recently for me has become, *are the things that fill my mind important or are there things that I need to put aside?* And how do I know if I am using my brain power for the right things? I want to share three thoughts to ponder in un-cluttering our minds.

First, are we taking the things in our lives to the Lord in **prayer**? Is my mind filled with what the Lord wants me to fill it with? We have all had those times when we sit down to pray and our mind just whirs with activity, it's difficult to focus. That is when we need the time at the Lord's feet the most. Psalm 37:7 tells us, "Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him." Ask the Lord to clear your mind

of the things that are not necessary. You will need to have your Bible, paper and a pencil to write down the instructions He reveals to you. Let this be a sweet time of allowing the Lord to lead you through scripture to help you put order in your world.

Secondly, **consider** what is important versus what is urgent. Many years ago Charles Hummel wrote a little booklet **Tyranny of the Urgent** that speaks to the conflict between the urgent and important in our lives. Mr. Hummel reminds us that often the urgent takes precedence over the important in our daily lives, thus the important is left unattended. It isn't that things on our to-do list are wrong. We simply need to be more intentional about what we put on the list. Mr. Hummel tells us to look at Christ's ministry here on earth. Jesus' ministry only lasted three years but at the end of it He was able to say that He had accomplished all that He needed to (John 17:4). Could I say that I have accomplished all that I set out to do in a week?

And lastly, **continue** to pray and consider regularly what you are focusing your mind on. As women we often take on things without even realizing that we have added to our pile. Continuing to sit with the Lord and listen quietly helps us to keep our lives focused in the direction that the Lord wants us to be going. Romans 8:6 says "The mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace." That should be our goal. ☪

Amy Park and her family have been at Bethany approximately 11 years. She is wife to Ken and is blessed to be a mom of many stages of life.

Cutting Corners – Restaurants Where Kids Eat Free/Cheap!

It has been over three years now since I wrote my first "Cutting Corners" article, and it has been fun to come alongside you all in your "money saving" ventures. As I was looking through my old articles, I came across my first article, and I decided to take the time to recompile my list of restaurants where kids eat free/cheap, as surely my original list is now obsolete. However, as I started my research, I came across a **GREAT** local website that has all the information already compiled for me. Wow...that sure made my job easy! And I was **AMAZED** at how many restaurants now offer free/cheap kids meals since I last did my research in 2008! I'm so excited to share this list with you!

Check out www.restaurantsinpeoria/kids-eat-free.com This site has it all nicely arranged by day and explains any stipulations to the "kids eat free deal", such as age restrictions, how many free meals per adult entrée purchased, and the hours of the day the deal is offered. Of course, I always recommend calling ahead of time to double-check to make sure the offer is still applicable, as things can change in a flash!

Here are a few more tips on how to stretch your dollar even more while you are eating out...

- **Skip drinks and desserts.** The mark up is high on these items. You can easily buy a 2-liter of pop or a gallon of ice cream for the same price. Resist the urge while at the restaurant and swing by the grocery store on your way home for a sweet treat!

- **Fill up on starters.** Fresh soup and breadsticks or chips and salsa are always a treat at the restaurant. Eat them up and make sure to ask for a "to-go box" for your unfinished entrée and enjoy a yummy lunch the next day!
- **Share entrées or appetizers.** This especially is easy to do with kids. A lot of times they just need half a hamburger and a few fries off of your plate to fill their small tummies! Make sure you don't order more than you need to! Wasting food is like throwing away money!
- **Go out for breakfast or lunch.** The prices are often lower, and the portions bigger! So, if you can handle making your larger meal earlier in the day, you can keep your bill substantially lower!
- **Order early & reheat later.** As a lover of Chinese, I recommend ordering your favorite Chinese cuisines over the lunch hour to take advantage of their "lunch specials" and reheat it at home for a special, inexpensive supper! My boys LOVE Sweet 'n Sour chicken more than McDonald's chicken nuggets! ☘

Elise Haroldson has been married to her best friend, Steve, for 6 wonderful years! As the mother of two hungry boys (3 ½ year old - Treyven and 1 ½ year old - Kolben), she will definitely be only eating at restaurants where kids eat free, as they each can easily eat a whole entrée all on their own!



Cutting Corners



"Make sure you don't order more than you need to! Wasting food is like throwing away money!"

