

August 2018



THE SPICE

A taste of what's happening for women.

Hindsight by Kristi Wile

Good times. Well, now that we look back, we can say that. When we were in it, we would not have labeled those times with the word *good*. We were talking and laughing about some of the antics our boys did as teenagers and how much they pushed (and crossed) their boundaries. Upon review of one incident, I reminded my youngest how angry he was with me. He quickly sobered and said, “Oh, I get it now, mom.”

Isn't that how we are with God? Days, months, or years after a trying time, we begin to recognize His Fingerprints. Why is it so difficult for us to recognize when God is leading and guiding us *while it's happening*? Hindsight is always 20/20, or so they say. It's much easier to look back and see clearly.

Recently had a conversation with someone who is going through a very difficult time. Her disillusionment starts with the question, “But didn't God lead me here?” It's easy for me to nod my head with a firm *Yes*, but her view is obstructed by the struggles and the pain. I am confident that in years to come she will clearly see how God used these trials to make her more like Jesus. In the meantime, I continue to encourage her to trust her Heavenly Father in all things.

But I must wonder why we don't see his gentle Hand of leading *in the process*? Is it because we're looking at the wrong thing? Are we focused on our plans gone wrong? Or the pain of that rejection, or the sorrow of that devastating news? Are we so angry or offended or just simply numb to the thought that God knew things would turn out this way and yet He still allowed it?

Hindsight is good and I'm grateful for it. I can indeed look back and see where God moved and led and guided and provided. But my heart longs to see His Hand in the *now*. In today's struggles. I can often see His workings in another's life, but can I see them in mine? What is my heart focused on? Do I truly believe that God is good in all things? No matter what I must walk through? Do you?

What will it take to change our hindsight into foresight? When we forge ahead through the mess of everyday difficulties, are we looking up? Let's encourage each other to see God *in the now, in the everyday, in the trials, in the pain*. After all, He is making us more like Himself.

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



THE WORD

“Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.” — **Habbakkuk 3:17-18**

Think About It

Three young men who faced a fiery furnace recognized God's presence in the moment. They trusted Him though they might have perished. Jesus met them in the fire—in the moment. How sad if they had waited for hindsight to recognize that He had been with them!

(See Daniel 3)

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Making Connections

Women's Ministry Leadership

I'd like to take this opportunity to explain a change in the leadership of the Women's Ministry here at Franconia. As you may know, we've had some additions to the ministry team recently: Carol Landis, Ruth Ann Kulp, and Janet Crawford have all come on board and we are excited to have them.

Along with the discernment of the Community Life Ministry Team who gives oversight to this ministry, we discovered that we really needed a *Visionary Team* within the whole team. Carol and Ruth Ann have joined Women's Ministry as part of the Visionary Team.

The other critical part of the Women's Ministry Team is the *Implementation Team* who will be more of the hands and feet of event planning and creative thinking to make this ministry appeal to women of all ages. Janet Crawford recently joined the Implementation Team along with Gail Reinford, Janet Derstine, and Steph Weidemoyer.

After much prayer and discussion, and with the approval of the Community Life MT, the coordinator position will now include 3 persons. Carol, Ruth Ann and I will now lead the Women's Ministry as co-coordinators. Already I have noted such wonderful benefits of sharing this role with these 2 women.

I want to give Carol and Ruth Ann an opportunity to share:

Carol Landis: *In a conversation with Kristi, as she shared a need for additional persons on the women's ministry team and asked if I would be willing to join the team, I felt a stirring within my spirit. I asked for time to discern and pray, and sensed God leading me. My desire is for women (and **all** persons) to be in relationships that encourage them in their walk with Jesus; especially our younger women. This is my desire and prayer as I step into this role.*

Ruth Ann Kulp: *After leaving my job with Everence and stepping out of Celebrate Recovery, I found myself praying for areas God may want me to become involved. As I prayed and thought about it, I felt a nudge to call Kristi and volunteer to help with the Women's Ministry. My vision for the Women's Ministry is to help women connect on a friendship level and to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (See 2 Peter 3:18)*

I truly feel blessed to work with these 2 women more closely and look forward to seeing what the Implementation Team will bring to our ministry in the coming year. We have some great things planned and I love seeing these women grow and demonstrate their gifts and talents when they come together for an event. And if you have an interest in Women's Ministry, please let us know!

Please continue to pray for our whole team. We desire to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in ministering to the needs of our women.

Kristi Wile



We want to say a special "Thank you" to Steph Weidemoyer who has decided to step down from the Women's Ministry Team. We greatly appreciate Steph's willingness to step in and do whatever is needed. She has such a willing heart! Blessings to you, Steph, in your next adventure!

What's Happening for Women

Project of the Month: Bar Soap (Dove- for infant kits)



Prayer Shawl ministry is meeting only the first Tuesday in August but will resume weekly meetings in September. You are welcome to join this informal group for knitting and fellowship. No experience required. Contacts: Linda Landis and Marilyn Halteman



Attention Mothers of Preschoolers: Look for information and dates for getting together at Kathy Wenger's home starting in September.



September: Women's Events

- Spruce Lake Women's Retreat: September 14-16 <https://www.sprucelake.org/events/calendar/womens-retreat/>
- Beth Moore Simulcast: September 15. Cornerstone Church, Easton, PA. \$10 registration fee, lunch not included. Registration is required. <http://www.cefctoday.com/womens-ministry/eventsregistration/>
- Propel Women/Activate 2018: September 15. Santander Arena, Reading, PA. Registration is required. <http://www.propelwomen.org/content/reading-pa/gk79gy>

If you are interested in any of these events, let us know and we'll connect you with others who are going.

Save the Dates!

- October 27th- Scrapbooking Crop (one day event)
- December 8th- Ladies Christmas Tea (9-11 am)

Doris Diener will be leading an 8-week study of *Love Walked Among Us*, a book by Paul E. Miller. The study will begin **August 28th** and meet weekly on Tuesday evenings, 7-9 pm.

Kristi Wile will be teaching an 11-week study by Jen Wilkin, *Joshua: Every Good Promise Fulfilled*. Part of the study's purpose is to teach us how to study the Word for ourselves. Come and be challenged! Begins **September 6th** and will meet weekly on Thursday mornings. (This study will also be offered at Ridgeline Community Church (formerly Rockhill) with Cherie Leatherman on Mondays starting Sept. 10th.)

Information will be provided in full detail very soon. Sign up sheets will be at the Women's Ministry table in the foyer.



August

A Taste of What's Happening for Women

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|------------------------------------|-----|-------|-----|-----|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
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| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Installation Service for Pastor Kyle | | Prayer Shawls 7-8:30 pm | | | | |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| | | Sewing Circle 8am-3pm | | | | |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| | | | | | | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |
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Contact for more information

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