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○ | VOLUME 11 | ○ | July 2008

Springfield United Methodist Church Women's word

 THE WOMEN OF SPRINGFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SPRINGFIELD, GEORGIA

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory; which comes from the Lord. 2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV)

Words of Encouragement & Good Hope

Hello beautiful women of SUMC!

When I began seminary I met a student named Asa who loved yelling, "Let's have church!" nearly every time he walked into any gathering. The first time he made such an exclamation was when our "class" was being photographed in front of the chapel at the beginning of the new school year. Just when the photographer had gotten all of us settled, Asa yelled, "Let's have church!" and nearly everyone started clapping, cheering, and exclaiming "Amen" to one another. I just smiled politely – not because I didn't feel the desire to respond to the swell that his words caused, but because I was raised in a United Methodist church that rarely claps, pretty much never raises their hands, and certainly wouldn't dream of dancing in the aisles! I heard Asa

make his proclamation several more times before I found myself sitting right next to him one day in class and couldn't resist the desire to throw my hands up and holler "Amen!" (which is essentially a Hebrew word that means, "yeah, what he said") when he yelled his usual words. Something had moved inside me and made it totally acceptable to use more than a polite nod to express my agreement and joy.

Asa's right after all. The Bible describes "church" as the people of God. It uses phrases like "the church gathered together" or "the church joined in prayer". Those are not descriptions of the actions of buildings – but rather descriptions of the people of God gathering to do His will, to glorify Him. In that case then, church can – and should – happen anywhere. I love thinking about seminary and the very cool time in my life when

someone was continually inviting me and my peers to "have church" – whenever and wherever we were!

I think there are a million acceptable and appropriate ways to worship – and it is more than okay for us all to do it our own way. Anything that is for the glory of God is worship – whether it is silence, nodding, yelling, dancing, or clapping! We don't need to all do the same thing at the same time in order for God to deem it acceptable. We do, however, need to find ways to be true worshipers.

I invite you to glory in the magnificence of being present with other believers, to express your joy without reservation, to explore the way you participate in worship, and to find new and unique places to have "church" every day and everywhere.

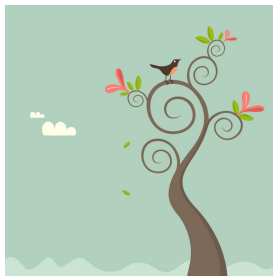
--- In Christ, Katie Webster

The Bible in 50 Words

- Author Unknown

God made, Eve bit, Noah arked, Abraham split, Joseph ruled, Jacob fooled, Bush talked, Moses balked, Pharaoh plagued, People walked, Sea divided, Tablets guided, Promise landed, Saul freaked, David peeked, Prophets warned, Jesus born, God walked, Love talked, Anger crucified, Hope died, Love rose, Spirit flamed, Word spread, God remained.

*Charm and grace are deceptive, and beauty is vain, but a woman who reverently and worshipfully fears the Lord, she shall be praised!
~ Proverbs 31: 30 (AMP)*





Christmas in July

By Susanne Scheppmann
Proverbs 31 Ministries

They received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.
Acts 17:11 (NKJV)

I should have used that newly advertised "prescription strength" deodorant today. Our outside temperature was a sweltering 115 degrees. It felt more like 350 degrees in my car as I toodled around doing my errands. The air conditioning never had a chance to cool the car before I'd open the door and drag myself into the next store.

I roasted as I drove. To my chagrin, a traffic signal changed to red and I braked reluctantly at the busy intersection. The car stopped and I saw waves of heat radiate off the pavement.

Then I saw something... a mirage maybe... a bouncing Santa Claus. Upon closer inspection, I discovered a bulky, garish balloon outside an electronics store. A sign hanging in the overheated air read, "Celebrate Christmas in July!" The sign tried to cajole potential consumers to spend their money in the store, without acknowledging the true meaning of Christmas.

Suddenly, an idea pushed its way into my overheated thoughts. "Why couldn't we celebrate Christmas in July?"