Trust In the Lord



Ephesians 5:20 Giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ

This is a time of year for slowing down and reflecting on times past and the blessings God has given us. God does this for our benefit to show us where we have been and where we are going. It is always to encourage and give us power to do more for Him. Going down memory lane can be full of snatches of life so rich and full of love and blessings, or it can be remembered as a road of past pain and loss. If yours is the lane of the snatches of life rich and full in Christ you are truly blessed. When your road is full of pain and loss it can also be turned into a path of gratefulness and blessing to God.

My road was a rocky one for over 33 years until God saved me. The memories of the past are not beautiful or lovely, but are great reminders of God's love for me, for while I did not know him, he was going to create a landscape of total love and care. At the time, I couldn't see any of this while the path was under construction, but as you know, we are blind until he removes the blinders. I had years of anger, bitterness and self loathing for things I had no control over and for some that I did have control over. I felt unloved, not worthy and torn apart by life ever since I was a young child until a woman in my 40's. It has not always been easy for me to be thankful to God at this time of year.

As I have already expressed my road was difficult and it got harder when I was left with 3 young children to raise by myself on Thanksgiving day 17 years ago. God had to show me that He was my Father and that I was His beloved

child. This was almost impossible for me to believe, because my own father and mother didn't show that I was loved or cared for. But as God is God, He used His word and people to show me His love for me. A very special verse that I cling to is 2 Corinthians 6:17-18 *"I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty."* It took awhile for me to really believe I was a chosen child of His through Christ, even though I was saved. God is so faithful. He proved and proves His love all the time to me. The more I am in His word, the more I know of Him, that He is the same yesterday, today and forever. His love knows no bounds. Praise God for His continued grace and love toward me, even when I certainly didn't deserve it. But then who does deserve His grace and love? For it is not that we love Him, but that He first loved us.

Slowly, little bit by little bit I was shown why my road was rocky and full of potholes and how He was making my landscape beautiful by filling in the rocky road with His word and patching those potholes with His grace. My memory lane is now being overflowed with gratefulness, and I pray I am turning it into a blessing for God's use. I have great compassion on others who hurt during this time of year- I have been there. I also have the past to let others know that there is an awesome future with Christ if you will just let Him work in you. My prayer at this time of year is that God will show himself to you anew and refresh your spirit with His love and goodness. It is so wonderful when you can truly say, *"I have a peace that passes all understanding."* For I never could have believed that I would be the daughter of a great King, with an

"When your road is full of pain and loss it can also be turned into a path of gratefulness and blessing to God."

awesome inheritance that is far greater than I ever could have imagined. But, this is my God who gives good things abundantly to His children who follow him. To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God- Micah 6:8. I pray this is an encouragement to others during this season. May the goodness and love of Christ fill your hearts to overflowing gratefulness to our Great Lord and King Jesus Christ.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make straight your paths." Prov. 3:5-6 ☞

Lesa Stevenor and her husband Mike have been attending Bethany since April 4th, 2010. They have been married for 15 years and have 5 children and 4 grandchildren between them. Lesa's hobbies include gardening, cross stitch and walking and seeing the grandchildren.

Earth from page 1

- seagulls...they're just funny looking...especially in a Walmart parking lot...possibly being chased
- looking out across a valley colored brilliantly in fall
- white and purple violets popping out in spring
- watching a little bird take a bath in a mud puddle...or a dust puddle
- sunbeams poking through a cloudy sky
- bird family reunions on telephone wires
- the sweet scent of my tulip tree and lilac bush in April
- the chubby arms of a toddler wrapped around my neck
- cows lounging on a grassy hill
- strawberries fresh from the garden...Mmmm!
- looking, looking, looking for a rainbow on a sunny-rainy day...and finding it

May we all look up and out and thank the Lord for the beauty of the earth! ☞

Beth Bonk is wife to Eric and mom to Gracie. She is incredibly grateful to the Lord for His extravagant grace and innumerable blessings such as bike rides on summer evenings, family hugs, hot buttery popcorn, and jumping into giant leaf piles.

SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE

5 lb. sweet potatoes, peeled and boiled
2/3 c. sugar
1/3 c. heavy cream
½ tsp. nutmeg

3 lg. eggs, well beaten
2/3 c. butter, melted
1 tsp. vanilla
½ tsp. allspice

Mix above ingredients and spread in a lightly greased 9x13 pan. Sprinkle with topping mixture and bake at 350 for 60 to 70 minutes. Should be brown and bubbly!

