



## Construction Continued by Carol Landis

*Can I pray with you, so you don't stay here?* Recently, I shared with a friend how these ten words, spoken to me during a crisis of my faith, changed me. Our conversation reminded me of the heart clogs and leaks in last month's Spice. We celebrate the forgiveness and grace of God and bask in the freedom we've received, and we should. However, then we need to remain free. I've found transformation requires discipline, and I need to remember improvement, not perfection, is the goal. The following are three things I've found helpful.

**Remain aware; cling to Jesus.** To hate what created distance between me and my Savior, and keep focused, and talking, to Him so I remain free. He leads me away from clogs and leaks. I love to look back and see how He has led me to remain free. Any sacrifice needed is small compared to the joy of being in harmony with Jesus. (*"Come near to God and he will come near to you."* James 4:8a)

**What am I eating?** As six cookies won't nourish or satisfy, likewise, it matters what I feed my mind. It's easy to be saturated with all forms of media, but it's critical to be vigilant about nurturing my mind. A wise friend told me to *be sure I'm reading God's Word as much as I'm reading or listening to anything else.* I've found this makes it easier to recognize the unhealthy within and around me. Negative self-talk is also harmful. Personally, I needed to become aware of my self-talk. The negative seemed "normal." Yikes! (*"Whatever is true...right.... pure...think about such things...and the God of peace will be with you."* Phil. 4:8)

**No secrets.** *Can I pray with you...?* I needed that offer from my friend. What captured me, blinded me. I need someone with whom I regularly interact; a trusted friend who cares and notices my words and actions. My husband has become my go-to, but I've not limited myself to him. I've also been blessed by persons in our small group, family members, and close friends. (*"Confess your sins...and pray for each other so...you may be healed."* James 5:16)

Can you share helpful practices that have led you to remain free? Please email me at [franconiawomen@gmail.com](mailto:franconiawomen@gmail.com). Or call, or stop and chat sometime. I believe sharing our stories encourages and motivates us. I'd love to include your practices in a future edition of Spice.

# August 2021 |





# Making Connections

Meet **Diane L. Nice**: I was privileged to be born the oldest of four daughters to wonderful Christian parents. My parents were part of a group of persons from the Franconia area to plant a Mennonite church in the small town of Steel City where I became a member at age twelve. I went to FMS (Franconia Mennonite School) and graduated from Christopher Dock Mennonite School.

My parents started to camp when Spruce Lake became part of Franconia Conference and from there, we started traveling many other places including many of the northeast states. I have many fond memories of our trips and adventures.

I met Ron when I was sixteen and we have been together through many ups and downs since then. In 1973 we married when I was 18 years old. After struggling with infertility for over seven years, God gifted us a wonderful daughter who was born with spina bifida. I would love to tell you the miracle of her story in person if you are interested. After more doctoring, we were blessed with two sons.

While raising our three children, we continued to be active members of Steel City Mennonite church but felt the need to be closer to our church so the children could be an active part of their age group activities. After much prayer and discernment we decided to move our membership to Franconia where Ron grew up, and we have been members ever since.

Ron grew to love camping and we passed that on to our children. Spruce Lake was our favorite place and we spent many days there during the summers.

In June of 2000 we found out that our daughter was pregnant with our first granddaughter, who was born in August of that year. That was a very difficult time but our lives have been forever blessed by her. Mother's Day 2009 we found out that our son Kyle and his wife Tina were expecting twins! What joy and pride we have in being their grandparents.

Ron and I have continued to spend many of our summers at Spruce Lake and have met many lifelong friends and fellow believers. In the summer of 2018 we met a couple at Spruce Lake who told us about the volunteer group they were members of called SOWERS. After they left our camper that evening, and hearing about the organization and their experiences, Ron and I looked at each other and said WOW, that is exactly what we have been looking for.

In the winter of 2018 we joined the group and planned our first volunteer project in Georgia but God had other plans and instead Ron had open heart surgery. God answered

our prayers; in February of 2020 Ron was healthy, and we went on our first service project and in 2021 we did our second. We pray that God continues to bless us with good health that we may continue to serve Him in this way for years to come.

*Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give your hope and a future.*





# What's Happening for Women

## Women's Ministry Survey

The Women's Ministry Team wants to hear from you! **Please click on the link below and complete our brief (1-2 minute) survey** about your interest in a variety of activities so we know how best to serve you and encourage you in your relationship with God and others. Thanks!

**Survey link:** <https://us19.list-manage.com/survey?u=1ee2edb4c8421244212697c25&id=3c4acc8d5e&attribution=false>

## New Feature:

### Recipe of the Month!

We would like to add a recipe to the Spice each month (as space allows), and we need your contributions!

**Do you have a favorite recipe that you would like to submit?**

Please email it to:

[franconiawomen@gmail.com](mailto:franconiawomen@gmail.com)

Join us for fellowship, fresh air, and exercise!

## Walk in the Park

**Tuesday, August 24**

**7:00pm**

at Franconia Park  
(meet near the Pavilion  
at the Allentown Rd. entrance)

Walk for however long you want.  
You are welcome to invite your daughters and friends.  
No signups necessary.

We hope to see you there!

## Upcoming Events

**Sept 25** – Pregnancy Resource Clinic of North Penn Fundraiser Walk

**Oct 14** – Speaker event:  
“Finding Confidence in Christ to make wise choices for ourselves and our families (while balancing social pressures and information overload)”

**TBD** – Succulent Craft with Patti Landis

Thank you! to everyone who participated in the Comforter Blitz!



# August 2021

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Sewing Circle 8am-4pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm	11 Sewing Circle 8am-4pm	12	13	14
15 Women's Ministry Survey due	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Walk in the Park 7pm	25	26	27	28
29	30					

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**THE SPICE**