

First Quarter Events

January 3<sup>rd</sup> - Heart to Heart - Slumber party!  
Mothers & Daughters are invited  
The cost is \$5 per person. It starts Friday night at 7pm and ends Saturday at 8am.  
First bowling, back to church to make pizza and watch a movie - donut breakfast in the morning before home.

January - Secret Sister Reveal and New Luncheon  
Watch the bulletin for the date.

January - All Care Group Dinner  
Watch the bulletin for the date.

February 6<sup>th</sup> - Heart to Heart - tentative still  
Planning to have the Chocolate Lady return.

March 5<sup>th</sup> - Heart to Heart - Pizza and a Movie  
Possibly "Overcomer"

March 21<sup>st</sup> - Friendship Banquet  
Starts at 5:30 pm

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 ask 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

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**Resolution:** one definition is "the decision as to future action."  
Let's all make a resolution this year to be better followers of Christ. We are His hands and feet, and His voice. Let us use all these to help others this year and in the process help ourselves, too. Call or visit those that cannot get out this winter season. They may not be safe and for sure are probably a little lonely. Help where you see a need and show by example what it means to a Christian.

When you think of a holiday atmosphere, what comes to mind? Perhaps it's baked goods, family laughter, and warm fires crackling. Or perhaps what comes to mind is not the perfect snow-globe Christmas, but loneliness, loss, or an atmosphere of tension that comes from strained family relationships.

**I want you to know today that whatever atmosphere you're walking into this holiday; you can carry in a new atmosphere — one of joy and peace.**

No matter what is going on around you, remember that the joy of the Lord is your strength (Nehemiah 8:10). By making Jesus the center of this season, you can experience the peace that passes understanding (Philippians 4:7). You can be the peacemaker, the joy bringer, and the carrier of a different atmosphere—because you carry the light of the world (Matthew 5:14).

**This holiday season fill your heart and home with his love, joy, peace, kindness, generosity, laughter, warmth, and celebration.** Think of family or friends who need to be included and loved. Why not decide to make a move toward forgiveness, restoration, and reconciliation?

Trust that God can bring healing and transformation even where it once was lost—and in his strength, he can use you to do it.

Christine Caine  
Propel Women  
Winter Edition - Dec 2019

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Faith is putting all your eggs in God's basket and counting your blessings before they've hatched.



Barbara Johnson  
Splashes of Joy in the Cesspools of Life

## Help Yourself to Happiness

Everybody, everywhere  
seeks happiness, it's true  
But finding it and keeping it  
seems difficult to do,  
Difficult because we think  
that happiness is found  
Only in the places where  
wealth and fame abound –  
And so we go on searching  
in “palaces of pleasure”  
Seeking recognition  
and monetary treasure,  
Unaware that happiness  
is just a “state of mind”  
Within the reach of everyone  
who takes time to be kind –  
For in making **others happy**  
we will be happy, too,  
For the happiness you give away  
returns to “shine on you.”

Helen Steiner Rice  
Submitted by Janet Warner



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## Day After Christmas

The pastor was looking over the creche the day after Christmas when he noticed that the baby Jesus was missing. He went outside and saw a little boy pulling a new red wagon. In the wagon was Jesus. He walked up to the boy and said, “Hi, there. Where did you get the baby Jesus from?”

The boy answered honestly, “In the church.”

“Why did you take him?” the pastor asked.

“Well,” said the boy, “I prayed to the Lord Jesus and asked him for a wagon for Christmas. I told Him that if He gave me one, I'd take Him for a ride in it.”

## No Looking Back

*And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.*

Luke 9:62

Part of the beauty of what happens when God heals your soul is that He offers you a fresh start, a whole new beginning. But embracing the new life He has for you will be a little difficult if you are still holding on to the past. Think of it very simply. If you are walking through the grocery store with your hands full of oranges and someone tries to give you several apples to carry, you cannot hold them. In order to take the apples, you have to put down the oranges. That's exactly how it works with the new beginning God offers you.

Part of freeing yourself from the load of your past means refusing to look back and not replaying certain scenarios in your mind. Refusing to look back means resisting regret, turning away from past relationships that are not good for you, and letting go of mistakes and feelings such as guilt and shame.

