

January 2020

# THE SPICE

A taste of what's happening for women.

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

## The Dawning of a New Year by Carol Landis

It's early morning and still dark outside. I'd be unable to identify the landscape surrounding our home if it wasn't so familiar to me. I have no idea what this day will bring, or how I may need to readjust today's plans, but presently, all is quiet and peaceful in my little pocket of suburbia. Similar is the dawning of a new year. It's impossible to know what's ahead, and my best laid plans are hazy with unknowns. Yet the familiarity present with this New Year is that the same God who brought me through the past year promises to continue to showcase His faithfulness.

Wrapped in throws, I open my Bible and begin reading its words of love and truth. For me, early morning is the perfect time to reflect, refuel, and focus on the day ahead...and the year ahead.

**Reflect.** A partial Webster definition is "to recollect or realize after thought; to contemplate." Proverbs 3:3 speaks of reflecting: "Let love and faithfulness never leave you...write them on the tablet of your heart." I feel reminded to intentionally recall the good. In reflecting back on 2019 a few things immediately stand out. The Divine timing of a 3 week visit with our distant grands, my mother's apartment, and an immediate opening in a doctor's schedule. These, along with many others, belong on a tablet in my heart so they're easy to recall.

Also, I want to reflect. Are there situations or relationships, I've left open ended? Any hurts or concerns I still carry? If left to simmer, these will decay the fabric of my heart, my relationship with Jesus, and with others.

*Lord, please help us reflect with thankfulness and obedience.*

**Refuel.** As Jesus modeled. Luke 5:16 tells us Jesus "often went" to a solitary place. After a night of prayer, He choose his 12 disciples (Luke 6:12). After a stressful, busy day in Matthew 14, he dismissed the crowd and went up on a mountainside by himself to pray (v.23). A mere mortal cannot do less.

In addition are there specific situations or challenges I would like to include to refuel (i.e.: A Bible study; memorizing Bible verses; Pastor Josh's suggestion of TGIF (Today God is first) or 3:30 (John 3:30)?

*Lord, please help our hearts make wise choices. We desire to stay close to You.*

**Focus ahead.** What will stand out as important at the conclusion of 2020: spiritually, personally, relationally? Priorities determined in January will be an anchor when the urgent threatens to overthrow the important. One January Dan & I reflected back on what we valued most in the previous year. We were surprised to see it was offering hot cocoa, treats, and our bathroom to extended family participating in a soccer tournament next to our home. It was the evening spent with my out-of-state cousin and her husband, after visiting my mom in the hospital – even though we were hosting a Thanksgiving Dinner the next day! The memory of the warm fellowship while my cousin helped carve our next day's turkey was rich. These experiences helped us see what we wanted to include in the coming year.

*Lord, 2020's landscape is unknown. But thank You that we can depend on Your loving faithfulness to carry, and empower us, as written on the "tablets of our hearts." Please help us dear Jesus, depend on Your Holy Spirit to be faithful daughters.*

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## Making Connections

Meet **Cathy Weaver**. Cathy is going to share her adoption story with us.



“As a young girl, I always had a desire to adopt a child one day. Though I really didn’t know too many children who were adopted, I always thought it was something I would like to do some day. I met my husband, John, in 1979, and in August of 1981 we were married. I remember discussing with him my desire to adopt a child, and he didn’t have any objection to it but said it wasn’t something he had ever thought about. After we were married we went through five years of infertility which was a very difficult time for me. My desire to have a baby was so strong but for reasons only the Good Lord knew, my desires were not being fulfilled. In December of 1987 we were blessed with our first son, Travis. I was overjoyed to finally be a mother and embraced motherhood with a passion. We were blessed with another son, Jesse, 2 ½ years later.

