



October 2019

THE SPICE

A taste of what's happening for women.

A Firm Foundation by Kristi Wile

I recently began having issues with a painful right ankle that quickly developed into left hip pain. Several appointments with a specialist and wearing a brace on my ankle for the longest 3 weeks ever made no improvements. It wasn't until I saw a physical therapist who correctly diagnosed my fallen arch that progress started to be made.

The therapy advice was simple; fix the foundation before trying to fix the other problems. She likened my main issue to a house that sits on a concrete foundation. If the foundation starts to crumble, structural damage will occur. You might not act on the repairs immediately, but you will risk significant deterioration of the whole building. Foundations need to be inspected and repaired appropriately before structural damage occurs. Apparently, it works that way with our skeletal system as well. The foundation needs to be firm.

Jesus spoke about the importance of a firm foundation. In Matthew 7:24-27 we read that a wise person will build their house on a rock rather than on sand. It's easy to see how building on sand wouldn't be wise. Sands shift with wind, water, and time. In fact, the term "shifting sands" refers to the constant changing of a situation. We wouldn't build a house there! We want stability and assurance that our house will stand during stormy weather.

However, we might not pay such particular attention to our spiritual foundation. In the words of a familiar hymn, we sing "How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!" Our Bibles hold the *very words of God!* (Romans 3:2) Yet we are easily swayed by new ideas and theologies that blow our way and don't ruffle our feathers. Ephesians 4 addresses spiritual maturity as no longer being *tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine* (4:11-14). It's been said often that if we don't know the truth, we won't recognize the lies.

Friends, we must have a firm foundation. 1 Corinthians 3:11 says *For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.* We find that foundation in the Word of God. *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* (John 1:1) Are you in your Bible? Are you shoring up your foundation?

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



THE WORD

"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

—Colossians 2:6-7 ESV

THINK ABOUT IT

We are being transformed into the likeness of Christ by the renewing of our minds. Our minds are renewed through the work of the Holy Spirit through the Written Word of God. We must expose ourselves to the Truth and let Christ's light reveal what needs to be changed in us. Then only his redeeming work can make those changes. Only God can speak life where there once was only darkness! (Genesis 1:2-3)

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Making Connections



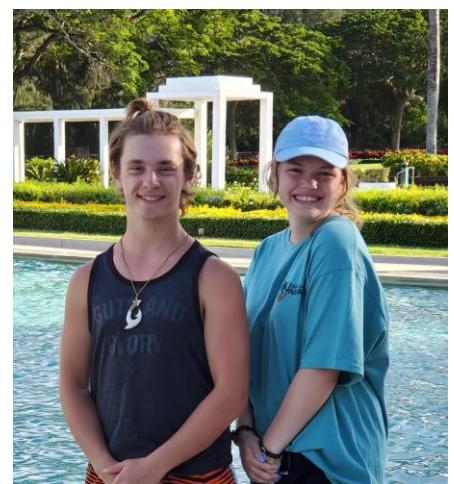
Hello! My name is **Toni Lynn Brown**. I live in Collegeville with my husband, Tim, our 2 children, Rebecca and Tim, and our 3 dogs. I grew up in Blue Bell and was brought up in the Catholic Faith. I attended mass every Sunday and went to 12 years of Catholic School. I have an older brother who lives in Blue Bell and a younger sister who lives in Massachusetts. Both of my parents are still alive, and it saddens me to see them get older every day. After high school I went to Johnson & Wales University in Rhode Island where I studied Culinary Arts.

Growing up in an Italian Catholic family was very interesting. The whole family all live very close to one another, so when we bought our house in Collegeville, my family thought I moved to the country. Which of course is not true. All my life I have been influenced by the Italian culture, so we are a pasta kind of family and not a meat and potato family. One of my many traits of being Italian is that I talk with my hands and can be very loud especially when I am passionate about something. I did inherit some traits from my father who is Irish, one of those being that I can be stubborn when I want! But despite all my flaws and ancestral traits, my husband and I will be married for 21 years this year. We often joke that we are like Eddie Albert and Ava Gabor from *Green Acres*. He's the typical country boy who would be right at home on a farm, and I would be more comfortable near bright lights and shopping malls. Well, you know what they say, "Opposites attract!"

