Thankful for Open Hearts

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Celebration Women’s Ministry Newsletter | Issue 111 | Fall 2020
Just as we check the oil in our cars with a dipstick, we occasionally need a heart check. In Psalm 139:23, the psalmist says “Search me thoroughly, O God and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there is any wicked or hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.” In all reality God already knows what is in our hearts but He wants us to do an honest examination of ourselves so we will know ourselves. To be open to the Holy Spirit’s searching of our hearts, is to be transparent and to be willing to change. Being “real” is a terminology used today. Being “real” in our old nature is harmful. However, being “real” in Jesus means we have died to self and bring life to others.

A few years ago, I spoke at a Conference on this very subject. I had made two hearts to explain the message. One heart was black and made of a hard material. It made a loud noise when tapped on the microphone. The other heart was made of red felt material filled with a soft lining. It didn’t make any noise when touching a surface. It was soft and pliable. It represented a spiritual heart open to the leading of Jesus’ Holy Spirit.

What a great example for us today. The harder our hearts are, the louder we express ourselves about “our” views. We are hoping to make ourselves be approved and accepted by others without a concern about what the Lord’s will might be. We are searching in all the wrong places but God is waiting!

When the Holy Spirit convicts us and we repent, peace and joy will return. Our hardened hearts will become healed and communication with the Father will be restored. Love will fill us and we will be a vessel for the life giving water to flow out of us to bless others. People need the Lord and He wants to use us to represent Jesus in this world.

Lord, search our hearts, test us and know our anxious thoughts. See if there is any wicked, hurtful way in us and lead us in the everlasting way. Amen.

With love,

Judy
Rev. Dr. Madeline Carrasco Henners

is a United Methodist elder and has served as a pastor in the Rio Texas Annual Conference area for over ten years. Since its inception, she has been part of the Wesleyan Covenant Association and serves as secretary. In July of 2019 she started a new position at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH, as Director of Contextual Ministries (also known as spiritual formation). She has greatly enjoyed her first year! She recently authored a 30-day devotional challenge as part of her doctoral project, “Ascending the Mountain,” which guides participants into a deeper relationship with God and increased ability to hear God’s voice. “Ascending the Mountain” is available on Amazon.

Madeline’s passion is helping people discover the amazing love God has for them and the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit, offered to all God’s children. She desires to continue growing in her ability to hear God’s voice, especially as it helps others come to Christ.

As a native Texan, Madeline grew up mostly in the Rio Grande Valley. In 2007, she married her husband, David, who was born and raised in Liverpool, England. An architect by trade, David is an amazing ministry and prayer partner. Together, they seek to serve the Lord with all that they are.

Rev. Stephanie Greenwald

comes from a family of Methodist ministers and felt the call to serve at age 12. Known for her empathy and compassion, she is gifted in working with those in need, helping them transform from being broken to whole by growing in their faith. Forming deep and meaningful relationships is part of her life’s calling.

She serves as Associate Pastor at St. Andrew’s Community United Methodist Church. She also serves on the executive council for the Wesleyan Covenant Association of Oklahoma and is on the executive board of Light Up the Dark, a nonprofit helping people struggling with addiction or abuse.

Her husband, Rev. Phil Greenwald, is the Executive Pastor of Administration at St. Luke’s United Methodist Church, and together they have two teenage daughters, Kalli and Tori. The Greenwald family enjoys hiking in Colorado, eating barbeque, hosting family karaoke nights and spending time with their two shih tzus, Chewy and Millie. Rev. Stephanie Greenwald is a self-described shoe-a-holic and is a certified kujutsu instructor and seventh-degree black belt.

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed…
– 2 Corinthians 3:18

Coming this April 23-25:

Unveiled

Celebration National Conference 2021
Sisters, we have a way maker in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! On August 1st, we had our very first virtual Equipping Event that only our Lord could orchestrate. We prayed that God would guide our efforts to ensure the focus was on Him and what He wanted us to do. Our FAITH overpowered the hint of fear and our gracious Lord led the way. All glory goes to God for the breakthrough of new ways to encourage, connect and equip women as we continue to serve one another in our communities, in our nation, and beyond!

Our time together offered ways to unlock and receive the Love only Jesus Christ will provide. The morning session offered the Celebration Women’s Ministry equipping event that helped us to recognize our special gifts and how to prayerfully strengthen those gifts to encourage each other. The afternoon session offered a beautiful message from Nicole Kuhl where we were given the keys to unlock the fullness of Christ in our life. To say the least, it was a powerful day!

The wonderful news is the precious promises may continue to be shared in seasons to come as the messages were videoed and are available on our website. It is the gift that continues to give! We pray that you explore how God “provided something better for us” in the person of Jesus Christ (Heb. 11:40).

Enjoy the moments of the day caught on camera and received in the spirit. We encourage you to share your moments with us as you access the messages on our website and receive all that God has promised you!