Wouldn't it be fun to have a little Christmas celebration without all the holiday fuss of December?"

As the car idled, my mind raced. My family could celebrate the birth of our Savior and make it intentional—especially if it was in July. We could decorate a tree in our backyard. We could barbeque a turkey breast. Then after dinner, we could sit on the patio and read the Christmas story as we watch the sunset.

The light changed and so did my attitude. I no longer dreaded a day full of errands in the sun-baked desert. In fact, I added a couple more stops to my list. First, I swung into a discount store to pick up a stronger deodorant and a few "stocking stuffers" for my family. Then I headed off to the grocery store to prepare for Christmas dinner on the grill in July.

I believe honoring Christmas in July will help my family to focus on the birth of our Savior in a unique way. And who knows—it may become a family tradition that will create lasting memories for our family and our faith.

So, "Merry Christmas in July!"

Dear Lord, help me to remember to celebrate You throughout the year. Grant me innovative ways to weave the story of Your life throughout my family's ordinary day-to-day routines. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Reflection and Application:

Do I reflect on the birth of Christ only in December?

How might my life change if I celebrated the birth of Christ year round?

Read Luke 1:1-2:20. Consider how you can celebrate Christmas throughout the year.

This month plan a special activity to honor the birth of Jesus.

Further Reading:

Do You Know Him?

Matthew 1:23

Luke 2:11-12

John 1:14

JULY

Memory Verse

**"Never stop praying,
especially for others.**

**Always pray by the
power of the Spirit.**

**Stay alert and keep
praying for God's**

people." Ephesians

6:18 (CEV)



Blackberry Fool



Ingredients

Serves 8

2 cups blackberries (8 ounces total), plus more for garnish

1/2 cup sugar

1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice

2 cups heavy cream

1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

Directions

In a blender, combine berries, sugar, and lemon juice; blend until smooth. Pour mixture through a fine-mesh sieve, pressing with a rubber spatula to push through. Discard seeds; transfer 1/2 cup berry puree to a small bowl. Cover and refrigerate; reserve for topping. In a large bowl, combine cream and vanilla; whip until stiff peaks form. Gently fold remaining berry puree into cream. Spoon mixture into custard cups. Cover loosely and refrigerate 1 hour (or up to overnight). To serve, drizzle blackberry fools with reserved berry puree, and garnish with blackberries.

CRAFT CORNER

Leaf Tote Bag

Some of the best tools for making crafts may be right in your own backyard. Undamaged leaves, when covered with a coat of fabric paint in a favorite color, will make unusual and varied imprints on absorbent textiles, such as canvas, cotton, or linen. Consider decorating other surfaces as well, such as pillow shams, tablecloths, and book covers. When collecting leaves, look for green, pliant, sturdy ones, such as magnolia and eucalyptus. Before you begin applying the paint, you may want to make a template of your leaf and use it to trace your pattern in pencil on the tote bag. That way you'll avoid misprinting the painted leaf.



Tools and Materials

1 to 3 bay leaves

Fabric paint

Sponge brush

Undyed canvas tote bag

Paper towel

Waxed paper

Brayer

Scrap of fabric

Iron

Leaf Print Tote Bag How-To

1. Lightly brush the underside of the leaf with the fabric paint. The underside shows the veins more clearly; you can use both sides for variety. The thinner the layer of paint, the more detailed the print will be.
2. Place the leaf, paint side down, on the bag where you want the design to appear. Cover the leaf with a piece of paper towel, then a piece of waxed paper. Roll the brayer over the waxed paper a few times, firmly pressing the leaf onto the fabric.
3. Lift the waxed paper, paper towel, and leaf. Continue this process, using a new piece of paper towel for each print, until you've finished the desired pattern. You can change paint colors by simply rinsing the leaf with water and drying it.
4. Let the paint dry overnight. Then heat-set it with an iron. Lay the bag on your ironing board, cover it with a scrap of fabric, and iron on a low setting. The bag will be washable and colorfast.



