



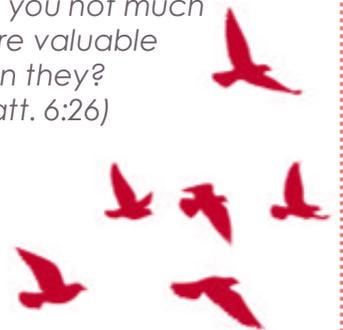
## A Lesson From the Birds by Carol Landis

Birds arriving at our feeder found it empty. They picked at crumbs and fluttered about on surrounding branches as if waiting for food. Their persistence intrigued me, yet safely snuggled in on this cold winter morning, I had no intention of going out to refill our feeders until lunchtime. Then I realized this isn't like my Heavenly Father. He is always ready to feed me.

God is always ready; however, there are times my busy mind clogs the path to communicate with Him. Other times it's been disappointment in what I perceive as His silence or inaction. Or I'm blinded by my demands that He does something to correct situations or people, or I'm so knotted with fear and anxiousness I cannot think, much less pray.

As I continued considering this, various birds – a cardinal, female blue jay, female cardinal, black capped chickadee, sparrow, and others – flew from the empty feeder in front of our house to another feeder, also empty, on the side of our house. Not easily deterred, these persistent, hungry birds wanted to be fed. And my lesson continued. How hungry am I? I recall times when God's "feeder" seemed empty, but there were lessons for me to learn so I could experience His filling. Times I hadn't specifically presented my requests (Phil 4:6), or realized overcoming brings life and life eternal (Rev. 21:7). Other times the log in my eye kept me from seeing (Matt. 7:5), or I needed to cast my anxiety on Him (1 Peter 5:7), draw near so I could feel His Presence (Jam. 4:8), and resist the devil's temptation to remain stuck (Jam.4:7). Then His "food" for my parched spirit flowed freely.

*Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap...yet your Heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? (Matt. 6:26)*



Watching birds arrive at our feeders is a highlight of my day, but I'm much more valuable to God than my feathered friends. As I refill our feeders, I'll be thanking God for His faithfulness to keep His "feeder" always full. And for a visual perseverance lesson from these persistent little birds.

*Thank You, Lord Jesus, for Your loving faithfulness. I love You.*

## March 2023



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



# Making Connections

## *Meet our Brides!*



**Jessica Baier and Troy Cassel.** After moving to Winterset, IA in May of 2021, I met Jess at church through mutual friends. Jess and I enjoyed in our dating season attending concerts, several road trips, cooking together, being in the great outdoors, and making memories with friends and family. With both of our lives involving or coming from a background of cattle, it seemed only fitting to propose using "Rosie", everyone's favorite red heifer and her ear tag to ask if Jess would marry me! We are both truly grateful for our church and small group that has allowed us to grow in our faith as a couple.

We will be getting married on May 6th, 2023 at a barn in a small town in Iowa. Our prayer is that we enjoy all that comes with the wedding planning process but to keep our hearts set on what matters most!

**Abby Nice and Dan Moyer.** Dan and I met freshman year at Dock. We had most of our classes together and became friends. Junior year we went to banquet together and eventually started dating senior year. We dated long distance through college while he was at Liberty University and I was in school for baking and pastry. After working in Arlington, Virginia for a year, Dan got a job back home and we are both finally in the same place.

Dan proposed December 18th at Peddler's Village. We've been going there the past couple years to celebrate our anniversary and look at the gingerbread houses. We are excited to be getting married on September 30th, 2023!



**Mattasyn Shisler and Stefanos Stamoulacatos.** We both moved to Charlotte, North Carolina in the summer of 2019. Stefanos was working in his hometown at an Audi dealership previously in Syracuse, NY. He had been recruited to move down south and start at Audi Northlake. I had just graduated college and had a job lined up at Audi, where I had been an intern a few summers before.

When I started work, Stefanos had hinted at having an interest in me, but it wasn't until a few months later at the Hendrick Christmas party in 2019, that we hit it off and the "sparks were flying." At this point, I was very interested, but I never in a million years thought I would EVER date a coworker. I kept pushing him off, but he was very persistent. No guy had ever pursued me, taken the time to get to know me, and shown me that he actually cared about me as Stefanos did. He made me feel special. We had many harder

conversations before we started dating to make sure it would work before we actually tried to make it work. The biggest topic was our beliefs and relationship with God. It's so important that you not only can find someone to grow with, but that you can walk with in your relationship with Jesus.

Fast forward 3 years later... We have a dog, Luka, who we adore... I somehow convinced him to move back up to the cold in Pennsylvania (closer to his family and mine). We have plans for our first home in Harleysville in the next few months. And now patiently awaiting our wedding day on June 16th, 2023!

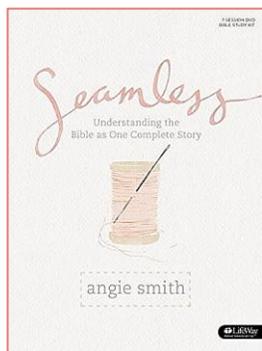
We couldn't be happier to start this life together! I thank God every. single. day. that our paths crossed in Charlotte, NC. Thank YOU for your love & support!



# Get Involved!

## Spring Women's Bible Study

### *Seamless: Understanding the Bible as One Complete Story*



7-week video study  
by Angie Smith

*Seamless* covers the people, places, and promises of the Bible, tying them together into the greater story of Scripture.

One study – Two options

Pick morning or evening, whichever is better for you!

**Morning:** Thursdays, 9:30-11:00 am  
(facilitated by Helen Eastburn)  
\*\*Childcare provided\*\*

**OR**

**Evening:** Thursdays, 7:00-8:30 pm  
(facilitated by Lori Menzies)

**Starts March 16<sup>th</sup>**

Cost for study guide: \$10

Please **SIGN UP** at the Women's Ministry Table in the foyer, or by emailing [franconiawomen@gmail.com](mailto:franconiawomen@gmail.com)

## Opportunities for Service & Fellowship

**Sewing Circle:** March 14<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm  
(Contact Janet Derstine)

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** March 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm  
(Contact Linda Landis)

## Ladies' Christian Movie Night



Date TBD  
6:30-9:30 pm

At the  
**Broad Theater**  
in Souderton  
(Women's Ministry is reserving a theater)

Stay tuned for more details soon!

## Upcoming Walks in the Park

For fellowship and exercise  
At Franconia Park  
April 4<sup>th</sup>, May 2<sup>nd</sup>



Save the Date!

## *Ladies' Outing to Chanticleer Garden*

Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>



# March 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 Frolic Fundraiser Auction
					Frolic Drive-thru meal	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Sewing Circle 8am-4pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm	15	16 Ladies' Seamless Bible study 9am & 7pm	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Ladies' Seamless Bible study 9am & 7pm	24	25
26	27	28				

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