

### First Quarter Events

Jan 1<sup>st</sup> – Happy New Year!!



Jan 9<sup>th</sup> – Heart to Heart meeting

Soup night and a movie – Overcomer

Feb 6<sup>th</sup> – Heart to Heart meeting

Bring a friend night – have dinner & fellowship

Mar 6<sup>th</sup> – Heart to Heart meeting and craft night.

Come fellowship and have fun!

Be sure to sign up for each meeting at the info desk – cost \$5



Oct 30<sup>th</sup> – Tabitha Bille – sought salvation

Dec 15<sup>th</sup> – Chase Preisse – sought salvation

Marie Preisse – sought salvation

Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> – Michelle Swonger – joined the church

Linda Samples – joined the church



\*All dates are subject to change due to weather. Please watch the bulletin for any updates. Cancellations or delays may be announced during services or if uncertain if the weather turns bad, you can also call the church or check the TV channel 3 WKYC where it will run across the bottom of the screen with school and other closings.

Take a few minutes to browse the church's updated website – [tblighthouse.org](http://tblighthouse.org). It has a brand-new look and contains new details of the church and how it functions. You can watch sermons, learn about Jesus, get a look at our church ministries, and more.

I love this time of year—it's a time for reflection on what's passed and anticipation for what's ahead. I don't know what your year has been like, but here's what I do know: God is for you, He loves you, and He's with you. Even if this year was filled with loss, disappointment, or discouragement, don't lose hope. Our ultimate hope is found in Christ.

As we look toward 2025, remember that Jesus is already in the future. He's gone before us, prepared the way, and promised to never leave or forsake us. No matter what's happening in the world—economically, politically, or socially—Jesus is with us, and because of that, we can step into the new year with confidence and faith.

### **Reflect with Gratitude**

As we wrap up the year, I encourage you to take some time to reflect. I like to grab a pen and paper and make three lists:

1. Gratitude—Thank God for what He's done in your life, your family, and your work.
2. Unanswered Questions—Be honest with God about the things you don't understand.
3. Disappointments—Lay them at the foot of the cross and leave them with Him.

### **Move Forward with Faith**

Don't carry unanswered questions or disappointments into the new year. Trust that He who promised is faithful.

Step into 2025 full of faith, vision, and fire for what's ahead!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine Caine".

Christine Caine  
Propel Women

## Chicken and Broccoli Alfredo

By Betty Moore



½ pkg. linguine or spaghetti (8 oz.)  
2 Tbsp butter  
1 lb. boneless chicken breast – cut-up  
1 can cream of mushroom soup  
½ cup milk  
½ cup grated parmesan cheese  
1 cup fresh or frozen broccoli

Melt butter in a skillet. Add chicken and fry or cook until browned. Stir often. Add soup and stir until mixed well. Add milk, cheese, and broccoli and simmer. Cook linguine according to the package and drain. Mix together with the other ingredients. Ready to eat.

God loves you and made you  
for the pleasure of knowing you.

- Shiela Walsh

## Bits Of Others

We are shaped and we are fashioned  
By the people that we know;  
And from each we borrow something,  
Taking it where we may go.

Often there is no returning,  
For our journeys lead us on –  
Lending to each new encounter  
Bits of others we have known.

By June Masters Bacher  
Submitted by Brenda Angelo

## The Spice of Death

December 17, 2024



*And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds.*

~ John 19:39

Recommended Reading: [Mark 15:23](#)

The Magi gave Jesus gold, signifying His kingship, frankincense, signifying His priesthood, and myrrh, signifying the death He would one day submit to (Matthew 2:11). At the time they gave their gifts to Jesus, did they know He would one day die an unusual death? Did they know the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah dying—for example, Psalm 22? We don't know what they knew, but providentially they gave gifts to Jesus that signified whom He would become: King, Priest, and Savior.

Myrrh was a bitter herb that was used when preparing the body of a deceased person for burial. The apostle John tells us that Nicodemus brought a hundred-pound mixture of myrrh and aloes with which to prepare Jesus' body for burial after the crucifixion. Myrrh had another use—as a sedative, or pain killer. Mark tells us that Jesus was offered a mix of wine and myrrh as He hung on the cross to deaden His pain - “But He did not take it” (Mark 15:23).

