

COME AND SEE

PROVIDED BY THRIVE LADIES MINISTRY
CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH, KANNAPOLIS, NC

In This Issue

MENTORSHIP: A COMMON STRUGGLE
FOR WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

THRIVE LADIES MINISTRY...WHO ARE
WE?

THE PAINTING

PEACE ON EARTH??

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EDITION READING
PLAN

EVENTS AND RESOURCES



MENTORSHIP: A COMMON STRUGGLE FOR WOMEN IN CHURCH

BY LIZZY STEVERS

As a young woman who grew up in the church and Christian community, I often heard the terms mentorship or discipleship in small groups or sermons. We would discuss the Great Commission in Matthew 28, and think about what it means to "make disciples of all nations" and to "teach them" to follow Christ's teachings. I never questioned the meaning of these terms when discussing them at church because I knew the "answers" and seemingly so did everyone else. It was simple right? Just go make disciples. But what did that truly mean once I left the church building?

When the practical application of those words was placed in front of

me, I often felt lost or overwhelmed. Questions started to rise up in my heart: Did my group of friends count as discipleship? Who was my mentor? Who was I supposed to be mentoring? What does it mean to pursue mentorship with other women in the church?

As I continued to attend church as a college student and young adult, I started to feel as if structured mentorship & discipleship was one of those "ideal situations" but something you weren't guaranteed within the church. Only those women whose personalities really "clicked" and lived every part of their lives together got to experience this type of community. This thought was disappointing to someone who craved that bond as she

stepped into adulthood.

Yet scripture shows that this craving is natural, God has commanded us as women to teach and grow each other, and to learn from each other. As we see in Titus 2:1-5, we are asked to teach and train up the younger women in the church. God created us to hold each other accountable through fellowship, to push one another to look more like Christ, to sharpen each other (Proverbs 27:17). We are commanded to take instruction from the wise among us, and to listen to their testimony (Proverbs 13:20).

So how does that translate to women in the church today?

It goes beyond the occasional fellowship meetings. It goes beyond the quick conversation in the hallway. It goes beyond the 5-minute conversation after church. Mentorship is our responsibility as women; we have been given this command. The leaders of our church can help instruct us and encourage us on how to achieve this, but we are the ones called to live this command out among the women in our community and most importantly, our own church.

Mentorship is about being intentional with the sisters in your church. It doesn't have to be a lifetime commitment with one person, and it doesn't have to be a formal set of meetings. But it does have to be *intentional and prayerful*.

Being someone's mentor does not mean you are supposed to step in as their Savior. It means being aware of the lessons you have learned through sanctification and taking the time to pass those on to a younger woman. She may be living that same moment out now, and could use wise and gentle instruction.

On the other hand, being mentored by another woman doesn't mean that you are admitting that you don't have spiritual maturity. Quite the opposite: being mentored means you are growing in humility and you DO HAVE the spiritual maturity to admit that there's a lot of life you have yet to master.

So here's the key point....younger women, YOU NEED A MENTOR.

Older women, YOU NEED TO BE

PURSUING the younger women.

How do you know what category you fit in? It doesn't matter. You fit into **both**. In all walks and seasons of life, we should strive to have a younger woman in our life we are pouring into, and an older woman that is pouring into us. We all need our cups to be filled.

So, does the actual age difference matter between the mentor and mentee? Not entirely, but there should be a gap in your seasons of life.

Older women, you get to share how the Lord walked you through the season your mentee just entered. As the older woman, you get to listen to her and pray over those anxieties with the wisdom you gained from facing those same anxieties years ago. Share with her the scripture you held close to in those dark moments, or the truth that has brought you healing since then. You get to share from a viewpoint and with a hope that seems so distant to the younger woman across the table.

Younger women, you get to listen and be comforted. - comforted by the fact that the Lord is faithful to provide for us. You get to be encouraged by the way the Lord has worked through the wiser woman in front of you. You are encouraged that the same Lord that was faithful to her remains faithful to you. You are encouraged not because this older woman is perfect, but encouraged because this older woman is becoming more and more like our Savior as life carries her along.

So, how do we find our mentor or mentee? Start praying and look around. Please don't be afraid to ask.

You never know when that young wife or mom is craving the comfort of a lunch invite and for someone just to focus on her for an hour. For someone to care enough about her spiritual life to ask her how her walk with Christ is going.

