

September 2019

THE SPICE

A taste of what's happening for women.

Milk and Honey by Kristi Wile

Last Sunday, our guest speaker preached on Joshua 1:9. "Be strong and courageous." He spoke about the children of Israel as they wandered in the wilderness awaiting the fulfillment of their hope to enter the promised land. It was a land flowing with "milk and honey." I've often heard that for those Israelites who walked in shoes that never wore out, the promised land was a physical reality. But for us, we read those passages and realize the promised land is a spiritual reality.

There have been numerous hymns over the years that have sung of our crossing over the Jordan River into our promised land.

*When Jesus comes to take His children home sweet home
To a beautiful mansion in the sweet by and by
We'll cross the Jordan river singin' a song
When Jesus comes to take His children home*

And yes, we will one day live in that beautiful land that is fairer than day. But I was struck by something during the sermon. Milk and honey...

Milk is food. Our Scriptures are our spiritual food. 1 Peter 2:2 says *Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.* In fact, Hebrews 5:11-14 warns us about staying only on milk for too long. We need to learn discipline to dig deeper in the Word and grow stronger on the meat of the Word.

Honey is sweet. Our Scriptures are described as being sweeter than honey! Psalm 119:103 says *How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!*

Suddenly I found myself thinking about our reality of milk and honey... it's in the Word of God! We hold it in our hands. We turn the fragile pages and read the words in ink on paper. We have it now, right here. We don't have to wait till our final breath on earth to gain a taste of what the milk and honey will be!

Oh, my friends, do you yearn after God's Word? This is what your soul hungers after. No matter what else you think you need, this milk and honey found between the front and back covers of your Bible are all you need. It's milk. It's honey. Feast and enjoy!

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



THE WORD

"They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter also than honey, than honey from the comb."

— Psalm 19:10

Think About It

- Do you savor the taste of the Word when you're in your daily Bible reading?
- Are you fed on the milk of the Word?
- Are you still drinking the milk of the Word when you should be eating meat by now?
- Share with a trusted friend or mentor about your struggle. Pray for each other to continue to stay in the Word.

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Making Connections

The Spice newsletter made its debut at Franconia in February 2013. It was a subscription that was purchased from Group.com, a ministry resource. Initially the monthly newsletter came completely filled from Group Publishing, but with the subscription came the right to change anything and everything within the newsletter to make it fit our needs and personality. Over the first 6 months, we began to take out Group's articles and putting in our own information. The first "Making Connections" article was featured in the November 2013 issue and introduced Marilyn Bender to us. Since that time, we've met quite a number of women (and even a few good men!) through this monthly column.

In 2014, Group Publishing decided to cancel the newsletter altogether. This caused us much panic as we'd just barely begun to use it and were loving it. We were very glad to learn that since we did purchase the subscription, we could continue to use the newsletter format indefinitely and could consider it ours. Obviously, the credit for the concept and the title, *The Spice*, needs to go to Group Publishing. They intend it for local church use only. If you go to the very bottom of page 4, you can see Group Publishing's name and information.

We've loved using this resource here at Franconia for the Women's Ministry. It's a place where everything related to women can be found. But it's also helping us to connect. And that's the purpose of this column.

Why is connecting so important? Though we all come to church in one place and have our own BFG or small groups where we can relate, these relationships don't happen automatically. And it's especially important for women to connect. No, you don't have to know every woman at Franconia, but you do need some close connections.

The goal of any church ministry is spiritual growth. We do this best in community. Here at Franconia, we have numerous opportunities for women to connect and grow together.

Women's Bible Studies

Scripture Memory Challenge

Mothers of Preschoolers

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Ladies Christmas Tea

Game nights or other special events

Sewing Circle, includes MCC projects and Comforter Blitz

Daily posts on social media: Franconia's Fragrance and Spice Facebook group

(or the email alternative if you aren't on Facebook)

Support for Pregnancy Resource Clinic New ideas are on the horizon, too!

Monthly newsletter, *The Spice* (You may receive by email and print at home, or by hard copy in church mailbox. Emailing the newsletter helps keep costs down.)