After having two biological children, the desire to adopt became very strong, and John and I started praying about it. We felt God calling us to follow our hearts and so we decided to pursue adoption to see where it would lead. We felt called to become foster parents with the hope of eventually adopting through the foster care system. Our good friends, Steve and Cathy Derstine, were also in the process of fostering to adopt and had been placed with a little girl in their home. We chose to go through Bethanna in Southampton, PA which is a Christian foster agency that provides homes for children in the Philadelphia area. I remember being very excited as I filled out the paperwork for our application, criminal and background check, and waited to be contacted for someone to come to our house to do a home study. I know I was pretty nervous when a social worker came to our home, afraid that we would say the wrong things or the boys would not behave properly. But apparently it went well and we were approved as foster parents. We were excited to see who the Lord would place in our home, a boy or girl. It didn’t take long, maybe a couple weeks, till I received a call that they were in need of a home for a physically disabled child. The social worker had asked during the Home Study if we were interested in taking in disabled children and we had said we didn’t feel comfortable with that at this point in time but maybe in the future we would. So when they called about this child I had to say no since we didn’t feel we were capable of taking on that role. After that we received several more calls to take in different children but none of them worked out. I was beginning to get discouraged and wondered if maybe we were not supposed to be foster parents.

Then on July 29, 1993, I received a call that there was a baby boy in need of a home. He was 8 days old and was being discharged from the hospital that day and were we interested in taking him? I said, yes of course! I hung up the phone and realized I had a lot to do in the 2 hours before the social worker came with this baby! When the doorbell rang I opened it, and there was the social worker holding a beautiful baby boy. We fell in love with Daniel at that moment and we were thrilled to have a baby in our family again. It didn’t take long for me to realize that I wanted Daniel to stay with our family and hoped that his goal would be changed to adoption. We were required to take Daniel to Philadelphia twice a month for a visit with his birth parents. I would take him to Bethanna’s office and leave him there for 2 hours and then come back and pick him up. I have to admit I didn’t really enjoy those times, driving to Center City, Philadelphia, with a baby and a 3 year old by myself. Sometimes my mom went with me. When Daniel was 6 months old the visits stopped and we started working toward changing his goal to adoption. That was also a stressful time for us because it seemed like it took forever to go through all the court hearings and another adoption home study.

In February 1998, our family along with numerous friends and family met at the Bucks County Courthouse to celebrate Daniel’s adoption. He was 4 ½ years old and a very happy and delightful child, full of energy and always up

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to something. Once the adoption was complete, we had to decide whether we would continue to take in foster children. I knew there was a great need for foster families, but I didn't see how I could take in a child for a while and get so attached to them and then have to let them go back to their biological parents. So we decided not to continue in our role as foster parents, feeling that God had fulfilled the desires of our heart by bringing Daniel into our family. Our role now was to nurture and raise him to be a man of God. It wasn't always easy and there were challenges in school with learning disabilities, but I always clung to the verse in Jeremiah 29:11 – "For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Daniel is now attending Reformation Bible College in Florida, hoping to become a Bible teacher or professor some day. We feel so blessed that we were chosen to be his parents. Also we had the support of both the Anders and Weaver families when we decided to adopt Daniel and that was huge. You really need the support of family and friends to help you through this process as they were all so encouraging to us. Many times we hear of adoption stories that did not play out as anticipated, but more often we don't hear of the stories that did work out the way God had planned. People have asked me if I had to do it over again, would I still adopt? And the answer is definitely YES! If you pray about it and seek God's will for your life and just rely on the Lord to work things out, you will know whether adoption is right for your family."

## What's Happening for Women

### Comforter Blitz!

**Who:** YOU!! Even if you don't quilt or sew, you can tie a knot.

**What:** 3 days to knot as many comforters as possible for MCC's "Great Winter Warm-up"

**When:** January 7-9, 2020, 8am-4pm

**Where:** Upper Fellowship Hall

**Why:** MCC has a goal of completing 6,500 comforters in honor of the MCC 100th anniversary in 2020.

These comforters will be sent out to those in need.

**What else:** Coffee, snacks & lunch provided

### Attention Mothers of Preschoolers:

This year, give yourself a treat—an evening with other women who have young children. Kathy Wenger is opening her home (8 Rosy Ridge Ct., Telford) for you to relax and enjoy the company of other moms on **Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>**, from **6:30-8:30 pm**. Come and stay as long as you can between these times.

Infants are welcome.

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

MCC Project of the Month:  
New Bath-size Towels

# January

A Taste of What's Happening for Women



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			<i>Happy New Year!</i>			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
New Member Sunday		Comforter Blitz! 8am-4pm				
		Prayer Shawls 7-9pm				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		Prayer Shawls 7-9pm		Moms of Preschoolers 6:30-8:30pm		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		Prayer Shawls 7-9pm				
26	27	28	29	30	31	
		Knotting Comforters 8am-3pm Prayer Shawls 7-9pm				

## Contact for more information

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