Staying Connected and Moving Forward

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Is there a special place you like to hang out? A place that gives you a sense of peace, comfort, and joy?
The past few months, I have been “hanging out” in Psalm 23. It was one of the first scriptures I memorized when I was in my second grade Sunday School class at FUMC, Pawnee, Oklahoma. “The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want” still rings true for me today.

In thinking about the sheep referred to in Psalm 23, I did some research. Most people think that sheep are not very smart, but research shows they are surprisingly intelligent with impressive memory and recognition skills. They build friendships, stick up for one another in fights and feel sad when their friends are sent away... for someone’s dinner. They know the person who cares for them, leads them to a place to eat good food and drink clear, refreshing water. Their shepherd protects them from their enemies. The sheep trust their shepherd.

Just as the good shepherd cares for his sheep, so does Jesus care for you and me. If we are His and we follow him, here are His promises:

1. “We shall not want or lack for anything.” Anything means just what it says... all things.
2. “He makes us to lie down in green pastures.” He knows we need to feed our spirits with the right food, so as we read His Word He will quicken a scripture that will be just what we need for that day.
3. “He will lead us beside still waters.” Sheep are afraid of fast running water so the shepherd knew places where the water was still. Jesus does the same for us. In the fast paced world we live in, He will take us to a place of rest.
4. “He restores our souls.” There is a rest for the children of God. In that place of rest, our souls (mind, will and emotions) will become restored with calm and peace only He gives.

These first lines of the Psalm 23 will draw us to read more about what the good Shepherd has for us.

“He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.
You, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me, Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

We in the body of Christ (His sheep) are moving into a new place of relationship and trust with Jesus. Old things are being passed away and the new in Christ is coming forth. Lead us Jesus!

Love to my fellow sheep,
Judy

Judy Graham
President, Celebration Women’s Ministry, Inc.
president@celebrationministries.org
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What is God teaching us in this season?

Judy Graham, President
He is teaching me to live in the moment and enjoy every day as it unfolds. Having time to walk in the neighborhood, to read articles that have stacked up and realize that I can live without nail polish. The importance of connecting and socializing with friends, family and Celebration sisters through Zoom has been a big help in learning new ways to communicate.

Ann Sparks, Treasurer
As a professional consultant I lived by the saying “help is defined by the recipient” and looked to other people’s visions to define my service. I love working with people, collaborating. Now I am learning to hear Him in a new way. He seems to be assigning projects to me Himself. He wants to collaborate with me more directly.

Kim Bell, VP of Leadership
Like anyone else, my immediate response to the uncertainty was fear. I felt the temptation to turn inward and buffer my family against the uncertainties. But something has happened as I’ve prayed and turned my eyes to Jesus; I’ve found the motivation to ask my neighbors how they are doing, how I may help them at this time of need, and share His love.

Margie Filer, Secretary
The Lord has taught me that I am able to adapt to new situations. I can still learn new things (creating demonstration videos to teach my high school students and using Zoom and Conference Calls for video chats with co-workers, Celebration Sisters, and students). He has also taught me to be careful in the writing of emails so that I am not misunderstood when working with others. And probably the most important thing he has taught me is when this is over, I need to be sure I am making time to work on my relationships with my family.

Christi Gardner, VP of Worship
Of all the things the Lord is teaching me in this season, the one that stands out the most is to keep my eyes fixed on Jesus. Don’t look to the right or to the left but keep my focus on the One who calms the storm!

Beth Domingue, VP of Prayer
God is showing me that His Word is fresh and new in every season. He’s helping me to let go of past hurts that I’ve held onto for a long time—to forgive and move on. His Perfect Love casts out all fear! I’m learning to celebrate TODAY. It is a GIFT!

Cindy Masterson, Registrar
God has been teaching me to wait on Him. Not to rush through prayer but to wait… Also he has been teaching me that I can do things that I didn’t think I could do!

