



## Salvation's Gifts By Carol Landis

Sometimes while reading familiar Bible passages, I recognize I'm missing the message. It then seems the Holy Spirit nudges me to stop, and look at the meaning of each phrase, so the message can sink in. Recently this happened with 2 Corinthians 5:21.

*"God made him who had no sin... (One who was perfect; blameless) "to be sin for us..." (take on our filth) "so that in him..." (now covered by His blood) "we might become the righteousness of God" (enabled to become righteous). Sin is offensive, and requires a sacrifice. God Himself provides the sacrifice, allowing Him to live with us, and us to become like Him. This boggles my mind!*

How will we respond?

- ~ Will we recognize our need for salvation?
- ~ Will we accept the gift?
- ~ Will we desire the righteousness of God to define us?

*God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.  
2 Corinthians 5:21*

I wonder if we overlook some of our sins. I know I didn't see that doubt, people-pleasing, and anxiousness (which I struggle with) have a similar root to lying or addiction (for example). Both reveal a spirit that's not resting on the love and provision of Jesus. While I accepted the gift of salvation, I didn't recognize these issues as sin covered by His blood, and missed the completeness of my salvation.

I also wonder if we get stuck on the word righteous. It can feel "too" holy, maybe impossible. But we can't be righteous on our own. That's part of the gift. A helpful definition for me is to be "right with God." I needed to desire righteousness. When I realized righteousness has "fruit," this changed my perspective. Isaiah 32:17 states, "The fruit of righteousness is peace, and its effect is quietness and confidence forever." Also, Psalm 37:30-31 says that the righteous have wisdom, and their feet "do not slip." For me, these created the desire for righteousness. I find hope in the promise of Matthew 5:6: "those who hunger and thirst for righteousness...will be filled."

*Thank You Lord Jesus for Your shed blood that covered my sin. Thank You for providing the way to draw close to You, and for me to "become the righteousness of God". In Your name, Jesus. Amen.*

# April 2023





# Making Connections

## Sewing Circle by Janet Derstine

When asked to write an article about Franconia Sewing Circle, I had to go back 40+ years to when I first became a part of this group. I realized that I have been involved in Sewing Circle for over half my life! I've learned to know many dear sisters from this church and have gained valuable insights about life and service to others.

When my youngest child started Kindergarten, Susie Moyer asked me to take over her position as Vice-President of the sewing circle. She was in charge of seeing that there were enough quilts and comforters for the ladies to work on. At that time Ruth Goshow was President, Erma Halteman was Secretary, and Cass Anders was Treasurer. Yes, we had an offering box hanging by the door because there wasn't a budget back then. We had devotions led by one of the ladies in attendance, and the secretary's report was given. We brought our lunch – no Family Heritage at that time – and when we were finished eating we sang "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow". Gradually the structure part dissolved as the attendance declined.

As a child care provider in my home, I looked forward to one day a month getting together with these ladies and enjoying adult conversations.

Today, we meet on the second Tuesday of each month and no longer use the sewing machines, which were used to make little girls' dresses, bags for kits, and piecing comfort tops. Now we knot comforters exclusively, since ladies who quilt are in short supply these days. Our average attendance in 2022 was 12 persons, and we knotted 189 comforters (57 of them were completed at our Blitz in September). Our comforters are given to MCC for distribution to those who need them most. Last year MCC distributed 52,497 comforters – 27,506 went to Ukraine, with Jordan second at 9,610. There were 13 countries who received comforters in 2022.

It gives us a sense of satisfaction to know that these covers will bless someone in need, especially because we are using fabric that may have been discarded had we not cut it and sewed the pieces into covers. It's a labor of love, and we can be the hands and feet of Jesus to these people. We pray that those receiving these covers will learn of the love and sacrifice of Jesus and will learn to love Him, too.

I welcome anyone who enjoys interaction with other Christian women to come to Sewing Circle. You may stay the whole day or an hour or two. Only when the covers in the cupboard are completed and distributed, will they accomplish their purpose of giving warmth to a cold body. So come, see what we do, and you will receive a blessing, too.







# Get Involved!

## Ladies' Christian Movie Night

Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>  
6:30-9:30 pm

We will be watching



At the

### Broad Theater

in Souderton

(Women's Ministry has reserved a theater)

Light refreshments & fellowship at 6:30;

Movie starts at 7:00

\$5 donation/person

~~~ **Invite your friends!** ~~~

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



## Moms' Market

& Soup/Bake Sale

Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 - Noon

At Franconia Mennonite Church

\*\* Free admission \*\*

\$10 Vendor Tables – Contact:

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

## Come join us for a Ladies' Walk in the Park

Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 pm

At Franconia Park  
(Allentown Rd. entrance)



All are welcome! This is an informal  
gathering for fellowship, exercise,  
and enjoying God's creation. Walk  
and talk as long as you like!

Next walk: May 2<sup>nd</sup>

## Ladies' Outing to Chanticleer Garden

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

We will meet at church at **9:00 am**  
and return by **3:00 pm**

(We will be taking two 15-passenger vans  
and additional personal vehicles, if  
necessary.)

Bring your own picnic lunch & water  
bottle. Coolers and extra water will  
be provided.

\$12 admission

(Children 12 & under are free)

\*Rain date June 3

**SIGN UP** by May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Women's  
Ministry table in the foyer, or email  
[franconiawomen@gmail.com](mailto:franconiawomen@gmail.com)



# April 2023

| SUN         | MON | TUES                                                     | WED                              | THUR                                    | FRI              | SAT                        |
|-------------|-----|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
|             |     |                                                          |                                  |                                         |                  | 1                          |
| 2           | 3   | 4<br>Walk in the Park 6:30pm                             | 5                                | 6<br>Seamless Bible Study 9:30am / 7pm  | 7<br>Good Friday | 8                          |
| 9<br>Easter | 10  | 11<br>Sewing Circle 8am-4pm<br>Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm | 12<br>Ladies' Movie Night 6:30pm | 13<br>Seamless Bible Study 9:30am / 7pm | 14               | 15<br>Moms Market 9am-12pm |
| 16          | 17  | 18                                                       | 19                               | 20<br>Seamless Bible Study 9:30am / 7pm | 21               | 22                         |
| 23          | 24  | 25                                                       | 26                               | 27<br>Seamless Bible Study 9:30am / 7pm | 28               | 29                         |
| 30          |     |                                                          |                                  |                                         |                  |                            |

## CONTACT US: franconiawomen@gmail.com

Carol Landis | 215-723-2981 | caroldanlandis@gmail.com

Gail Reinford | 267-372-2168 | kgreinford@comcast.net

Heidi Yoder | 330-243-4689 | benheidiyoder@gmail.com

Janet Derstine | 215-723-7413 | bjderstine2@gmail.com

Jill Fallon | 610-287-3501 | bnjfallon@verizon.net

Julie Kratz | 717-525-3040 | jskratz@gmail.com

Julie Stitt | 610-287-7688 | sjstitt1@verizon.net



**THE SPICE**