

November 2018

THE SPICE

A taste of what's happening for women.

No-venber by Ruth Ann Kulp

November has always seemed like a dull and dreary month to me. The spectacular color of the fall leaves has passed and the full swing of the Christmas holiday is yet to come. There is less daylight and the temperatures are dropping. While we pause for a day of giving thanks and feasting on turkey and stuffing, November doesn't have much else to lift the spirits. It is the month of my birth and even the flower of the month and the birthstone are not all that remarkable – chrysanthemum and topaz. I would prefer to celebrate my birthday in spring when the weather is getting warmer and the flowers are popping up everywhere. To magnify my feelings about November, my son brought home a couple of booklets the class had created throughout their first-grade year. One of them was the November booklet and on the pages were simple entries with a picture drawn by each classmate. Included were: **no** more leaves on the trees; **no** more bare feet; **no** more swimming. It was full of **NOs!** Depressing!

As I pondered this recently, the verse from Romans 8:1 came to my mind. *There is therefore now **no more condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus.* Now there is a “no” that is cause for great rejoicing. This intrigued me to seek out other Scriptures in which “no” is a wonderful thing. Here are a few others:

- Galatians 4:7 says *So you are **no longer a slave**, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.* Romans 6:6 tells us that *we should **no longer be slaves to sin*** and a popular song currently is one that tells us we are no longer slaves to fear. Slavery is over! We are free and heirs with Christ Jesus!
- In Psalms 34:5 we find that *Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy; **no shadow of shame** will darken their faces.*
- Psalms 84:11 promises us that ***No good thing does he withhold** from those whose walk is blameless.*
- And, although these are in the future, the promises of what heaven is like gives us hope: Revelations 21:4 tells us that God will *wipe every tear from their eyes, there will be **no more death or mourning or crying or pain** for the old order of things has passed away.*

So, this November, let's focus on all the wonderful **NOs** we have because of our loving Heavenly Father!

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



THE WORD

“Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.”

—Hebrews 13:15 ESV

Think about it

What promises have been given to you that you need to think about in this month of Thanksgiving? Consider making a list and then purposefully voice your gratitude to the God who made those promises to you. He deserves our thanks and our praises!

Women's Ministry Contact:
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Making Connections

Meet **Shirley Hackman**. Shirley is a quiet, yet ever smiling presence amongst our people. I met with her and her stories confirmed my belief that stories need to be shared.

Shirley is the 2nd oldest of 4 children. Many of you knew her older sister, Dorothy Nice. Her younger sister, Elaine, passed away at the age of 10 months. She still has her younger brother, Ken. He is 12 years her junior. Ten years of age is young to lose a baby sister. But that was not the end of Shirley's losses. When she was 19, her

mother passed away. Dorothy was already married so Shirley became the homemaker and helped raise her younger brother. Her dad remarried years later, but he only lived for 2 years before cancer took him from his new wife and his family.

Shirley met and married Curtis Freed in 1969 when she was 35 years old. She knew that Curt would like to have children, but God didn't have that in mind for them. Shirley shared that she grieved being childless mostly for Curt. They were married for 16 years before Curt died from heart-related illnesses.

Stanley Hackman was a friend of Curt's. Stan had built his own business, "Hackman's Electric," and the building on Rt. 113 that we all know as Clemmer Music. Shirley remembers when Stan called her to tell of his wife's passing. She then called him when Curt passed away. In 1989, she married Stan and they shared 17 years together. Stan had 2 daughters from his first marriage and they loved and accepted Shirley into the family. But in later years, Stan suffered 2 heart attacks and 2 strokes and God took him home in 2006.

Now a widow for the 2nd time, plans for her future moved her to the Souderton Mennonite Home where she has



many friends, including a core group from Franconia! It was after this that she had 2 more losses: her dear sister, Dorothy, went home to Heaven in 2016, and then the PA turnpike expansion project took down the house she'd lived in for 46 years. (It had been Curt's house.)

But Shirley's spirit is not hardened by all this loss. She smiles as she shares that Stan has left her a very large family:

2 daughters, 9 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, and 27 great great-grandchildren. And to Dorothy's grandchildren she is known as "Great Shirley" (because she is their great aunt)!

Just one month ago, Shirley underwent cataract surgery and had complications that brought the risk of losing her sight. Her activity was restricted for 1 month. She speaks of this time as very difficult and she felt alone. She has already suffered much loss, but now her vision? But peace flooded her heart as she leaned on her Lord and Savior, saying "I know You are here." Everything turned out fine and she is back up and out and doing ministry.

Yes, ministry! Shirley visits residents in Personal Care and Health Care at SMH. (They missed her during her month of recuperation!) And she has a special connection with other women who have also suffered recent losses of their own. She understands there are some parts of losing your spouse that you never get over. Shirley hasn't allowed these losses to define who she is, rather she focuses on the numerous blessings she has gained and out of her loss, she lovingly ministers to others.

Making Connections is a column we can all participate in. If you have a story or testimony you'd like to share, or would like to see someone else featured, please contact Kristi Wile, Carol Landis, or Ruth Ann Kulp. We are a community and we want to be connected!

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# What's Happening for Women

## Attention Mothers of Preschoolers:

Need a break from your busy schedule? Join other women who are in a similar stage of parenting, just to relax and chat. You are invited to Kathy Wenger's home (8 Rosy Ridge Ct., Telford) on

**Tuesday, November 13th**

from 7-9 pm. Infants are welcome and puzzles and children's books are available to keep the little ones busy. Please bring a small snack to share.

You may contact Kathy by email @ [mkwenger@comcast.net](mailto:mkwenger@comcast.net) or by text @ 717-519-7180.

### Join Us!

We want to celebrate the effort you put into this year's

### Scripture Memory Challenge 2018!

Whether it was easy or hard, whether it was a blessing or a continual challenge, or whether you described loved it or not, we want to recognize the hard work that you put into this. And if you did not participate, please come anyway and join us for this informal gathering. ALL ARE WELCOME. Coffee/Tea and Light Dessert will be served. And...

**We'll talk about 2019!**

Date is yet to be finalized. It will be in early December in the evening. We will notify you.

*You are invited*

*Christmas Tea*

*December 8<sup>th</sup> at 9 am*

*Speaker- Lydia Clemmer*

*"Gifts and Seasons"*

*Breakfast by Social Tea Caterers*

*Suggested Donation \$10*

*Sign-ups in foyer*



Project of the Month



# November

A Taste of What's Happening for Women

| Sun | Mon | Tue                                                         | Wed                                         | Thurs                       | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|-----|
|     |     |                                                             |                                             | 1                           | 2   | 3   |
|     |     |                                                             |                                             |                             |     |     |
| 4   | 5   | 6                                                           | 7                                           | 8                           | 9   | 10  |
|     |     | Prayer Shawls<br>7-8:30 pm                                  |                                             |                             |     |     |
| 11  | 12  | 13                                                          | 14                                          | 15                          | 16  | 17  |
|     |     | Sewing Circle<br>9-3<br>Prayer Shawls<br>7-8:30 pm          |                                             |                             |     |     |
| 18  | 19  | 20                                                          | 21                                          | 22                          | 23  | 24  |
|     |     | Prayer Shawls<br>7-8:30 pm                                  | Thanksgiving<br>Eve Service<br>6:30-7:30 pm | <b>THANKSGIVING<br/>DAY</b> |     |     |
| 25  | 26  | 27                                                          | 28                                          | 29                          | 30  |     |
|     |     | Knotting<br>Comforters<br>9-3<br>Prayer Shawls<br>7-8:30 pm |                                             |                             |     |     |

## Contact for more information

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