Paul writes in Philippians 3:13-14 that he forgets what lies behind and strains forward to what lies ahead. It's interesting that Paul says he presses forward. This tells us that moving ahead requires effort. It may sound exciting, but it's not always easy. Letting go of the past can be hard to do, but it is much better than remaining stuck in it.

When God asks us to let go of the past and look forward to a better future, He gives us grace to do it. We need to be careful about thinking or saying that what God asks of us is too hard. Nothing is too difficult for Him (Jer. 32:17), and He lives in us by His spirit (I Cor. 3:16), who empowers us to do what God wants us to do.

In Genesis 19, a man named Lot and his family lived in a city so filled with sin and perversion that God destroyed it completely. Through some angels, God warned Lot ahead of time and told him to get out of the city with his wife and daughters. But they did not move quickly, so in God's mercy the angels took them by the hand and led them away, saying, "Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay

thou... (Gen. 19:17). But Lot's wife disobeyed and looked back anyway – and turned into a pillar of salt (Gen. 19:26)! The angels were trying to save her life, and all she had to do was not look back and not stop. She just had to look ahead and keep going forward. But she chose not to do it, and it cost her everything.

Let me encourage you to keep looking ahead and to keep moving forward. God has great things in store for you!

Joyce Meyer

Healing the Soul of a Woman Devotional

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**From - To My Daughter with Love**

Edited by Helen Exley

When you came into the world, I suffered for three days and two nights. But I have never regarded that as suffering.

They say that children like you who have been carried so high in the womb and have taken so long to come down to the daylight are always the children that are most loved, because they have lain so near the mother's heart and been so unwilling to leave her.

Sidonie Goudekot, to her daughter, Colette

A little girl can be sweeter (and badder) oftener than anyone else in the world. She can jitter around, and stomp, and make funny noises that frazzle your nerves, yet just when you open your mouth, she stands there demure with that special look in her eyes. A girl is Innocence playing in the mud. Beauty standing on its head, and Motherhood dragging a doll by the foot.

They have what no grown up has – that directness – chatter, chatter, chatter, on Ann goes, in a kind of world of her own, with its seals and dogs; happy because she's going to have cocoa tonight and go blackberrying tomorrow.

The walls of her mind are all hung round with such bright vivid things, and she doesn't see what we see.

Virginia Woolf, From "A Writer's Diary"

## What I've learned

I've learned that I like my teacher because she cries when we sing "Silent Night." Age 5

I've learned that our dog doesn't want to eat my broccoli either. Age 7

I've learned that when I wave to people in the country, they stop what they are doing and wave back. Age 9

I've learned that just when I get my room the way I like it, Mom makes me clean it up again. Age 12

I've learned that if you want to cheer yourself up, you should try cheering someone else up. Age 14

I've learned that although it's hard to admit it, I'm secretly glad my parents are strict with me. Age 15

I've learned that silent company is often more healing than words of advice. Age 24

I've learned that brushing my child's hair is one of life's great pleasures. Age 26

I've learned that wherever I go, the world's worst drivers have followed me there. Age 29

I've learned that if someone says something unkind about me, I must live so that no one will believe it. Age 30

I've learned that there are people who love you dearly but just don't know how to show it. Age 42

I've learned that you can make someone's day by simply sending them a little note. Age 44

I've learned that the greater a person's sense of guilt, the greater his or her need to cast blame on others. Age 46

I've learned that children and grandparents are natural allies. Age 47

I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on and it will be better tomorrow. Age 48

I've learned that singing "Amazing Grace" can lift my spirits for hours. Age 49

I've learned that motel mattresses are better on the side away from the phone. Age 50

I've learned that you can tell a lot about a man by the way he handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights. Age 51

I've learned that keeping a vegetable garden is worth a medicine cabinet full of pills. Age 52

I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you miss them terribly after they die. Age 53

I've learned that making a living is not the same thing as making a life. Age 58

I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance. Age 62

I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back. Age 64

I've learned that if you pursue happiness, it will elude you. But if you focus on your family, the needs of others, your work, meeting new people, and doing the very best you can, happiness will find you. Age 65

I've learned that whenever I decide something with kindness, I usually make the right decision. Age 66

I've learned that everyone can use a prayer. Age 72

I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one. Age 74

I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love that human touch - holding hands, a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back. Age 76

I've learned that I still have a lot to learn. Age 78

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## Southern Wise Men

In a small southern town, there was a "Nativity Scene" that showed great skill and talent had gone into creating it. One small feature bothered me. The three wise men were wearing firemen's helmets.