Likewise, you never know if that older woman has walked the same trial you are paralyzed with now. You never know if she's craving someone to listen to her story. She would love to know that her testimony matters to you. She would love to be your cheerleader and teacher.

Special Notes for the Mentor

- Don't let your self-esteem get in the way. (Satan wants to tell us that we aren't qualified, younger women don't want to hear from me, they don't want the life I've had...etc)
- Don't think that you'll be a better fit as a mentor in a different "season of life". If you are currently part of a healthy church and you are actively pursuing a relationship with Christ, you are in the "right season of life".
- Our flesh wants to say we don't have the time to do it well, but ultimately our goal as a mentor is to push others closer to Christ. It's not about us or our performance as a mentor.

Special Notes for the Mentee:

- Don't let a fear of accountability keep you from learning. We can let fear of letting others correct us or others seeing our pitfalls keep us from a sweet and fruitful relationship.
- Keep pride in check. Often we don't think we have room to grow and we become defensive when corrected, or we don't think an older woman understands us.
- Busyness can kill mentorship if we allow other events to have priority over spiritual growth

and fellowship.

So, get together in person, and guard that time together. Make it a habit and stick to it. It doesn't have to be daily interaction or even weekly, but it does need to be intentional. Get to know others' hearts, anxieties, goals, the things that make them excited, or the things that shut them down. Ask how you can be praying for them, and follow up with those requests. This goes for both sides of the mentorship. Obviously, we should always be gentle and respectful in our conversations when asking

someone to be vulnerable, but we also shouldn't avoid the tough topics.

Make this a habit in your spiritual walk, become this individuals' prayer warrior. Fight for her through conversation with the Lord and reading scripture with her. Do not be tempted to neglect this command, and in turn neglect your sisters in Christ. Lastly, be encouraged. Be encouraged that the Lord has created community for our good and most importantly for His glory.



thrive! Ladies Ministry...Who are we?

The thrive! Ladies Ministry mission is to facilitate Christian growth through prayer, Bible study, discipleship, and fellowship. As CBC women grow and mature in godliness, we will be better equipped to nurture and serve our families, enrich our church, evangelize our community, and support missions locally and globally. Currently, there are nine ministry teams working to accomplish these goals.

Helping Hands Ministry Team - Serving our ladies during an illness or death reflects Christ's love and encouragement. Sending cards, connecting via calls and texts, and visiting in person are a few ways this team ministers to those in need.

Media and Communications Ministry Team - Sharing the Gospel through traditional mediums as well as social media platforms are the priorities of this rapidly expanding outreach team. Using print and digital formats allow us to reach a large female audience locally and around the globe.

White Rose Widow Ministry - Ministering to our CBC widows in their need is not only biblical, but our privilege as well. This team combines Bible study and fellowship activities to encourage and meet the practical needs of these special women.

Expectant and New Moms Ministry Team - Celebrating our new moms with baby showers and meal trains after delivery are two important ways of encouraging our young parents as they grow their new families.

NextGeneration thrive! - Connecting our teen girls with ministry opportunities is vital to keeping our next generation of women serving and engaged. This team works hand in hand with youth leaders to encourage our young women to participate in active service to others.