Topping

1 c. brown sugar, packed
1 c. pecans, chopped

1/3 c. flour
½ c. butter, softened

Mix together; should be crumbly.

I make this and divide it into two 9x9 pans. I bake one for Thanksgiving and freeze one (with the topping in a separate bag) for Christmas!

This recipe was given to me after spending our first Thanksgiving with dear friends when we lived in Florida. Their Aunt Jo Ann had made this for the family gathering. Now, I am the Aunt Jo Ann that brings this to our family gatherings.☞

Jo Ann Brush has been married to Jeff for 31 years. They have two children, Justin and Jordan. In all the years she has cooked for Jeff, she can count on one hand the number of times he has said, "It's okay if we don't have that again," and he was right!



Discipleship

“...evaluate the things we absolutely must do and think about them in terms of how they bring glory to God...”

Spurring One Another On

Why do we do the things that we do? Sometimes we put a lot of thought into the choices we make about what we invest our time in, and other times it seems like we just got “sucked in” somehow without a lot of forethought. It’s a good idea to occasionally take stock of the activities and business of our lives, and evaluate if the things we do serve a good purpose in our lives, or if they actually rob us of time that could be spent in a more worthwhile way. It’s also very motivational to evaluate the things we absolutely must do and think about them in terms of how they bring glory to God and enable us to love and serve others. For instance, as a wife and mom, part of what I must do involves mundane housework and cleaning. At first glance, it may seem like dusting does not serve any grand purpose in my life and I should just move on to better uses of my time. Yet, when I evaluate that chore, I see that it does indeed bring glory to God as I serve my family and keep them healthier and more sneeze-free. Evaluating why we do what we do not only helps us keep proper balance in our lives, but it also helps us enjoy even mundane tasks for the glory of God.

As important as this type of thinking and evaluating is in our personal lives, it is even more valuable to take stock of our corporate choices as women in ministry together as a local church. There is an over-arching purpose to everything we do in Women’s Ministry at Bethany Baptist Church, and that is to glorify God and bring women to a deeper understanding of Him as we encourage one another to grow in Christlikeness, and to reach out to the

community around us through our words and deeds. This purpose can be summed up by the word **discipleship**, as we **win** the lost, **build** up mature believers, **equip** them for ministry, and **plant** them in the ministry God has for them. Discipleship is the focus of each and every aspect of women’s ministry in our church. Our Women’s Ministry leaders have intentional goals for incorporating discipleship into their areas of ministry. They seek the Lord’s guidance as they think about and evaluate their ministry based on how their decisions serve the purpose of discipleship.

Some areas of ministry may not at first glance look like a ministry that is overtly discipleship-based, while others (such as Titus 2 Discipleship ministry) are pretty obvious. One area of ministry whose discipleship elements are a little less apparent is Events. Many women think of a Women’s Ministry Event as pretty straightforward: you go, you talk to a few people, eat some goodies, have some fun, maybe hear a speaker, and go home. Where’s the discipleship in that? The purpose of discipleship becomes clear only by taking a closer look at the intentional decision-making behind each event.

The first objective of a Bethany Women’s Ministry Event is to challenge and encourage women to grow in their faith. This is usually accomplished by thinking through a biblical theme and getting a speaker who can effectively address that theme through Scripture. A second goal is building relationships among women in the church. The theme verse of Events, Hebrews 10:24-25, bears this out: “Let us consider how we may spur one another on to love and

good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching." How can we encourage one another if we don't know each other? Spurring one another on to love and good deeds most often happens in the context of relationship. Events are a great way to connect with others, and the Events team creatively fashions ways to make meeting each other easier, so that those connections can be made. Kelly Walenta, who leads the team of women who plan our events, puts it this way, "When planning Women's Events, we always start with God's Word. It is our goal to use the Women's Events Ministry to prepare and equip our women to be influencers for Christ." I love how Kelly phrased that! Preparing and equipping others to be influencers for Christ is discipleship in a nutshell!