Give thanks today that Jesus “endured the cross” (Hebrews 12:2) for your salvation.

Dr. David Jeremiah  
Today's Turning Point  
[davidjeremiah.org](http://davidjeremiah.org)

*The cross shows the seriousness of our sin—  
but it also shows us the immeasurable  
love of God.*

~ Billy Graham

## Marcie's Book Corner

Calling all singles, freshly married couples, and all of you married for decades as well!! 🧑🏻 🧑🏻

Couples pledge to “love and to cherish, till death do us part.” Most of us understand the love part-commitment, putting the other person first, but what does it mean to cherish our spouses?

Author Gary Thomas, in his book entitled **Cherish**, tells us that word can change everything for your marriage. He shows us the difference between love and cherish with scripture. One example is... love thinks about others with selflessness. “...love is not proud, it does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking.” (1 Cor 13:4-5). Cherish thinks about its beloved with praise. “Your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.” (Song of Solomon 2:14) Gary encourages us that learning to cherish our spouse when there is discord, or even when there's a strong love, can take love to an entirely new level.

Having been in a happy, satisfying marriage with my husband for 29 years, I wondered if this was a book that I needed to read, but even the title “**Cherish**” drew me in, I wanted to learn more. After I read it, I found myself admitting that maybe I should reevaluate some of my own actions and reactions in practicing what cherish means in my life.

At the end of each chapter is a review of important points. Also, there are questions for discussion and reflection.

Some interesting chapter descriptions include...

- \*Cherishing means learning to showcase your spouse.
- \*Cherishing is about protecting each other and killing contempt.
- \*Cherishing teaches us to indulge our spouses and thus help heal their spiritual wounds!
- \*Cherishing means being patient with your spouse's sin; “we all stumble in many ways“. James 3:2.
- \*Making it easier for our mates to cherish us!
- \*Biblical power to keep on cherishing - I didn't quit.

The author deals with the good, the bad, and the ugly in a marriage and how to still be able to cherish one another.

He also shares real life stories of couples he counseled that will make you chuckle; some will make you shake your head in disbelief. When Gary and his wife Lisa share their own mistakes in cherishing one another 😊, you realize it might be a little harder than it sounds, but it's definitely worth the effort! I wholeheartedly recommend this book to you to read or to give to someone you love!

Death and life are in the power of the tongue... (Prov 18:21)

Cherish by Gary Thomas; © 2017; Harper Collins publishing.  
Available at your library or bookstore.

Submitted by Marcie Robinson

## For the Kids . . .

**The Most Perfect Snowman**, a book written for ages 4-8.

Psalm 147:16a “He gives us snow like wool...”

This adorable book reminds me of all the things that I love about winter in Ohio... giant falling snowflakes, snowball fights, jumping in snow drifts, cross country skiing, making a snowman, but especially snow angels!

In this book, even a snowman makes a snow angel. Of course, today I would be saying “*help, I made a snow angel, and I can't get up.*” 😊 This story is about a very lonely snowman named “Drift.” He'd been made fast from the first blustery snow of winter, with only two skinny stick arms, a small mouth and eyes made of coal. He didn't look like the other snowmen that wore stylish hats, scarves, and mittens. He especially dreamed of having a pointy orange carrot nose. “If I only had that, I'd be perfect” he thought.

All the other snowmen were much fancier than Drift and would tease him and exclude him from all their fun activities. As he hid in the shadows watching them frolic about, three bundled-up children walked by. They noticed the plain-looking snowman. Drift couldn't believe it as they placed a warm scarf around his neck, a cozy hat on his head, and gave him snuggly mittens. One little girl said “Hmmm, you're still missing something.” Then, reaching into her coat pocket... she pulled

out the pointiest orange carrot nose that Drift had ever seen! As she squashed it into place she said, “now, you’re the *perfect snowman!*” All afternoon Drift played with the children. He had never been so happy! But soon, dark clouds rolled in, and his new friends turned to walk back home. Drift thanked them and waved goodbye. Later that night everything changed, and he was so disappointed. 😞

You’ll have to read the book to find out what happens that turns Drift from *perfect*, into the *MOST perfect* snowman!!! Happy reading!! Let me know if you find the snow angel!!