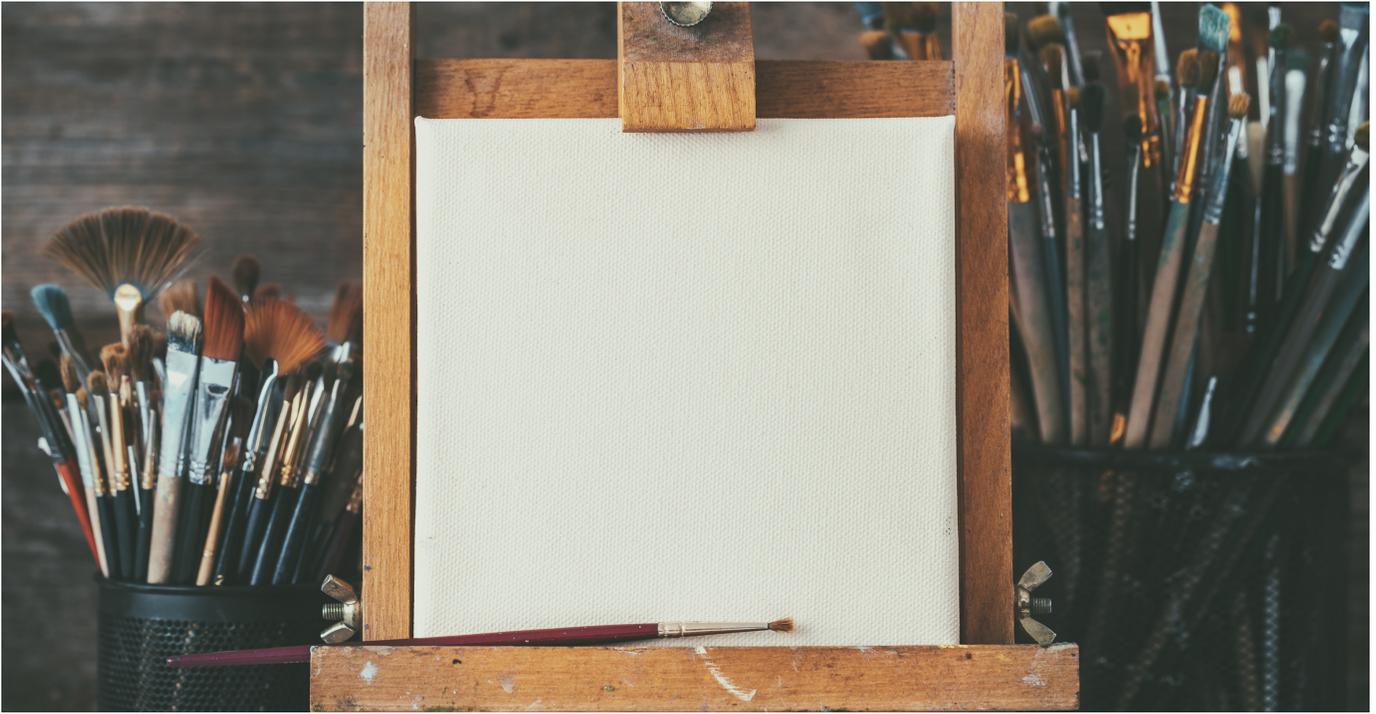
Grace Missions Team - Supporting local and international missions encourages our women to put their faith in action. Praying for and financially supporting missionaries during their monthly meetings reflects this team's passion for reaching the world with the Gospel.

Large Scale Events Ministry Team - Sharing Jesus' hope and joy with other women is why we host large-scale events such as our Christmas Festival of Tables and the Awaken Community Bible studies. Opening our doors to women in our community is a hallmark of Central Baptist Church and a core value of our mission to the Kannapolis metro area.

Visual Impact Ministry Team - Welcoming ladies of our church and community with beautiful and thematic decorations heralds the Gospel in uniquely powerful ways. The extra effort of visually engaging our women helps drive the message of our events home with lasting results.

Missions and Evangelism Ministry Team - Sharing the Gospel of Christ using every avenue available to us is core to the mission of the thrive! Ladies Ministry. Sponsoring evangelism classes, distributing mission items, and reaching women via tangible gifts encourages all our women to use what they have to spread the Good News with others.

The thrive! Leadership Team would like for you to serve with us as we minister to our fellow sisters at CBC and women in our community. Please see Julie Kimmins or email her at jkimmins21@gmail.com for more information or to get connected with a ministry team.



THE PAINTING

BY CHERYL HUNT

EARLY ONE MORNING,
IT WAS MY VERY FIRST DAY
I STOOD BEFORE A CANVAS ALL WHITE
IT LOOKED SO BIG, SEVENTY OR EIGHTY YEARS, I'D SAY,
I WANTED TO PAINT IT JUST RIGHT!

MY HEAVENLY FATHER PUT HIS PLAN OVER MINE.
HE MOVED THE BRUSH BY GUIDING MY HAND.
I WAS SURE THE PAINTING WAS GOING TO BE SO FINE,
MY LIFE WOULD SURELY BE GRAND!

BUT ONE DAY I MOVED FROM HIS LEAD,
I THOUGHT I HAD A BETTER DESIGN
HIS ADMONITIONS I WOULD NOT HEED,
I WANTED MY LIFE TO BE MINE!

AS I PAINTED ON WITHOUT MY GUIDE,
THE PICTURE BEGAN TO CHANGE,
COLORS THAT BROUGHT THE LIGHT INSIDE,
BEGAN TO DARKEN AND REARRANGE

I BECAME SO BLINDED I COULD BARELY SEE
MY MIND LAY IN CONFUSION,
WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO ME?
HAD THE GRAND PAINTING BEEN JUST AN ILLUSION?