Totally unable to come up with a reason or explanation, I left. At a "Quik Stop" on the edge of town, I asked the lady behind the counter about the helmets.

She exploded into a rage, yelling at me, "You darn Yankees never do read the Bible!"

I assured her that I did, but simply couldn't recall anything about firemen in the Bible.

She jerked her Bible from behind the counter and ruffled thru some pages, and finally jabbed her finger at a passage. Sticking it in my face she said "See, it says right here, *“The three wise man came from afar.”*

## Songs We Love

In 1943 the song, "I'll Be Home for Christmas" was written by Kim Gannon, composed by Walter Kent, and recorded by Bing Crosby. The song was written to honor soldiers overseas during World War II that longed to be home during the Christmas season. During the midst of the war, this song touched the hearts of many, both soldiers and civilians. It's being sung from a soldier's point-of-view, writing to his loved ones back home. In the letter, he writes about all the things he wants when he gets home - snow, mistletoe, and presents, but the song actually reveals through the lyrics the reality, .... If only in my dreams. In 1997 my oldest son was stationed in Korea. My youngest son had just finished boot camp and was headed to Texas during this time of year. This was the year we lost dad and this song was extremely hard for me to listen to! This was before cell phones and my only communications with my boys was a collect call. I know they were dreaming of being home with their family. Of course, when I hear the song my mind would go to Dad and the desire that he had to be home in heaven with his loved ones and his Lord and Savior. He was dreaming of crystal rivers, streets of gold, and gates of pearl. My boys are home now with families of their own. Often, I find myself dreaming of being at home in heaven to celebrate Christmas with the Reason we celebrate this season. If you have loved ones who have gone home for Christmas, they've received their best gift ever. Something the rest of us are only still dreaming of. The lyrics, "I'm dreaming tonight of a place that I love, even more than I usually do, and although I know it's a long road back, I promise you. I'll be home for Christmas. You can plan on me. Please, have snow and mistletoe, and presents on the tree. Christmas Eve will find me, where the lovelight gleams. I'll be home for Christmas, if only in my dreams. Okay, not sure I wrote enough or if I got my point across, but I'm dreaming Of Heaven.

### I'll Be Home for Christmas

I'll be home for Christmas  
You can plan on me  
Please have snow and mistletoe  
And presents on the tree

Christmas Eve will find me  
Where the love light gleams  
I'll be home for Christmas  
If only in my dreams

I'll be home for Christmas  
You can plan on me  
Please have snow and mistletoe  
And presents on the tree

Christmas Eve'll find me  
Where the love light gleams  
I'll be home for Christmas  
If only in my dreams.

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### Stovetop Chicken Pot Pie

Yields: 4 servings

#### INGREDIENTS

4 frozen buttermilk biscuits	1 c. Matchstick Carrots
1 1/2 c. chicken stock	3 tbsp. butter
1 c. whole milk	2 c. shredded rotisserie chicken
3 tbsp. all-purpose flour	1 c. frozen cut green beans
1 1/2 tsp. poultry seasoning	2 tbsp. chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
1 chopped small onion	Biscuits, for serving

#### DIRECTIONS

Prepare 4 frozen buttermilk biscuits according to package directions. Meanwhile, in a large mason jar, shake together chicken stock, whole milk, flour, and poultry seasoning. Cook onion and carrots in butter in a large saucepan over medium-high heat until softened, 2 to 3 minutes. Slowly whisk in milk mixture. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer, stirring often, until thickened, 6 to 8 minutes.

Stir in shredded rotisserie chicken, green beans, and flat-leaf parsley and cook until warm, 4 to 5 minutes. Season with kosher salt and black pepper. Serve topped with biscuits.