### **The Most Perfect Snowman,**

Written and illustrated by Chris Britt; © 2016; Harper Collins publishers.

Available at your local library!



### **By the Light of Fireflies...**

This is a fiction novel, based on the real Revolutionary War heroin Sybil Luddington, written by Jenni L. Walsh. It’s perfect for 3rd-5th grade readers, not too long, not too short. As Goldilocks said, “this is just right.”

Those of you that have read previous book reviews of mine know that I love fireflies, or as I called them when I was young, “lightning bugs.” So, when I saw the book cover with fireflies and a girl riding a galloping horse, I was compelled to pick it up! I’m so glad I did! It wasn’t a disappointment. The author added the fireflies because she has always found them to be enchanting creatures, perfect for enchanting stories. I agree!

I found out on the very first page that this story is about so much more than fireflies! This book is filled with action, intrigue, danger, spying and allegiance to opposing forces... England and the new American colonies! If you get bogged down by history, this book will make it come to life. Set in the late 1700s, you can’t help but fall in love with Sybil and cheer her on as she fights to do what’s right to help her father, family and country. If you love history, you will read through this book a couple times to make sure you’ve captured every detail!! Happy reading!

Another book by the same author I also liked entitled **Operation: Happy**, is a World War II story of courage, resilience, and an unbreakable bond between Jody and a dog named Happy.

Ecclesiastes 3:7-8 "A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace".



By the Light of Fireflies

©2021; Jenni L. Walsh;

Wyatt-McKenzie publishing.

Available at your local library, bookstore, or on her website: [jennilwalsh.com](http://jennilwalsh.com).

Submitted by Marcie Robinson

*Instead of a gem or a flower, cast the gift of a lovely thought into the heart of a friend.*

~George MacDonald

### **Golden Corn Casserole**

By Tammy Trowbridge



3 eggs

1 carton (8 oz.) french onion dip

¼ cup butter, softened

1 pkg (8 ½ oz.) corn bread/muffin mix

½ tsp salt

½ tsp pepper

1 can (15 ¼ oz.) whole kernel corn, drained

1 can (14 ¾ oz.) cream style corn

In a large bowl, beat the eggs, add French onion dip, butter, corn bread mix, salt and pepper until combined. Stir in the corn. Pour into a greased 11 in. x 7 in. baking dish. Bake, uncovered at 350 degrees for 35 – 40 minutes or until edges are lightly browned and pulled away from the sides of the dish.



## A Good Friend

A friend passed by and waved today,  
And smiled as she drove her way.  
I thought about her all day long –  
Her buoyancy and cheerful song.  
She left me with a joyful heart  
And gave my day a grander start;  
Though not a word was evidenced,  
Her influence and radiance  
Have buoyed me until day's end;  
And I thank God for such a friend.

By Maxine Clark  
Submitted by Brenda Angelo

## A Complete Restoration

*And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power.*

~Ephesians 1:19

God loves to decorate. God has to decorate. Let him live long enough in a heart, and that heart will begin to change. Portraits of hurt will be replaced by landscapes of grace. Walls of anger will be demolished and shaky foundations restored. God can no more leave a life unchanged than a mother can leave her child's tear untouched. . .

This might explain some of the discomfort in your life. Remodeling of the heart is not always pleasant. We don't object when the Carpenter adds a few shelves, but he's been known to gut the entire west wing. He has such high aspirations for you. God envisions a complete restoration. He won't stop until he is finished. . . He wants you to be just like Jesus.

Max Lucado  
Grace for the Moment



## Choppy Water

Throughout history, people have become followers of Jesus Christ by observing how people of faith handle conflict. Even today, there are reports of terrorist who turned to Christ because of the courage and love they observed in the Christians they persecuted.

The confidence you have in God, the way you overcome your fears, the way you forgive those who act against you – all of these things speak to your beliefs and values.

In every difficult circumstance, God has promised to stand beside those who trust him. With him by your side, you are already victorious now and in the greater life to come.