I HID MY TEARS, SO NONE COULD TELL
I WANTED TO RIGHT MY WRONG,
BUT SOMEHOW I WOULD ALWAYS FAIL
MY PAIN HAD GROWN SO STRONG.

WHAT HAPPENED TO MY WONDERFUL PLAN?
WHERE WAS THE BEAUTIFUL PAINTING OF MY LIFE?
WAS THIS CONFUSION THE IMAGE OF ITS SPAN?
ITS COLORS FULL OF ANGER AND STRIFE?

OH, I NEVER MEANT IT TO BE SO,
WHATEVER SHALL I DO?
IT WAS THEN I HEARD THE MASTER'S VOICE,
"DO YOU WANT ME TO FIX IT FOR YOU?"

WITH MY EYES FULL OF TEARS,
I TURNED TO FACE MY FATHER, MY GUIDE.
HE HAD BEEN THERE THROUGH THE YEARS,
LONGING TO BE BACK BY MY SIDE.

I GAVE HIM FULL CONTROL,
HE MOVED MY BRUSH WITH GRACE,
PAINTING THE TIME THAT DARKNESS STOLE,
WITH FORGIVENESS IN ITS PLACE

THE COLORS ONCE MORE BECAME BRIGHT!
THE COMPOSITION HAD MEANING....
THE PAINTING FINALLY LOOKED RIGHT.
IT WAS BEAUTIFUL WITH THE CLEANING.

"FATHER, WHAT DO WE DO WHEN THE PAINTING IS THROUGH?"
HE LOOKED WITH LOVE AND SMILED,
"THIS PAINTING HAS SERVED AS LESSONS FOR YOU.
WHEN IT'S FINISHED....WE'LL GO HOME, MY CHILD"



Peace On Earth??

BY REBECCA SCOTT-FIELDEN

The last drumstick has been eaten, the last football thrown, the last enormous balloon of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade passed by, surrendering itself to the squeals of children's delight at the sight of the long anticipated, grand entrance of Santa on his sleigh! Move over thanks and gratitude, enter Christmas peace! Put up the tree, string the lights! Prepare the "divide and conquer" strategy for Black Friday shopping!! Ah, Christmas! It's that magical time of peace on earth, and good will toward men (Luke 2:14).

Each Christmas, I am intentional in helping my children, and now grandchildren, understand the greatest gift God has given us, and attempt to capture the wonder of that first Christmas, long ago, when the angels appeared, and announced the birth of our Savior.

But my expanding "to do" list, cramped calendar, diminishing funds, some strained family dynamics, and the arrival of Michael, our annoying Elf on the Shelf, are constant distractions to me. Is there a single weekend, or even a single day in December that isn't chocked full with cards to be written, shopping, decorating and wrapping to be done, cookies to be baked, Hallmark movies to watch, Christmas programs, "get togethers" and parties to attend; and not to mention...the plight of what shenanigans Michael will get into or where he will show up each and every exhausting day? And I'm certain there are hosts of other holiday activities, that I can't quite think of at the moment, but will also have to manage squeezing them in before the big day. And this is the season of peace, right?

Peace is that elusive word we hear flitting around in the air at Christmastime, in our seasonal conversations, quoting, "and on earth, peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14), the musing poetry of our Christmas cards, and in the angelic choruses of "Silent Night," singing, "sleep in heavenly peace." With global and political unrest surrounding us, along with our already chaotic lives, filled with schedules, financial burdens, illnesses, family dysfunction, loneliness and grief, not to mention a virus that won't even take a holiday vacation, can we really experience God's peace this Christmas?

I think the first Christmas Eve must have been similarly chaotic. In the midst of political unrest, people came from all over to the places of

their birth to be registered for the census (Luke 2:1). The town was so packed with people it ran out of places for people to stay. And then, in the middle of that chaos, the message of peace came, announcing that the Lamb of God had been born.