The next women's event will have the theme of spiritual gifts, and will be a larger event that includes all three of the Bethany Fellowship churches. You will not want to miss the top-notch speakers, breakout sessions, times of worship, testimonies, workshops, and opportunities to build relationships and be equipped to influence others for Christ. As you evaluate why you do the things you do, be sure to keep this next women's ministry event in mind. Save the dates of January 20-21, 2011 and consider how the Lord may want to minister to you and through you at this event. I'm confident it will be even be more worthwhile than dusting! ☞

Joy Unseth has been attending Bethany for the past five years with her husband Joe and two girls, Muriel and Madalyn. If you haven't met her yet, she'd love to get to know you at the next women's event in January.



Book Review — Fiction

By Jeanette Akright

Reinventing Leona

Author: Lynne Gentry



It seems like I have fallen into a rut when it comes to books. They have all had the same thing in common. Death. Doesn't it seem like a weird thing to fall into? I agree! But even in the midst of death, there is laughter. Meet Leona.

Leona has been a faithful pastor's wife for the last 30 years. She has learned how to stretch a penny to its furthest length. Her home was always kept neat and tidy for fear of someone "dropping" by. Her husband, J.D., had always kept her in check when she was frazzled by someone from the congregation.

Sadly, J.D. dies while giving a sermon one Sunday morning, leaving Leona to fend for herself. She quickly learns that not only is she on her own, but that the church that she and J.D. served for so many years will quickly be putting her out of the parsonage as soon as they find someone to take the pulpit.

This book gave me a mix of emotions. Sadness, happiness, frustration and laughter. Leona has to juggle how she deals with her two grown children and her cantankerous mother (this is were I found much laughter!)

For a quick and easy read, pick up this book. It may just put a smile on your face. ☞



“These behaviors not only are holding students back but also workers.”

What Teachers Would Like Parents To Know

Wow! We are back to school full force now. Most students are about done with their first quarter. My how time flies! There are numerous things that teachers don't know even though we went to school. I will try to focus on about ten items that teachers wish parents would know/understand.

Respect: This is usually on all teachers' classroom rules lists, and it covers a wide spectrum of behaviors. First and foremost is to respect those in authority as well as classmates. Sadly, many students have never been taught the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Deadlines: We all have deadlines that we must meet. If we don't, there are consequences. Teach your child to respect deadlines and turn in work on time. Make up/late work takes a lot more effort to grade and record so if something is turned in late (if allowed) then do not expect it to be graded and recorded immediately. Also, it should be considered anathema to ask a teacher for all of a child's missing work the last week of a grading period.

Consequences: Teach your children that there are consequences for their choices. Good choices lead to pleasant consequences. Bad choices lead to unpleasant consequences. Do not enable your children to get away without appropriate consequences for their choices. Do not be more concerned with a grade than with teaching your child about consequences.

Social/emotional skills: Teach your child appropriate social/emotional behaviors. These behaviors are not only

holding students back but also workers. Many employers are finding it hard to fill slots, not because applicants are not smart or skilled enough, but because they lack social/emotional skills. Remember that an EQ (emotional quotient) is just as, if not more important than, an IQ! In other words, teach your child:

- to mind his/her manners
- to value patience
- to postpone gratification
- to treat everyone with dignity
- to do what they are asked to do at school (as long as it isn't immoral, unethical, or illegal) whether they want to do it or not. Just because it isn't easy for you or something you enjoy is not an excuse to not do it.

Reading: Reading is so essential to success. Read to your children. Read in front of your children. Many years ago when I spent my summer with GEM (Greater Europe Mission) doing door-to-door in Austria, the missionary family with whom I stayed had a great family tradition of reading at least one chapter of a book each night after dinner. A different family member read each night. Not only did this help improve the children's reading ability, it helped the family to bond. What a great idea!!! Read! Read!! Read!!!

Limiting electronics: Students seem to have developed a scary dependency on electronics as well as a dependency on being entertained. Remember moderation. A colleague who had a son in high school always checked the cell phone bill. If his son had used his phone during school, then he lost it

for two weeks. Cell phones are a huge problem in a lot of schools. If you think that your child must have one, then make sure that they understand the rules of usage and be firm about them.

Following directions: Parents are the first teachers of this skill. Hang tough!! If your child learns to follow instructions the first time at home, he/she is much more likely to do so at school, and this will help your child to be successful. So many students today have the toughest time following directions. It seems that they have never been held accountable for this before. The older they get, the more set the habit. Habits are learned and can be unlearned but the longer that they go unchecked, the harder it is to let go.