Still Moments in the Presence of God  
Bethany House Publishers

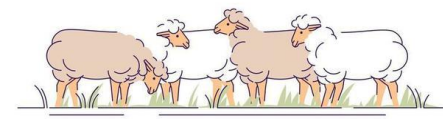
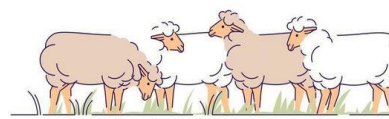
*For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake.*

~Philippians 1:29

## The Lord is My Shepherd

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible, Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the verse. Little Rick was excited about the task, but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line.

On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."



## Songs We Love

With the Christmas season fast approaching, I began looking over what song I was going to write about. I thought about several old Christmas hymns but decided on a “newer” one—and one of my particular favorites- - “Mary, Did You Know?”.

Mark Lowry wrote the lyrics to this song. He was born in 1958 to Charles and Bev Lowry and grew up in Houston, Texas. His mother was also a song writer and singer and apparently Mark inherited her talents. You may remember Mark for his comedy and singing with the Gaither Vocal Band.

Lowry had been asked to write something for a Christmas concert at Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg Virginia, then led by Jerry Falwell. He wrote the lyrics of “Mary, Did You Know?” in 1984 and used it in the Christmas program. Lowry used questions he had with his mother about Jesus and Mary, basically what it was like to raise the Son of God. These discussions with his mother led to forming the basis of the song. It took seven more years for him to find someone to write the music. While on tour with the Gaithers, he showed the lyrics to Buddy Greene, who also played with the Gaithers. Buddy spent a day listening to Christmas carols written in minor keys, like “What Child is This” and “We Three Kings” before writing the melody for “Mary, Did You Know?”. Greene thought the music in a minor key would be beautiful for this song. This song was first recorded by Christian singer Michael English, and later by several big names in the music business such as Dolly Parton and Carrie Underwood.

Even though the title is rhetorical, Mary did know several things. She knew she had found favor with God, that she would bear a son and name Him Jesus, the Son of God, and that His birth was the result of the Holy Spirit.

Mark, who has never been married, treats his songs as his children. He says “Mary, Did You Know” has grown a life of its own and he hopes it will point people to the story of the baby Jesus and what His arrival and life means. Hopefully it will lead people to Luke 1 to find out what Mary knew.

Submitted by Jane Thompson

## Mary, Did You Know?

Mary, did you know  
That your baby boy will one day walk on water?  
Mary, did you know  
That your baby boy will save our sons and daughters?  
Did you know  
That your baby boy has come to make you new?  
This child that you've delivered  
Will soon deliver you

Mary, did you know  
That your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?  
Mary, did you know  
That your baby boy will calm a storm with His hand?  
Did you know  
That your baby boy has walked where angels trod?  
And when you kiss your little baby  
You've kissed the face of God

Mary, did you know?  
The blind will see  
The deaf will hear  
And the dead will live again  
The lame will leap  
The dumb will speak  
The praises of the Lamb



## Moses and the Red Sea

Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School, “Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then, he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved.” “Now Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?” his mother asked. “Well, no, Mom. But, if I told it the way the teacher did, you’d never believe it!”

The following devotional is a good suggestion for a New Year's resolution! Submitted by Marcie Robinson.

### **Imparting Gifts**

*"For I want very much to see you, so I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you."* ~Romans 1:11

Your life affects those you have contact with, whether you intend it or not. It may be a positive experience for them or a negative one, but your life will affect others.

Paul wanted to leave a spiritual blessing with other believers. He had heard of the Christians in Rome, and he longed to go to them to build them up in their faith. Paul always mentioned the Roman believers in his prayers, even though he had never met them (Rom. 1:10). While he waited for an opportunity to visit Rome, Paul wrote a letter to the church. His letter to the Romans is one of the most cherished and challenging books in the New Testament.

We should share Paul's goal of leaving a spiritual blessing with everyone around us. We have opportunities to strengthen our parents, our children, our friends, our coworkers, and our fellow Christians. Spiritual blessings are not given haphazardly, but by choice. Our self-centeredness may cause us only to seek blessings from others rather than to impart them. Only when we are determined to focus on giving a blessing rather than receiving a blessing will we have the quality of ministry to others that God gave to Paul.