My days are filled with working as an office manager at my family's accounting firm, running my own catering and party service business called **Helping Hands Party Services** and raising 2 children along with having 3 dogs to take care of. If it were up to my husband, we'd have a few horses thrown in there as well. I must give my mom credit for teaching me wonderful time management skills. Without that skill I do not know how I would get it all done. When not doing these things, I enjoy spending time with my family: doing home improvement projects, skiing, watching football, watching Rebecca playing volleyball and Timmy performing on stage in plays & musicals as well as solo stand-up comedy acts. When I'm just looking for me time, you can find me in the kitchen cooking. That is one of my true loves and great gifts. It is a time to relax and enjoy making great food, whether it be for my family or one of my parties.

When it comes to church and knowing the Bible this is a whole new journey for me as well as my family. Even though I grew up in the Catholic faith and attended church weekly, our life did not involve the study or influence of Scripture. We went to church as a family on Sunday and Holy Days because that's what you did, not always because you wanted to. But after a whole lot of "sit, stand, kneel" and enduring the routine of the same prayers repeated week after week, memorized from childhood, we all became disconnected from our faith. It was not until we moved to Collegeville and the kids started at Dock that we began to talk more about our faith as a family. Not long after the kids started at Dock, we ventured out to see what a Mennonite church would be like. On our first visit to Franconia Mennonite we knew that we had found what we were looking for as a family. The whole community welcomed us in a way that we had never experienced before. Even though I am a Cowboy's fan! Our Sundays turned from "sit, stand, kneel" with hundreds of people who, like us, seemed to be there out of a sense of duty, to being in an environment that truly felt like a church family.

I must be honest; my family was not overly supportive about us joining the Mennonite church. My family chooses to avoid the subject of faith and our faith journey will always be the elephant in the room when the topic of religion gets brought up. This does make me sad. The fact that I am uncomfortable openly discussing my faith for fear that it will offend or embarrass some of my family is something that I continue to struggle with. However, I know in my heart that it has been a true blessing for me and my family. Our children have a much closer relationship to Christ than I ever did growing up and my husband feels the same way. Our marriage is stronger and our relationship with our children and friends is stronger than ever before. There is no looking back and I wouldn't change that for the world. Of course, there are challenges we face every day that test our faith, but I feel that our time at Franconia has provided us with the compass we need to continue our faith journey. And I am confident that it is a journey where the greatest rewards and blessings are yet to come.



What's Happening for Women SCRAPBOOK CROP

November 4th, 8am to 8 pm
Upper Fellowship Hall

Come and join us for a day of scrapbooking and card making. We will have loads of fun working alongside friends. You can work at your own pace and get/share ideas.

Cost: \$45 – Includes Lunch, Dinner, snacks and drinks available all day, and a **\$15 voucher** to be used at one of our vendors. You will have your own work station with electricity. Wi-fi will be available.

Registration is required and is due by October 13th. Space is limited and will be first come, first served, so don't delay! Cash or check is acceptable. Sorry, no credit cards for registration. Mail your registration and payment to:

Janet Derstine, 639 Landis Rd. Telford, PA 18969

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 **Thursday, October 24th** from 6:30-8:30 pm. We will share some Advent ideas. Come and bring a friend!

You may contact Kathy by email @ mkwenger@comcast.net or by text @ 717-519-7180.



SAVE THE DATE!

Ladies Christmas Tea

December 7th
9-11 am



Project of the Month: New, Flat, Twin Sheets

October

A Taste of What's Happening
for Women

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		Prayer Shawls 7-8:30 pm	Wed. night Church nights & meal	Genesis study <u>9:15-10:45 am</u>		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Sewing Circle <u>8 am-3 pm</u> Prayer Shawls 7-8:30 pm	Wed. night Church nights & meal	Genesis study <u>9:15-10:45 am</u>		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		Prayer Shawls 7-8:30 pm	Wed. night Church nights & meal	Genesis study <u>9:15-10:45 am</u>		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		Knotting Comforters <u>8 am-3 pm</u> Prayer Shawls 7-8:30 pm	Wed. night Church nights & meal	Genesis study <u>9:15-10:45 am</u> Moms of Preschoolers 6:30-8:30 pm		
27	28	29	30	31		
		Prayer Shawls 7-8:30 pm	Wed. night Church nights & meal	Genesis study <u>9:15-10:45 am</u>		

Contact for more information

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