Ownership: Teach your child to take ownership for his or her actions. It is better to take ownership for a mistake than to lie about it. Ownership goes hand in hand with honesty and trustworthiness. I always tell my students that I can forgive just about anything except lying to me because then I lose trust. This also involves taking responsibility for learning as well as behaviors. It also means always being prepared for class. Last year, my students borrowed but did not return about 800 pencils because they came to class unprepared and just expected me to provide for them. I also had to provide paper and erasers. Many did not bring books to class and forgot their homework in their lockers. Again, there are consequences for choices.

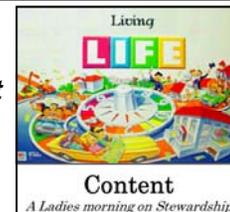
Supporting the teacher: Know that we do love our students and truly want the best for them. We will never know them nor love them as well as you can. You may not understand why we choose to do things the way that we do, but please trust that we are using our education and experience and are taking into consideration the needs of the 20 or so other students in the class to make our decisions. If we do something differently than you would do it or differently than another teacher,

please give us the benefit of the doubt and teach your child that you will support us. Never allow your child to speak disrespectfully of the teacher. We are not the enemy so please do not let us be labeled as such. If there is indeed a concern, discuss it with the principal. Remember, that teachers also have bills to pay. Many have families. Many may have some serious health issues themselves or have a family member that they must care for. I am one of the teachers who is usually one of the last to leave the building on most days, but the year Rick was battling cancer, I needed to get home for him.

Prayer: Pray for your child's teacher. We have a career that we love but that is becoming more and more challenging. Some of us have large class sizes. Some of us have many children in poverty or emotional distress. Many of us have crack and meth babies in our classes. Most of us have students with special needs, including gifted, in our classes. Many of us have so many hoops to jump through in addition to teaching, that it is dizzying. Pray for your child's classmates as well. Your child's teacher will bless you for that! ☪

BJ Gibbons and her husband Rick attend Bethany Baptist. She teaches in Peoria's District 150 school system.

Even if you missed the Ladies Morning on Stewardship last month you can still listen to the audio files.



Find them on the website at
www.bethanycentral.org
 Click on the resources tab and select sermon audio.
 There are three files in the list:
 Contentment Event: Markie Castle
 Contentment Event: Kathryn Nielson Testimony
 Contentment Event: Couponing



Missions

“We spent the next week playing with and loving them, but I think that they had much more of an impact on us than we had on them.”

Prayer A Priority—Two Perspectives on the Guatemala trip

by Emily Kull --

Traveling outside the United States with 17 people and all our luggage was a bit chaotic, especially in the airports. Once out of the airport, we were greeted by a very old American school bus, which was to transport us to the orphanage. Guatemalan roads are not quite like the roads we have here in America, especially the last 20 miles; we were definitely reminded of the importance of prayer during those 24 hours of travel!

We woke up the next morning and met each of the 30 children living at the home. There were many that immediately endeared themselves to us. We spent the next week playing with and loving them, but I think that they had much more of an impact on us than we had on them. Guatemala is a poor country, and they did not have a lot of “stuff,” at least not in comparison to what we have in our lives. Yet these kids did not seem despondent or sad; they truly did seem happy with simple things, such as swinging on the swings, playing a game of tug of war, or going out for ice cream. I connected the most with a sweet, spunky and very cute 2 ½ year old little girl. She had arrived at Hogar de Vida only two months prior to our arrival. The missionaries told us that she was very malnourished and sick when she first arrived, but there was no evidence of that then as she ran circles around us! I was struck by how much the children really did form their own family. I often saw the older ones taking care of the younger ones, and it was reported to us that they do not like it when their “family” members leave to go back

and live with their families.

During three of the days, we went to schools in surrounding villages. Our Spanish speaking team members had the amazing privilege of sharing the gospel at each of the schools. We also gave lessons on proper tooth brushing, flossing and hand washing and because of donations were able to give samples of toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc. The majority of people in the region are of Mayan descent, therefore our presentations were translated from English to Spanish to Quiche. At two of the schools we washed hair. The kids (especially the girls) and adult females stood in line to have their hair washed, combed, cut and styled. We formed an assembly line, and it was actually the men on the team who washed their hair. Overall, we saw God answer prayer and had the amazing privilege of putting into action our team verse, James 1:27. “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” Thank you for your prayers and support for our trip.

by Sarah Kelly --

I had the privilege of going on the short term mission trip to Home of Life and Nutrition in Guatemala. It was a truly amazing and life changing experience!! God’s hand in the preparation for this trip was evident from the very beginning. We asked different people in the community for donations for the trip, and we got nearly everything we needed donated.