You may not realize it, but your life has the potential to bless everyone you encounter. Are others strengthened and encouraged in their faith because of their relationship with you? Do you usually look at others in terms of what they can do for you or in terms of how you can encourage them? As you go about your day, strive to be a positive influence on everyone you encounter!

*If we walk with Him closely today, we will be in the center of His will tomorrow.* Henry Blackaby

Experiencing God: Day by Day Devotional; Henry and Richard Blackaby; © 2022; B & H publishing group; Dec 17

### **Facts It To Me**

The covering for the tabernacle was made out of ram skins and sea cow hides.  
~Exodus 36:19

Joseph's brothers didn't sell him directly to the Egyptians. They sold him to some Midianites who sold him to Potiphar in Egypt.  
~Genesis 38:36

When Elisha learned that Jericho had bad water, he made it better by tossing in about a bowl of salt water.  
~2 Kings 2:21

People weren't given permission to eat meat until after the Flood.  
~Genesis 9:3

The Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts were both written to somebody named Theophilus.

Once Ezekiel was sitting in his house when a big hand picked him up by the hair of his head and took him somewhere between heaven and earth.  
~Ezekiel 8:3

For years the Israelites burned incense to the bronze snake that Moses made, until Hezekiah broke it up.  
~2 Kings 18:4

King Saul's wife was named Ahinoam.  
~1 Samuel 14:50

The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.  
~Acts 11:26

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

## Refuge

*Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance.*

~Psalm 32:7

Sometimes fear drives people into situations where they would under any other circumstance never find themselves. It could be something big and life changing or something as simple as finding a way out of the rain.

Yea ago my rescued German shepherd/husky mix, Gretchen found herself in just that sort of situation. Before being brought into the shelter she was rescued from, she was running wild with a pack of dogs. I don't know what her life was like before that, but I know she was a follower. She would attach herself to another dog or person and do what they did. That was how she behaved at my house. She was never an alpha dog. After a while with me where she was made to feel secure and loved, her own personality began to show itself. She became vocal when she wanted something and was okay spending time alone, though she was always buddies with my other dog, Sadie. Sadie taught her the rules of the house and encouraged her when she was afraid - loud noises being her worst fear. She and Sadie would even partner up to open the screen door to come back into the house on their own if I wasn't there when they were ready to return.

One day I left to run to the grocery store. I thought both dogs were in the house. I saw Sadie and assumed that Gretchen was there also. Gretchen liked to take one of her stuffed animal "babies" with her and lay under the deck with it where she could people watch. She spent a lot of time doing that, and that's exactly what she was doing that day when I left on my errand. Unfortunately, it began to rain while I was gone and getting caught in the rain was another thing that Gretchen didn't like. She must have tried the main door to see if she could get in that way, but no one answered of course. So, she went to the door leading into the mud room by the kitchen door. The previous owner did some very shoddy handy man jobs on my house and Gretchen discovered yet another one. He had put an interior hollow door up in place of a solid exterior door. Gretchen's frantic scratching to get in

let her push her way in through the door. Now she was out of the rain but trapped because the way the door was pushed in wouldn't allow her out again. Not that she wanted to at that point because she was now out of the rain. But when I got home with the groceries, the first thing I noticed was Gretchen wasn't with Sadie to greet me. The next was the barking. I followed the sound and found her. She was so very happy to see me when I released her from being trapped in that mud room.

Over our lifetime we will from time to time find ourselves in situations financially, emotionally, or even physically that we will stress over and sometimes feel trapped where we just don't know where to turn to for help. It's just a part of living that situations both big and small will occur from time to time. God never promised us a carefree life. He did say, "These things have I spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33) So there will be trials and tribulations but know that He is with us always. How you handle those situations will display your faith and where your values lie. We should be in prayer and communication always but when the hard times come, and they will, take it to the Lord – cast all your cares and fears on Him. ("Cast all your care upon him; for he careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7) Allow the time needed for the Lord to work in His time and you will see things turn around for your good. He can release you from the fear, the stress and the worry over the big things and the small things. He can change those stress lines into smile lines! He can set you free.

LeuAnna Taylor

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though  
the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters  
thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the  
swelling thereof.*

~Psalm 46:1-3