United Methodist Women @ SUMC

About UMW:

The UMW is composed of five individual circle groups with women ranging from their 20's to their 80's. They are a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as persons through Jesus Christ. Each circle meets at different dates and times throughout the month. Circles are involved in various projects such as delivering baskets to shut-ins, preparing soldier boxes and sponsoring needy families for

Christmas.

To get more information about UMW or to find a circle that fits you, please contact the person listed with the circle that fits into your schedule!

Grace Circle

Meets 10:30AM on the third Tuesday of the month.
Contact: Claudine Arnsdorff
754-9484

Love Circle

Meets at Noon on the Tuesday after the 3rd Sunday of the month.

Contact: Cynthia Brogden
754-1395

Dorcas Circle

Meets at 3:00 PM on the Tuesday after the 3rd Sunday of each month in the Church Library.
Contact: Amelia Herrington
754-3006

Willing Workers

Meets at 7:30PM on the Tuesday after the 3rd Sunday of each month.
Contact: Nicole Rahn
754-7934

Helping Hands Circle

Meets at 6:00PM on the last Tuesday in the month.
Contact: Denese Parker
754-6327

For more information on the worldwide organization of the United Methodist Women, visit <http://new.gbmg-umc.org/umw/> or contact SUMC's UMW president, Betty Waller.
754-6240



Reader's Corner

Every [wo]man who knows how to read has it in her power to magnify herself, to multiply the ways in which she exists, to make her life full, significant, and interesting. – Aldous Huxley

The lies Christian women believe are at the root of their struggles. In *Lies Women Believe*, Nancy Leigh DeMoss exposes areas of deception common to many Christian women -- lies about God, sin, priorities, marriage and family, emotions, and more. She deals honestly with women's delusions and illusions and then gently leads them to the truth of God's word that leads to true freedom.

From the Back Cover:

"This is a most timely and crucial contribution to all women." -Henry and Marilyn Blackaby

"...a woman of compassion and keen insight..." -Elisabeth Elliot

"One of the most articulate Bible expositors in the Christian world today..." -Charles Colson

We are like Eve. We have all experienced defeats and failures, trouble and turmoil. We have all experienced a selfish heart, a shrewish spirit, anger, envy and bitterness. And we ache to do things over, to have lives of harmony and peace. In her book, *Lies Women Believe*, author Nancy Leigh DeMoss exposes those areas of deception most commonly believed by Christian women:

Lies about themselves: I should not have to live with unfulfilled longings.

Lies about sin: I cannot walk in consistent victory over sin.

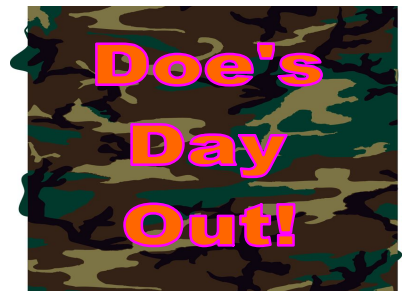
Lies about their marriage: If I submit to my husband, I will be miserable.

Lies about their emotions: I can't control my emotions.

Lies about their circumstances: I just can't take any more.

Nancy Leigh DeMoss sheds light on how we can be delivered from bondage and set free to walk in God's grace, forgiveness, and abundant life. This book offers the most effective weapon to counter and overcome Satan's deceptions—God's truth.

Nancy Leigh DeMoss is the host and teacher for *Revive Our Hearts*, a daily radio program for women heard daily on more than 500 outlets nationwide. Nancy's eleven books and resources published with Moody Publishers have sold more than 600,000 copies.



DOE's Day Out on September 13th is an opportunity for women to enjoy some time at the lake with friends! Everyone is encouraged to bring a pot-luck dish, a game, a book, a thought, or whatever! We'll spend some time with women – of all ages – from our church family.

Get your hands on some camouflage or blaze orange to wear & enjoy a day with other ladies!

11AM-3PM, Zeigler Pond House
September 13th