By Marian Cooper Cairns Aug 9, 2017

8/23/2018 Best Stovetop Chicken Pot Pie Recipe - How to Make Stovetop Chicken Pot Pie <https://www.countryliving.com/food-drinks/recipes/a44249/stovetop-chicken-pot-pie-recipe/> 2/2



Submitted by Peggy Somosko

## Sherry's Book Corner / Adult Column

Hello ladies! I hope you are all prepared for Christmas. My wish for all of you is that you have a blessed Christmas that is merry and bright! May we all keep the love and peace in our hearts the whole year through that is ours to share with the world. As we celebrate the birth of Christ may we reflect on this passage of scripture. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end. (Isaiah 9: 6-7).

I chose a beautiful Christmas novel to share with you. Once I got settled into the story it took me back to my own childhood. I like going back there on occasion. My mom and dad and our dog Puppy. We were quite the family us three. And, I don't want to fail to mention my grandparents. My world would not have been the same without them! You at this moment are living in your own world. Be at peace and enjoy this story.

Until next time, merry, merry Christmas!

In Him,  
Sherry Kline Bolitho

Adult Book:

Title: Where Treetops Glisten

Written by: Tricia Goyer, Cara Putnam, and Sarah Sundin

Publisher: Waterbrook Press

Price: \$14.99

These three stories are all tied together. Each story highlights the other. You'll go back in time when Bing Crosby sang a song of sleigh bells in the snow. You will see the realities of America's involvement in the Second World War. With one family telling the stories, you will see the miracle of Christ's birth and His plan for the future.

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

Hi kids! I hope you have the best Christmas ever. When I read this story, it touched my heart. I hope it does the same for you. It is a story about giving, even when you don't want to. About giving something away that you love more than yourself. Have you ever been in those shoes? When we think about people who need more than we do and don't have the chance to get it, many times that's where we can be of help.

Our story is about such a need. Part of the title says a dust bowl Christmas. The dust bowl times in America was a hard time for many American families. There was not enough jobs or food to go around for many. A lot of families lost everything they had except the clothes on their backs.

Our main character Paul has a calf named Ellie. On this Christmas it would be him, Ellie, and his grandfather. Black dust clouds had destroyed Paul's family farm, suffocated their crops and livestock, and sent his parents west in search of work. As Paul and his grandfather finished their bowl of beans, they heard a car pull in the driveway. When Paul opened the door, a couple stood side by side. The woman held a baby in her arms. The baby coughed and cried. What would this mean for Paul?

Until next time, give a little each day and you will be happy for it! Merry Christmas!

In Him,  
Sherry Kline Bolitho

Children's Book:

Title: Asleep on the Hay, A Dust Bowl Christmas

Written and illustrated by: Ben Sowards

Publisher: Ensign Peak

Price: \$17.99

Age group: 10-adult

The man who wrote this book is the illustrator of many well-loved picture books, including Christmas Oranges, A Christmas for Ellen, and Seven Miracles that Saved America. This is his first book as being an author. Ben Sowards grew up listening to his grandmother tell stories of her childhood in the panhandle during the Dust Bowl.

Ben and his grandmother loved doing puzzles together. They still do. You can assemble your own Christmas puzzle at [AsleepontheHay.com](http://AsleepontheHay.com). The beautiful illustrations bring this story to life.

## Cheeseburger Soup

A local restaurant serves a similar cheeseburger soup but wouldn't share its recipe with me. So, I developed my own, modifying a recipe for potato soup. I was really pleased with the way this all-American treat turned out. —Joanie Shawhan, Madison, Wisconsin

TOTAL TIME: Prep: 45 min. Cook: 10 min. YIELD: 8 servings (2-1/4 quarts).

### Ingredients

1/2 pound ground beef  
4 tablespoons butter, divided  
3/4 cup chopped onion  
3/4 cup shredded carrots  
3/4 cup diced celery  
1 teaspoon dried basil  
1 teaspoon dried parsley flakes  
1-3/4 pounds (about 4 cups) cubed  
3 cups chicken broth  
1/4 cup all-purpose flour  
2 to 4 cups shredded Velveeta  
1-1/2 cups whole milk  
3/4 teaspoon salt  
1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon pepper  
1/4 cup sour cream



### Directions

1. In a large saucepan over medium heat, cook and crumble beef until no longer pink; drain and set aside. In same saucepan, melt 1 tablespoon butter over medium heat. Sauté onion, carrots, celery, basil and parsley until vegetables are tender, about 10 minutes. Add potatoes, ground beef and broth; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, covered, until potatoes are tender, 10-12 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, in a small skillet, melt remaining butter. Add flour; cook and stir until bubbly, 3-5 minutes. Add to soup; bring to a boil. Cook and stir 2 minutes. Reduce heat to low. Stir in cheese, milk, salt and pepper; cook until cheese melts. Remove from heat; blend in sour cream.

