

April 2019

THE SPICE

A taste of what's happening for women.

Dead Like Lazarus by Kristi Wile

I was recently reminded of my own place in the story of Lazarus in John 11. We have put ourselves in Mary's and Martha's shoes, not only thinking of whether we are task- or people-oriented, but here in the grief of losing their brother and the One who could have healed him had not come. Perhaps we've identified with the disciples who didn't fully grasp exactly who Jesus is and the extent of his power, nor did they understand how He could take the risk of returning to a place where people plotted to murder Him. Or maybe we see ourselves in the crowd of mourners and spectators just watching and waiting to see if He is worth believing in.

But I have realized that I was dead like Lazarus. We all are. This is where we start. Spiritually dead. There's no way around that and we must understand the extent of that death and how we aren't in any position to save ourselves. Ephesians 2:1 tells us *As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sin.* Later in verses 4-5, we read *But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions.* (Why didn't Paul end that verse with an exclamation point?!!)

We were dead like Lazarus. And Jesus came to the sealed tomb of our deadness and rolled the stone away by beginning to reveal his truth to us. At the point when we were ready, He called our name! And we came alive and walked out of that tomb!

Did you notice that Lazarus wasn't seeking Jesus out? Do you see that he could never have found his way back out of that grave? He was completely helpless in his dead state. The same is true of you and me. We often credit ourselves with coming to Christ. Know this... we would never come to Him if He didn't call us out of our darkness.

Just like Lazarus, we come alive, but are still covered in our burial clothes. We notice in John's account that Jesus had to tell those standing by to remove the grave clothes and let Lazarus go. This reminds me that even after Jesus opened by spiritual eyes to see, I still had grave clothes on—the old hurts, habits, and hang-ups that I felt comfortable in. I needed help to get those old garments off. I needed discipling.

This Easter season let's be reminded of how helpless we were before Jesus called our name. Our desire to come to Him was a response to his wooing us; to his revealing of our need for Him. And once out of the grave, we still need to be discipled and taught how to live a life worthy of our calling. Let's praise his glorious Name for what He has done!

*Women's Ministry Mission Statement:
Encouraging women to connect in
deeper, genuine relationships
both with each other
and with Jesus Christ*



THE WORD

"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

— John 11:25-26

Think About It

Have you considered that coming to Jesus wasn't your idea?

How does it change your perspective to know it was God's Spirit who drew you to the place where you desired to know Him?

Does your heart want to praise Him forevermore when you see that you were once dead in your sins, but now are alive in Christ?

Do you need to seek out discipleship? Or know someone who needs to be discipled? Seek that person out. God will show you what to do. Pray for his guidance.

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Making Connections

Meet **Brianna Kauffman**. Brianna is the oldest daughter of Steve and Lisa Kauffman of our congregation.

A little bit about myself, I am currently in my second year of employment at Baum, Smith & Clemens which is an accounting firm in Harleysville. I graduated with my bachelor's degree in Accounting from EMU and then went on to get my master's degree from James Madison University which is also in Harrisonburg, VA. I just recently moved out of my parent's house and I am living in an apartment in Souderton.

Currently I find myself in a transition point in my life. Up until this point, I have spent my time in school and even after graduating I spent the next year studying for the CPA exam. Now that I am finally past that part of my life, I am adjusting to working full time and living on my own. I am excited to see what God holds in store for me in this new stage. Another transition has been moving back to PA and getting reconnected with a church. During my time in Virginia, I attended a few different churches but never really found a place that I got fully connected to. Growing up at Franconia, it was easy to stay connected with youth group and bible studies, but I found it difficult to really get plugged in somewhere with all the back and forth during college. Now that I am back home, I am looking forward to having a place to grow in my faith.

My choice to become an accountant started when I took my first accounting class in high school. I always knew I wanted to do something with numbers but up until that point I wasn't sure what career path that would take me. While it took a lot of hard work and studying, I found that this was the right fit for me. I enjoy the challenge and the satisfaction that comes from helping clients. I also enjoy the opportunities to work together as a team. I think the biggest challenge for me is the long hours during the winter. With working so many hours I don't have as much time to build relationships with the people in my life and leaves me with less time to work on my relationship with God (although I may be biased right now, as I am currently finishing up tax season). I am looking forward to having some time to build deeper relationships once tax season is over.

One of my favorite scripture verses is James 1:2-3. "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." This verse reminds me that no matter what I am facing, no matter how big or small the challenge is, God is with me and will help me persevere.



Brianna (left) and her sister, Janae.

What's Happening for Women

Calvary Church, Souderton, is hosting the **Priscilla Shirer Simulcast** on **Saturday, April 6th**, from 10 am to 5:30 pm. Tickets are \$25 and that includes lunch. You may go to <https://www.calvary-church.com/news> in order to register and buy tickets. This is a great occasion to spend a day with other Believers, participate in wonderful worship, and listen to awesome teaching from God's Word. Grab a girlfriend and go!

Attention Mothers of Preschoolers:

Kathy Wenger's home is open to you on **Thursday, April 18th, 6:30-8:30 pm.**

You may come and go when it suits you best. If you come once, you'll want to come again! (Infants are welcome.) Please let Kathy know if you can come even if it's last minute!

Email mkwenger@comcast.net or Text 717-519-7180.

Address: 8 Rosy Ridge Court, Telford.

Ladies Bible Study Opportunity

"Love Walked Among Us, Part 2" is a discussion group on the life of Jesus. This group will meet weekly for 6 weeks, beginning April 9th, from 7-9 pm. Led by Doris Diener, the group will meet in her home. No need to purchase the book and you need not have attended part 1 last fall. Bring your Bible and a notebook/journal.

Please let either Doris or Kristi know if you are interested in attending.

Save the Date:

Comforter Blitz

has been scheduled for June 25 & 26!

**Project of the Month:
Bar Soap (Dove for Infant Kits)**

Place your donations in the basket outside the library

If you are not a part of our social media connections, let us know! Be inspired and encouraged daily through our Facebook community "Franconia's Fragrance & Spice" or in the email group "Non-Facebook Friends." Stay connected!!



April

A Taste of What's
Happening for Women

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Prayer Shawls 7-8:30 pm (weekly)		Armor of God 9-10:30am		Priscilla Shirer Simulcast
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		Sewing Circle 9-3 Love Walked Among Us, 7pm		Armor of God 9-10:30am		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		Love Walked Among Us, 7pm		Armor of God 9-10:30am Mothers of Preschoolers 6:30-8:30 pm	Good Friday Service 7 pm	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Easter Sunrise Service 6:30 am Morning Service 10:15 am		Knotting Comforters 9-3 Love Walked Among Us, 7pm				
28	29	30				
		Love Walked Among Us, 7pm				

Contact for more information

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