If you aren't connected to a group somewhere, please talk to a Women's Ministry team member about this. We want to know if there is a need out there that we haven't been made aware of.

We also use this column, "Making Connections," as a way of introducing new members, helping women share their stories and their journeys of faith. If you would like to be included in this column, or if you know someone who needs to share their story, please let us know! Every February, we like to feature Brides-to-be (and Grooms-to-be, too) but sometimes we need help finding out who they all are. If you know of an engagement, let us know. We don't want to leave anyone out that wants to be included.

As we start a new year, let's be purposeful to connect with one another in deeper, more meaningful relationships, and work towards spiritual growth and connecting with Jesus Christ as well. We need each other to do this!

The best way to contact someone from the Franconia Women's Team is by email: franconiawomen@gmail.com
Other contact information is listed on page 4 of this and every newsletter.

What's Happening for Women

Project of the month: New Bath-sized Towels

Attention Mothers of Preschoolers:

You are invited to Kathy Wenger's home (8 Rosy Ridge Court, Telford) for a time of fellowship and connecting with other moms who are in the same season. These monthly meetings are informal so plan to come and relax and get to know each other better. You are welcome to bring infants and you can come and go as you need to. If you'd like to bring a small snack to share, that would be great.

September's meeting will be held on Thursday, September 19th at 6:30-8:30 pm.

RSVP is needed. Please contact Kathy by email @ mkwenger@comcast.net or by text @ 717-519-7180.

September: Women's Events

- **Spruce Lake Women's Retreat:** September 13-15. For more information or to register, go to <https://www.sprucelake.org/events/event-13/>
- **Beth Moore Simulcast:** September 28. Watch the simulcast by yourself or with a group of friends in the comfort of your home. Cost includes access to the simulcast for 30 days. Cost: \$20 per person. For more information, go to <https://www.lifeway.com/en/events/living-proof-live-simulcast>

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

Save the Dates!

- **November 16th- Scrapbooking Crop** (one day event)
Registration is open for this event! Contact Janet Derstine for more information!
- **December 7th- Ladies Christmas Tea** (9-11 am)

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry is busy at work and will begin meeting weekly on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm, beginning September 3rd. This is an informal group and if you love to knit or crochet, we'd love to have you. We'll even teach you! Contact Linda Landis @ 215-799-0190 or Marilyn Halteman @ 215-723-5670 or hmhalteman@comcast.net for more info.

Women's Bible Study

You are invited to a 10-week study of
God of Creation
(Study by Jen Wilkin)

Sept. 12th to Nov. 14th, 9:15-10:45 am

Facilitated by Kristi Wile.

Meeting here at the church, in MYF room.

Childcare is provided.

Workbook \$13.

Registration is required. Sign up at table in the foyer or contact Carol or Kristi if interested.

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Walk 2019 is the Annual Fundraiser for the Pregnancy Resource Clinic, a ministry that Franconia Women supports. Come join our team!

When: Saturday, **September 28th**, 9-11 a.m.

Where: Franconia Community Park, Allentown Rd, Telford

How: You can sign up to walk and/or you can donate to support a walker. We will register under the team name "Franconia Women."

Watch for a flyer in your mailboxes.

September

A Taste of What's Happening for Women

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	 Labor Day	Prayer Shawl Ministry begins weekly meetings Tuesdays 7-8:30 pm				HOPE Festival 12-4 pm
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Church Picnic 5 pm		Sewing Circle 8 am-3 pm Prayer Shawls 7-8:30 pm		Genesis study begins Meets weekly 9:15-10:45 am		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Prayer Shawls 7-8:30 pm		Genesis study 9:15-10:45 am Moms of Preschoolers 6:30-8:30 pm		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		Knotting Comforters 8 am-3 pm Prayer Shawls 7-8:30 pm		Genesis study 9:15-10:45 am		Walk 2019 9-11 a.m. Franconia Community Park
29	30					

Contact for more information

Women's Ministry email: franconiawomen@gmail.com

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