One of the things that had a major impact on me before and during the trip, was our reliance on God and the power of prayer. When we are in the States, in our comfort zone, it is very easy to slip into a pattern of self-reliance, because we are used to having everything we need at our fingertips. At least that is a habit I tend to fall into on a regular basis. When you are in a different country and things are not so easily accessible, sometimes all you have is prayer.

Some of our team members got to assist at local medical clinics in the town and nearby villages. As you can imagine, medical care is very different there and often hard to find at all. At one of the clinics, the team saw a two year old that was extremely ill with pneumonia. The team administered IV antibiotics and breathing treatments along with prayers. Even with those interventions the child was not getting any better. All the team members could do was pray with the widowed mother and shed tears. The team sent mom and the little girl home so that she could die at home instead of at the clinic. I was not present at the clinic, but heard the story soon after the medical team arrived back at the Home.

That night I prayed the Lord would take the little girl home to be with Him quickly and without pain. Three days later the team learned that the little girl was alive and well with just a

minor cough!! We witnessed a miracle of God's healing hands!! It was truly amazing!!

Working as a social worker at the children's hospital for the last eight years and knowing that we did not have access to modern medical technology, I assumed the little girl would die because there was nothing else that we could do. God had other plans!! How quickly do we try to solve our own problems before taking them to God? I know I do that quite often. What we should really be doing is bringing our problems and concerns to God first. It was amazing to see the work of God's hand in Guatemala, and I hope through that experience I have learned to make prayer a priority, no matter how big or small the concern. ✂

Emily Kull has been attending Bethany since 2005. She spends her days working with adults with disabilities. In her free time, she enjoys hanging out with a great small group of teenage girls, spending time with her family, and watching NCIS with her roommate.

Sarah Kelly has been attending Bethany since 2005. She has been working as a social worker for the children at the Children's Hospital of Illinois for 8 years. She also enjoys spending time with family and friends as well as serving in the nursery and Sparks.

January 20-21, 2012

**Friday, January 20 — 6-9pm
Saturday, January 21 — 8am—3pm**

A woman's event on Spiritual Gifts for the ladies of the Bethany Fellowship of Churches and their guests to be held at Bethany Baptist Church.

Learning to Walk



Gal 5:25 "Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit" NIV



Queen For a Day Recap

On August 20th, Myfanwy Saunders took the women of Bethany on an amazing journey through God's Word. We looked into how our God sees women and how He delights in us.

Our sins, our history and society fill us everyday with the idea that we are not good enough, not pretty enough, not smart enough, not worthy of love and respect and honor. Satan uses these lies as tools against us. They become the obstacles that keep us from honoring our King.

The real question is "do you believe what God says?"

- 1 Tim 4:4 Everything God created is good
- 1 Pet 2:9 You are a royal people...belonging to God
- Micah 7:9 He will bring me out into the light, I will see his righteousness
- Rev 1:9 To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and has made us to be a kingdom

When God created you, it was good. Do you struggle to believe this, that you are loved and honored by God, just as you are? God does not allow sin to define his children. As a child of God, He defines you.

How do you honor your King?

First, draw all of your need for security and acceptance from your King.

Second, look deep into your insecurities. Have you ever thought how dumb it is to look for approval from another person, a sinner? All

insecurity is based on the lie that what our King says isn't true.

If we put others in the King's place to gain love and value, we sin in idolatry. This idolatry puts us in a dark place where hurt and bondage take over. Oh, my lovely one, forgive and repent so that your King can be in you in love today and everyday.

Thank you Myfanwy Saunders for coming to us in the "Sisterhood of being Hot-Messes" and sharing a fresh insight into our King, our security, our love.

Don't miss the next opportunity to equip yourself to handle the day to day trials and ministry opportunities you have within your circle of influence.

SAVE Friday January 20th and Saturday January 21st for "Learning to Walk", a women's conference on spiritual gifts.

