



Transformed by Carol Landis

Ever watch one of those home improvement shows that feature neglected houses with inefficient spaces and bad decorating? And then the transformation to an awe-inspiring show house? To be honest, I like to watch those shows. It's amazing what knocking out a few walls, some well-placed cabinets and closets, along with tasteful decorating and accessorizing can do. Also amazing, but disgusting, is what can lie behind those walls and under the floor. These shows not only give me ideas; they give me hope. It's a reminder of what God does within me; within every willing heart.

The difference is that our transformations are not completed within an hour show. Only those who've known us for decades can see the beginning to end. And only God knows all that was needed to be replaced and repaired inside the heart. Sometimes those homes have bug infestation and mold damage, just like human hearts. Insects of jealousy, choking vines of fear, unfairness, a lust for more, or hurt that molds into anger, bitterness, and eventually hatred. Fortunately, this isn't self-improvement. Our Contractor exposes, and cuts away each rotted section and perseveres in those hard places. With love He prepares the way, and then replaces and installs the new. He plants us in situations with human people to add needed accessories to our hearts, our lives. And our part is simply to have a teachable, obedient heart.

Isn't our God great?! Omnipotent, Omnipresent, Omniscient, AND He loves us!! 😊 This Thanksgiving season, I want to reflect and praise my Savior who transforms lives. While most humans only see the beginning, or the end, and few catch a glimpse of the inside, our Savior sees it all. And with the greatest love and care, He restores even the most dilapidated hearts to showcase His glory.

A Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you that I: "reflect the Lord's glory, [and am] ...being transformed into [Your] likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from [You]" (2 Cor. 3:18). And: "if anyone is in [You], [she] is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17) I praise You, Jesus that: "The one who calls [me] is faithful and [You] will do it" (1 Thessalonians 5:24). Help me Jesus to: "hold unwaveringly to the hope [!] profess, because he who promised is faithful" (Hebrews 10:23). Thank You for being such an Awesome Heavenly Father! Amen.

November 2021



WOMEN'S MINISTRY MISSION STATEMENT: Encouraging women to connect in deeper, genuine relationships both with each other and with Jesus Christ.



Making Connections

An Unexpected Call by **Martha Detweiler**

This summer, my family and I had an invitation to serve as the Program Manager at Pinebrook Day Camp in East Stroudsburg, PA. This is a camp that Spruce Lake purchased a few years ago, and they are working at growing the ministry. Leadership wanted to begin a Day Camp program at Pinebrook because many of the campers who travelled to Spruce Lake live in the East Stroudsburg area, so it only made sense! Covid delayed the process by a year, but God's provision is so clear and undeniable! So how does this fit into an unexpected call?

Never in my wildest dreams did I ever imagine that God would call me to camp ministry in my forties, much less relocate a family, live apart from my husband during the week, and keep up with 5 to 17 year old's all summer! God has a sense of humor, doesn't He? I spent many summers in my teen and young adult years at Spruce Lake as a camp counselor, and my first few years of marriage I worked at Camp Men O Lan where Adam and I spent many weeks together in the kitchen. I always thought it would be "my dream job" to be on staff in camping ministry, but it just never fell into my lap, or the timing was very wrong. I always sensed a bit of jealousy of those who got to do full time camp ministry. Spruce Lake was always a huge part of my spiritual life as well as family life.

That unexpected call came when I least expected it, in May of 2020. I was asked to pilot the program as Pinebrook was ready to embark on their first year of Day Camp! I was told we would probably serve about 15 or so campers. We were very surprised and excited when we served 93 campers from 68 families!! We created a culture and relationship with our families through the 12 week summer program. We shared Jesus' love, introduced many families to God, played games, swam, did hiking and cookouts, daily pool time, special guest speakers, played in the creek, rode bikes, and did a lot of learning, laughing and growing together! This was truly a ministry as we did life together. We met families from all walks of life, and the campers had won our hearts by the end of the summer.

Personally, I learned the importance of communication, organization, and that strong leadership skills require a lot of prayer and patience. Every day we as staff relied on God for wisdom and discernment as we led camp. It was important for me to lead and model that as I worked with young adults leading children. I learned how important it is to be IN God's word and teach the truth as the campers were so hungry for it.

Pinebrook is a thriving ministry, and our family is excited to step into 2022 with our campers again this year. Cole and Elizabeth developed friendships throughout the summer and saw firsthand what ministry looks like. Adam and my mom both became a part of the camp family and spent time up there in the ministry as well. While it was an unexpected call, it was one of the greatest summers we've ever had as a family! I am beginning to recruit for this coming summer, so if you know any young people who would make awesome counselors, please reach out!





What's Happening for Women

Looking for an opportunity to be a blessing to others as we enter the holiday season? Come help us pack

Women's Hope Kits

November 18th at 7:00pm

In the Upper Fellowship Hall

Women's Ministry is partnering with World Vision to assemble Hope Kits for women who face uncertain futures. All items will be supplied; we just need help packing them and writing notes in the notebooks to encourage the women who will receive them!**

We will also be collecting donations to help cover the cost of the kits (100 kits, \$11.00/kit)

ALSO: We will have a **Hot Chocolate Bar** for you to enjoy while packing and fellowshiping with other ladies!

****More information about Hope Kits:**

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Each kit contains the following items:

- » Embroidered cosmetic bag
- » Shampoo/body wash
- » Hand lotion
- » Deodorant
- » Disposable razor
- » Tampons
- » Hairbrush
- » Elastic hair ties
- » Toothbrush
- » Toothpaste
- » Lip balm
- » Journal
- » Pen
- » Note of encouragement from you!



By assembling Women's Hope Kits, you are helping women affected by poverty, abuse, homelessness or disaster. Amidst their daily challenges, they find hope and joy through the gift of this beautiful cosmetic case. Inside they will find much-needed essential hygiene items, feminine products and a journal. Your hand written note of encouragement will be a cherished reminder that someone cares for them and believes in their future.



Friday, November 12

11:00am

What: Playdate for preschoolers and moms

Where: **Mr. B's**

Calvary Church in Souderton

Recipe of the Month

Hearty Chicken Pumpkin Soup

Submitted by Tiffany Landis

- 4 t. olive oil
- 1 c. finely chopped onion
- 1 c. diced celery
- 1 c. diced carrots
- 3 T. minced garlic
- 3 c. cooked chicken breast
- 32 oz. broth
- 15 oz. can pumpkin puree
- ½ c. heavy cream
- 1 ½ t. pepper
- ¼ t. garlic salt
- ¼ c. finely chopped cilantro
- 1 c. shredded cheddar

Heat olive oil in pot over medium heat. Add onion, celery and carrots, stirring and cooking about 15 minutes until softened. Stir in garlic and cook 1 minute. Add chicken, broth, pumpkin, cream, pepper, garlic salt, and cilantro. Stir to combine. When hot, stir in cheese and melt. Taste and season accordingly.

November 2021

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4 Hebrews Study 9:30-11:15am	5	6
7	8	9 Sewing Circle 8am-4pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm	10 Sewing Circle 8am-4pm	11 Hebrews Study 9:30-11:15am	12 Mommy & Me 11am	13
14	15	16	17	18 Hebrews Study 9:30-11:15am Hope Kits 7pm	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Thanksgiving	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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