Glory, Grace...... Go!

https://celebrationministries.org

Kim Bell, VP of Leadership

Jesus knows our heart, our fear, and in His time He gives what we need. Thank you for the reminder that I am loved by both my Fathers and the opportunity to share this.

LINKS TO THE VIDEOS:
https://youtu.be/xUJpU8IRp4c - Morning Session
https://youtu.be/eYXulrufpPA - Afternoon Speaker Session
Of course God knew what I needed to hear! Nicole’s message and fellowship with ladies was perfect!!

As a daughter in Christ, I have no shame, no guilt. I AM FREE!

God spoke to me today - You are perfect. You are loved. You are my child. You are beautiful. You have something to offer.

I forgave my natural father for abandonment and lack of affirmation. God loves me and I am enough!

God delights in me no matter what I do. It is who I am in Christ that matters.
Celebration honors Winnie Sandel, the founding president of the Huntsville Chapter in Huntsville, Texas.

Huntsville FUMC celebrated their 20th Birthday in January 2020.

Through the years Winnie has led spiritually by example to the Huntsville Chapter and board. She is currently serving as Chapter President. Through the years Winnie has also served at Celebration’s national level, as well, serving as a district representative, prayer ministry and hosting many retreats for our national board.

Winnie’s commitment begins with a passion for the Lord, his Kingdom, and the power of the Holy Spirit. Her leadership exemplifies what it means to live your life for God. We are so thankful for the vision God gave Winnie for Celebration and all the women’s lives she continues to nurture in their faith journey. Here are a few testimonies from the Huntsville Chapter:

Powerful prayer warrior who leads by example. –Jennifer King

Winnie walks the walk with Jesus! –Trish Roberts

Woman of God, example of Christ in word and deed, sharer of God’s bounty, Winnie is my faithful friend and sister in Christ. –Carol Hayes Skidmore

My mom, Winnie, is a woman of faith that is inspiring to me and many others; and her leadership is constant, dependable and beyond in leading others to Christ! –Lynn Swann

A genuine woman of God and fun friend. –Dawn Stoker

What I admire most about my mom and her Christian leadership is her commitment to the Lord and determination to follow through with all that He has called her to do for His kingdom! –Laura Gilbreath

Her spirituality, faithfulness to God and years of dedicated commitment to God’s work through Celebration. –Dorothy Kyle

Winnie is a woman who lives out the true testimony of what she believes. –Patricia Fisher

Winnie’s obedient, Holy Spirit led leadership and mighty prayer warrior heart. –Chris Cunningham

With God’s help, there’s no hurdle she can’t jump, no challenge she can’t overcome, no limit to her love of God, and that is how Winnie lives and leads. –Latrelle Lindon

NEW!

Salvation Bible Study

Written by Cindy Masterson

Purchase on eStore at www.celebrationministries.org

$10 - includes shipping & handling
Giving from a Thankful Heart

Looking back at this crazy year from the perspective of a thankful heart I see so much goodness and grace rising above the mire. I don’t know about all of you, but I find that when I offer Him a tangible, practical expression of my gratitude it solidifies that thankfulness in my heart and spirit. It makes it so much easier to continue to view things from above the clouds, from His perspective. Perhaps that is the reason I migrate to a financial position in most of the ministries I serve. Perhaps the assignment on me is to continue to express the value of using tithes and offerings as a major part of my worship, of my thanksgiving to a Good, Good Father.

So might I encourage all of you, my friends, when the year is ending, to look back with a thankful heart at all of His goodness and mercy and consider how you might make a special, tangible offering of thanks to Him through Celebration Women’s Ministry. May such a gift fill your view of this past year with memories of His greatness.

Celebrate Him with Celebration Ministries!
Ann Sparks

Donate to Celebration Women’s Ministry at
www.celebrationministries.org
or P.O. Box 4187
Bryan, TX 77805-4187

Highlighting Appomattox, VA

Photos from our August 29 Event

Covid can not keep us down

We gather together
**CELEBRATION CALENDAR**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>OCTOBER</th>
<th>NOVEMBER</th>
<th>DECEMBER</th>
<th>JANUARY 2021</th>
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| 10 Ninety-Six, SC  
Chapter Meeting  
St. Paul UMC  
9:30 a.m.  
Speaker: Eugenia Best |
| 13 Trinity, TX Chapter Meeting  
6-8 p.m.  
Speaker: TBN  
Contact: Yvonne Hastings  
936-828-7582 |
| 14 Ninety-Six, SC  
Chapter Meeting  
Cambridge UMC  
9:30 a.m. |
| 7 Ninety-Six, SC  
Chapter Meeting  
Cambridge UMC  
6 p.m. |
| 16 Eureka, WI  
Chapter Meeting  
9 a.m.  
Speaker: Tammy Borden  
Contact: Kathy  
920-379-8406 |

September 14–November 23, 2020
*Celebration “Campfire” Prayer Movement*

**Support Celebration Women’s Ministry at Smile.Amazon.com!**

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VISIT https://smile.amazon.com/ch/81-0624392

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