The event is open to the women from Bethany, Bethany Community, and Living Hope and their guests.

We will be focusing on the following areas:

1. Who is the Holy Spirit, and what is regeneration?
2. What are spiritual gifts and our obstacles to using them as women?
3. How do we use our gifts in service to God?

Pastor Ritch Boerckel, Pastor Daniel Bennett and Pastor Art Georges will be speaking. We will have small group discussion time as well as other breakout sessions for you to attend. Register today online at: www.bethanycentral.org

"...draw all of your need for security and acceptance from your King."

There are many opportunities to serve at the next event. Contact Kelly Walenta at 691-2327 or ckone2000@comcast.net if you'd like to know more.

WORD PUZZLE — Turkey and Pumpkin Pie!!

When I think of Thanksgiving dinner, there are two words that stick out in my mind: turkey and pumpkin pie!! In this word game, I have broken up the syllables of those words. The answers to the clues beneath each one will contain the letters from the particular syllable. For example: TUR—a color with shades of blue and green: TURQUOISE. Answers can be words or phrases. Enjoy!

TUR

A yellow-colored spice _____

A chemical used as a paint thinner _____

Bumps on a plane ride _____

Host of the 2006 Winter Olympics _____

Slow-moving, four-legged creature _____

Snap these on vacations _____

A sofa or table, for example _____

Software to prepare taxes _____

Emotional stress _____

KEY

A featured speaker _____

We type on this _____

Pennsylvania's state nickname _____

City in south Florida _____

Four-legged mammals (2) _____

Decoration for a 16-year-old driver _____

Chocolate-peanut butter balls _____

PUMP

A water-removing device _____

A type of rye bread _____

Famous restaurant in Chicago _____

PUMP *continued*

Type of workout _____

A type of shoes _____

A pepita _____

Glaciers at Glacier National Park (2) _____

KIN

A fast-food restaurant _____

A fruit of the Spirit _____

Characters in the Wizard of Oz _____

Great Britain _____

It's before first grade _____

An heir upon death _____

Capitol of Jamaica _____

Name for Jesus _____

PIE

Opposite of vacant _____

A home-furnishings store _____

One who lived in the 60's _____

Part of a puzzle _____

Xerox machine _____

Put holes in your ears _____

A New England cookie dessert _____

Capitol of South Dakota _____

Kim Sauder has been creating games and puzzles since high school when she would host Christmas parties for her friends. She also enjoys doing jigsaw puzzles and crafts, especially while spending time with friends!



Women's Ministries Spotlight



“...to
encourage,
equip and
challenge one
another in
love, to grow
toward
maturity in
Christ.”

Interested in
joining the
Shower
Team?

Contact:
Karye
Setterlund at
691-6930

Shower Ministry Q & A

Q: *I see notices in the church bulletin about upcoming bridal and baby showers. What is the purpose of having a Bethany shower? (Aren't we just encouraging the materialism of the popular culture?)*

Hosting showers for brides-to-be and moms-to-be can help meet their practical needs by offering opportunities for the church family to bless the honorees with functional gifts. Also, we are called to “Rejoice with those who rejoice” (Romans 12: 15). However, the primary purpose of the Shower Ministry goes well beyond celebrations, gifts and games. Our purpose runs counter to that of the popular culture. This ministry, like other Women's Ministries at Bethany, seeks to intentionally enter into the lives of the women we serve and to encourage, equip and challenge one another in love, to grow toward maturity in Christ.

Q: *Who is offered a shower?*

Engaged couples and first time moms-to-be are offered showers. We rely on friends, family and ABC leaders to notify the church office or committee members about recent engagements or announcements that a baby is on the way. The Shower Coordinator then contacts the potential honoree and offers to host a shower.

Q: *Who is invited to a shower?*

Invitations may be mailed to non-Bethany guests, but all Bethany women are invited, and your presence is encouraged – *especially if you don't know the honoree!* Often she is new to the area (or the church) and Christian relationships and support networks are

vitaly important as she transitions into her new role. A church shower is a wonderful way to meet her practical and spiritual needs, engage her heart and enfold her into our church family!

Q: *Who handles the arrangements?*

The Shower Committee is organized into four teams, and each team has four members. Showers are assigned on a rotating basis throughout the year. Teams are responsible for planning, decorating, refreshments and games. Showers are usually held in the Café or the Sr. High room on Thursday evenings or Saturday mornings.