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## Give Lavishly! Live Abundantly!

The more you give, the more you get –  
The more you laugh, the less you fret –  
The more you do unselfishly,  
The more you live abundantly...  
The more of everything you share,  
The more you'll always have to spare –  
The more you love, the more you'll find  
That life is good and friends are kind...  
For only what we give away  
Enriches us from day to day.

Source Unknown

Found in Best of Barbara Johnson

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## Bathed in Glory

*And, lo the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them...* Luke 2:9

Oh, to be chosen to witness the glory of God manifested all around me. The shepherds didn't ask for it, didn't earn it, and didn't expect it. The unmerited favor of God intervened in their personal history and brought an experience the likes they would never forget. Nothing would eclipse the memory of that night when heaven opened up and the veil that limited their spiritual eyesight was lifted.

Is such a defining moment possible today to the one who loves God? Yes. Don't settle for monotony. Seek, listen, pursue relentlessly, and the glory of the Lord is near to you.

How can I know what to ask for, exactly?  
I just want You and a glimpse of Your glory. Amen

Daughter of Promise  
Our Daily Devotionals

## Patience

As many people know, I have a long commute to work every day – 35 miles one way. I have driven this for many years under varying weather conditions being that I live in Ohio. The other travelers along the drive are many and most do not leave a lasting impression, but there are those blessedly few that unfortunately do.

My drive takes me through the city of Massillon, Ohio. A portion of that is on Route 21. I get on at Lake Avenue and continue on until it changes to Route 62. The posted speed limit through this entire stretch of road is 50 MPH, but everyone drives around 60 MPH and I haven't seen anyone stopped for speeding along there yet. One morning not long ago, I was driving this way, and I heard someone blowing their horn repeatedly. I soon realized it was the car behind me and as I watched it in my mirror, I eventually saw he was also flashing his headlights at me, too! He had been so close behind me at first that I couldn't see his headlights, but when he moved a little to the left, I could see what he was doing. The first thing I did was check my speed. I was doing 62 MPH at the time and was moving right along with the other traffic. There was a car ahead of me by maybe two car lengths and cars in the lane to my right. I wasn't going anywhere! Somehow, he must have intimidated the driver of the car to his right because he passed me, then proceeded to try to enter my lane with me still there. I had to slam my brakes on to keep him from hitting the front of my car. He then proceeded to do the same thing he did to me to that driver. When he started blowing his horn and flashing his lights though, that driver reacted very differently. He slammed on his brakes immediately, coming very close to causing a major pile up.

I was concerned that there was some emergency that he needed to get to quickly and that was the reason for his irresponsible driving that day. But it seems that that was not the case. I have encountered him two more times since then. All this happens in less than a mile and a half strip of Route 21 between Walnut Street and Erie. The second time I didn't notice him until he was passing me, and his actions that I could see in my peripheral vision are what caught my attention. I drive a Honda CRV and he drives a sedan – I don't know the model.

There he was, driving in excess of 60 MPH looking over his shoulder, up at me as he was driving by, giving me “are you stupid” looks and waving his arms around! The third time was a situation very similar to the first encounter. If this is his usual state when driving, the man is going to cause a serious accident one day or will give himself an early stroke or heart attack.

Everyone has days when they leave a little late, and then try to hurry on the road to make up a little of that time that was lost. But to endanger other drivers and stress yourself out to an extreme is something to be avoided – not repeated! The stress alone is harmful to you but the fact that you make others you encounter stressed and put them in dangerous situations is just wrong. Life was never meant to be so intense! The bible tells us that if we need help when things get too overwhelming, we need only turn to Him, and then give it all over to Him. He will see to all our needs and give us the rest we need. If we do that, we can not only live less stress filled lives, but healthier, happier, and longer ones, too.

LeuAnna Taylor

*Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.* I  
Peter 5:7

*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and lean on me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

Matthew 11:28-29



When life becomes all snarled up, offer it to our Lord and let him untie the knots.

A Book of Days for Christians



