



Paying It Forward by Carol Landis

Recently a friend and I reflected on the influence of our grandparents, and now as part of that generation, our desire to follow their lead (Deut. 6:6-7). This prompted me to also reflect on the many godly teachers, mentors, and friends whose faith continues to influence the way I live. I'll share a few:

- High school Bible teacher John's *contagious faith*. He gave me the desire for a contagious faith too.
- Friend Kathy, when she was struggling to discern truth as she faced conflicting interpretations of Scripture. She confidently shared *her anchor was the basic truth: "Jesus loves me this I know."*
- Book of Romans study, with Pastor Curtis. When reading Romans 7:24-25, "who will rescue me from this body of death," he joyfully emphasized: "Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! We have a Savior!" Also, during that small group Romans study, we listened to a recording of J.C. Wenger. He *highlighted the role of the Holy Spirit to convict persons of sin, and of the Spirit having a much more gracious way of convicting than humans.*
- Friend and mentor Miriam's illustration of a dish rag. *Christians constantly taking in, but not giving out become like a dish rag that's not rung out. Eventually our witness stinks.*
- Bible study leader, Zenida, encouraged us to *keep a dictionary with our Bible to look up the definition of words that need greater clarity.*
- Young adult teacher Henry's challenge at the beginning of a new year to reflect on the previous year and ask: *Have you grown in your relationship with God? Can you see a difference? His focus being improvement, and not needing to be significant.*
- Counselor Pamela when recommending a book for a situation involving demon oppression, stressed *reading God's Word was highest priority. It was more important to be grounded in God's truths than gain information on the subject.*

"Our faith becomes stronger as we express it; a growing faith is a sharing faith."
- Billy Graham

These (and many more!) helped move me beyond an intellectual knowledge of Jesus, to Him being a living reality because I *witnessed them living out their faith*. So, I offer you a challenge. Look Back. Note what influenced your life. Thank God. Then purpose in heart to share your faith journey; pay it forward.

I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. (Philemon 1:6)

August 2022





Making Connections

My name is **Charise Halteman**, and a large part of my story centers around field hockey. I fell in love with the sport and pursued every opportunity to play during my high school years, resulting in a scholarship to play at Temple University. I thrived in the Division I environment, physically and academically, but often felt out of place socially because of my faith and personal convictions. My teammates enjoyed different lifestyles, and I found it hard to fit in and live out my faith. By the time I graduated, I learned to navigate this tension and developed relationships with my teammates where I could be honest and vulnerable about my core convictions. In fact, I ended up becoming an assistant coach in the program while I continued to take graduate courses. However, due to my athletic schedule, I was unable to attend a church regularly and missed out on some of the community and accountability that a church family provides. I look back on this time in my life and feel some regret, but I also know that this season helped me better understand the role of faith in my life. In many ways this “desert time” reinforced my need for Jesus and also gave me the opportunities to make my faith my own as I determined how I wanted to live out my adult life.

In the spring of 2013 I transitioned back home and took a job teaching at Plymouth Whitmarsh High School where I continue to teach 11th grade Social Studies. It was during this transition when I first began attending Franconia. I was invited to join a new BFG group that had formed. I attended Souderton Mennonite for most of my growing up years, having been baptized there when I was 13, but by the time I was in my mid 20's, after having lived in Philadelphia for about six years, I didn't feel deep connections there and I didn't have a Sunday School class or Bible Study group. I wanted to be connected to a church again, so I thought I would give this new BFG a try! It was in this group where I met Adam. Our relationship grew, and we were married in 2016. We are now parents to Rhett (3) and Silas (1) who bring us great joy! Motherhood has only deepened my awareness of how sinful I am and how much I need Jesus to grow in spiritual maturity.

When I'm not teaching or running around after the boys, I still enjoy playing hockey, reading, baking, drinking iced coffee, and listening to podcasts.

Psalm 37:23-24 “The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the Lord holds them by the hand.” (NLT)





Get Involved!



Do you enjoy fresh air, exercise, and good conversation? Come join us for a

Walk in the Park

at Franconia Park
Thursday, Aug. 4th & Tuesday, Aug. 23rd
7:00 pm

All are welcome; walk however long you like!

Women's Ministry is collecting **reusable cloth bags** for Keystone Opportunity Center.



Please put your donations in the basket under the Women's Ministry table in the foyer **by Aug 14.**

Save the Date!

- Walks in the Park – Sept. 22, Oct. 4
- Comforter Blitz – Sept. 13 & 14 (Childcare will be provided)
- Game Night – Oct. 21

Something to Consider:

Women's Ministry plans to offer a couple of **Bible studies** this fall.

Please be in prayer about whether YOU should participate in one of them! These are great opportunities to intentionally dig into God's Word with a group of other ladies. God calls us to be faithful... lets make sure we're grounding ourselves in His Word!

(Look for more info next month!)

There are many **church-wide events** to participate in this month:

Aug. 2 – Congregational Meeting

Aug. 14 – Hymn Sing

Aug. 16 – Chosen 300

Aug. 21 – New Member Sunday/Family Picnic

Aug. 27 – Service Trip to First Fruits Farm

Aug. 28 – Worship in the Park

See the church newsletter for more information!

August 2022

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Congregational Meeting	3	4 Walk in the Park 7pm	5	6
7	8	9 Sewing Circle 8am-4pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm	10	11	12	13
14 Hymn Sing	15	16 Chosen 300	17	18	19	20
21 New Member Sunday/ Family Picnic	22	23 Walk in the Park 7pm	24	25	26	27 Service Trip to First Fruits Farm
28 Worship in the Park	29	30	31			

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