Q: *What takes place during a shower?*

The Word: Because our desire is to honor God in all things, showers at Bethany are structured to include a time of Scripture reading and devotion. Spiritually mature women are often asked to prepare short talks using Biblical truths and examples from their own lives to teach younger women how to love their husbands and children (Titus 2:4-5). This is also a unique opportunity to present the message of the gospel.

- **Prayer:** We cover our sisters in prayer, speaking grace and truth into their lives.

- * *We pray for the bride-to-be as she begins her married life -- that nothing would divide the marriage, that both husband and wife would make Jesus their first love, and that His love would fill their marriage and empower them to love each other more.*

* *We pray for the expectant mother as she prepares to welcome a new baby into the world -- we ask God to protect her pregnancy and keep the baby healthy and bless the new family's future. We pray that mother, father and child would grow strong together in His love.*

- **Fellowship:** Showers connect the generations! Women of all ages—young and old, married and single, new believers and the spiritually mature contribute to the growth and harmony of our church family, and time spent in fellowship has many benefits. It not only fosters meaningful relationships but provides opportunities to connect others to ABC classes, upcoming Women's Events, Bible Studies, MOPS and other ministries and service opportunities
- **Presents, Food and Fun:** During or after refreshments, the honoree usually opens gifts from friends and family. Gifts are optional -- your presence is your present! (If you wish to bring a gift, please remember that inexpensive household items, note cards, favorite recipes, flowers, and handmade and baked goods are always appreciated!)

Are you looking for a way to be used by God to minister to others? "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10). Please consider attending a Bethany shower or joining a Shower Team. Brides-to-be and moms-to-be are part of this church family, and their lives are bound together with ours. Their joy is our joy, and their need for support and encouragement is our opportunity! ☺

Karye Setterlund celebrated 25 years of marriage to Terry in May. They have two grown and married daughters, Candace & Christa, and one son, Connor (15). This year they were blessed with a new family member, Morgan (15), and Karye is thankful for the precious time she has at home raising two teenagers. Karye enjoys serving at church and at Peoria Christian School, and she helps out--when possible--with her daughter's retail stores in Chicago.

Women's Ministry Council

2011-2012

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Discipleship

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Fall 2011

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Jill Phillips, Editor

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Infant Loss GriefShare

your journey from mourning to joy...

A special session for those who have lost a child through stillbirth, miscarriage, or early infant death

**Tuesdays at 9:00am
Bethany Baptist Church**

*For more information contact
Nicole Pepper at 681-1181.*

PIE	PUMP	TUR
OCUPIED	SUMP PUMP	TURMERIC
PIER 1 IMPORTS	PUMPERNICKEL	TURPENTINE
HIPPIE	THE PUMP	TURBULENCE
PIECE	ROOM	TURIN
COPIER	BODY PUMP	TURTLE
PIERCE	PUMPS	PICTURES
WHOOPIE PIES	PUMPKIN	FURNITURE
SEED	(2) PUMPELLY	TURBO TAX
PIERRE	& PUMPKIN	TURMOIL
	KIN	KEY
	BURGER KING	KEYNOTE
	KINDNESS	KEYBOARD
	MUNCHKINS	KEYSTONE
	UNITED KINGDOM	STATE
	KINDERGARTEN	KEY WEST
	NEXT OF KIN	(2) DONKEY &
	KINGSTON	MONKEY
	KING OF KINGS	KEYCHAIN
		BUCKEYES



Proclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord



BETHANY BAPTIST
CHURCH

*"I am the way and the truth and the
life. No one comes to the Father
except through me" John 14:6.*

We are nearing the end of harvest time now, and once again the faithfulness of God is played out all around us. God promised Noah, "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease." We see God's faithfulness to that promise made thousands of years ago, as year after year, seeds are sown and later harvested, providing us our daily bread and then some. For this reason, we celebrate at harvest's end with a special time of Thanksgiving to God, for His mercy, faithfulness and love. Often at Thanksgiving we reflect on the past year, remembering all the blessings He has given and offering thanks. We have no doubt experienced seasons of both joy and sorrow. I hope that through all of your seasons, you have seen and known His faithfulness to you. "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23)

Joy Unseth, Women's Ministry Council Chairwoman

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