Sheila Davis, VP of Conference
My life is always a whirlwind of activity and schedules. God is teaching me that I can see and hear Him more when I slow down.
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Ladies, I am extending this special invitation for all women and their friends to have a day with Nicole Kuhl! Nicole was scheduled to share a message with us in April; however, God had other plans. Now is the time! Nicole is a lover of God and lover of people. She believes that our walk with Christ can be fully engaging and fully fun. We get to BE ABOUT OUR Father’s business WITH HIM, NOT just FOR HIM. One of her favorite things to do is EQUIP God’s children for the work of ministry.

Sisters, the Holy Spirit has given each of you a special gift for building up the church. Are you spiritually mature, exercising the gifts God has given you? If you know what your gifts are, are you looking for opportunities to serve? If you do not know, ask God to show you. Then, as you begin to recognize your special area of service, use your gifts to strengthen and encourage each other. As the body of Christ, we can accomplish more together than we would dream possible working by ourselves. We encourage you to join us on August 1 and allow Christ the opportunity to unlock the treasures of your heart. Working together, we can express the fullness of Christ!

Our time together will be unlocking
1) Your ability to receive His oasis of Love, and
2) Your unlocking of potential, from the place of security and understanding.

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Celebration Women’s Ministry Equipping Celebration National Board Presentation of Celebration Ministries
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch and Fellowship
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Keys 2 a Daughter’s Heart Message with Nicole Kuhl

Many blessings and much love,
Kim Bell
VP of Leadership

11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. 
Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV)
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How Beautiful
“How beautiful when humble hearts give the fruit of pure lives so that others may live
How beautiful, how beautiful is the Body of Christ”
-Twila Paris

Celebration Women on the “Frontlines” of the Pandemic
you are loved and appreciated for all the ways you are responding to the overwhelming needs of others during this season.
Thank you for serving others with the love and compassion of JESUS!

Honorees:
Bobbie Ledbetter by Trinity Chapter
Barbara Vincent by Kim Bell
Barbara Vincent, Sheila Davis, Kim Dugas, and Laurie Faz by Sharon Wright
Thank you to Winnie Sandel for 20 years of leadership in the Huntsville, Texas, chapter!
Support Celebration Women’s Ministry at Smile.Amazon.com!
Connect your account to Celebration:
VISIT https://smile.amazon.com/ch/81-0624392

CELEBRATION CALENDAR

JUNE
13 Ninety-Six, SC Meeting
Cambridge UMC
Speaker: Tami Spate

JULY
14-16 Jurisdictional Conference
Celebration Prayer Room
The Woodlands
14 Trinity Chapter Meeting
Trinity First UMC
6-8 p.m.
Contact: Yvonne Hastings
936-828-7582
18 Nederland Chapter Event
Wesley UMC
9:30-11 a.m.
Speaker: Sheila Davis
Contact: Carolyn Newsom
carolynsdnew@gmail.com

AUGUST
1 Keys 2 a Daughter’s Heart
Celebration Equipping Event
Speaker: Nicole Kuhl
Houston
Contact: Kim Bell
409-540-3681
8 Ninety-Six, SC Meeting
St. Paul’s UMC
Speaker: Eugenia Best
29 Appomattox, VA Meeting
Day in the Park (outside)
6-8 p.m., Dinner Served
Testimonies
Contact: Paula Martin
seamsalot@hotmail.com

SEPTEMBER
17 Huntsville, TX
Chapter Event
4 p.m.
Community Life Center
wjsandel@yahoo.com

Send Chapter news and events to News@CelebrationMinistries.org

• Refer friends to subscribe to our news by contacting
  News@CelebrationMinistries.org

• To receive “Sounding the Trumpet” (Chapter and National prayers),
  email Julie Puckett at jbpbristol@gmail.com

• To make a donation or payment, contact
  Treasurer@CelebrationMinistries.org

www.CelebrationMinistries.org

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