I think God's peace is often misunderstood. When the prophets foretold of the coming of the Messiah, people hoped He would come to usher in peace from evil, war, political unrest and tyranny (John 6:15). I wonder how many were disappointed and began doubting God? But Jesus didn't come to rule any government. Jesus said to not think that He came to bring peace on earth, but He came as a sword--the Word of God--and the Word was divisive (Matthew 10:34, Hebrews 4:12). The peace that Jesus' arrival provided wasn't a temporary reprieve from war and oppression. It was the divine fulfillment of a promise, a covenant, for all of mankind (Acts 10:36), and from which, there is no end (Isaiah 9:7). Jesus is the evidence of God's

love and good will toward us.

The Greek word for peace, *eire'ne'*, literally means to join. In Hebrew, it means wholeness, nothing missing, not broken. Before Jesus came, man's relationship with God was broken because of sin, and nothing; not even the choicest sacrificial offering, nor any amount of good works could repair that broken relationship. Man needed a Savior - needed Jesus - in order to be reconciled and joined to the Father with restored fellowship.

This Christmas, think about the good news God sent the angels to announce, that first Christmas Eve, so many years ago...the good news of the birth of Jesus Christ, Who loved us so much, He gave up His rightful place in Heaven, and came to save sinners, like you and me (John 14:17) - fulfilling His promise of wholeness, of being perfectly reconciled in fellowship with God, and of coming to live in the heart of whosoever would believe in Jesus. God's perfect peace on earth has

been given to us, and that is the greatest gift of all.

God's perfect peace comes to me when I keep my mind focused, or "set", on Him (Isaiah 26:3). The peace that Jesus gives me (John 14:27) is there when there is no peace to be found; when I am overwhelmed with what is going on in the world around me, the every day chaos of my life, and when my calendar and "to do" lists clamor for my attention reminding me of everything that still needs to be done. The peace that Jesus gives me is not moved by my circumstances and neither the world, nor my calendar, can take it away from me.

Christmas will be a lot more peaceful for me this year, not because of me, but because of Him. He is there in the ordinary moments in my life and He is there, providing me Peace when I am overwhelmed.

May God's peace be in your life this Christmas and every day.

Prayer: God, help us to dwell in the peace You provide. Help us to extend that peace to those around us. When life is overwhelming, help us to remember that our peace is not conditional upon having a calm life. Thank you for being our peace and for coming to reconcile us with You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth,
peace, good will toward men.

Luke 2:14



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Favorite
& Easy
FALL
AND
WINTER
Recipes

- OVERNIGHT CINNAMON FRENCH TOAST CASSEROLE
- HOT CHOCOLATE ON A STICK

OVERNIGHT CINNAMON FRENCH TOAST CASSEROLE

HOT CHOCOLATE ON A STICK

- 1 lb loaf of sourdough or french bread, cut into 1" cubes.
 - 8 large eggs
 - 2 c whole or 2% milk
 - 1 c heavy whipping cream
 - 1/2 c each of white and brown sugar
 - 3 tsp vanilla extract
 - 2-3 tsp cinnamon
 - 1/3 c flour
 - 4 Tbsp butter
1. Cube bread into 1" chunks and spread evenly in a greased 9x13 inch pan.
 2. Combine the other casserole ingredients and whisk together until well combined. Pour the mixture evenly over the bread and press to soak the bread.
 3. Cover the casserole and store it in the fridge for several hours or overnight.
 4. In a separate bowl, combine the flour, brown sugar, cinnamon and salt, then cut the butter into the mixture until it forms crumbles and put on top of casserole.
 5. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes to an hour, depending on whether you want a softer or firmer texture. When it's ready, serve it with fresh fruit, powdered sugar and some syrup.

- 10 oz bag chocolate chips (semi-sweet, milk chocolate, or white chocolate) (I prefer to use a mixture of semi-sweet and milk chocolate)
- 10 oz bag Mini Marshmallows
- Sprinkles
- Crushed candy canes
- Wooden spoons or sticks (or you can use white plastic spoons)
- Clear treat bags
- Mini-muffin tray or Ice cube tray
- Ribbon

Place chocolate chips in a microwave safe bowl and heat for 1 minute. Remove and stir. Continue to heat in 30 second increments (stirring in between) until chocolate is melted and smooth. Scoop melted chocolate into mini-muffin tray or ice cube tray. Decorate the top with mini-marshmallows, crushed candy canes, and sprinkles. Let your creativity run wild! After decorating, place a wooden stick (or plastic spoon) inside the middle of the chocolate. Freeze for 20- 30 minutes or until chocolate is hardened. Place in clear treat bag and decorate with a ribbon. Stir the hot chocolate on a stick with warm milk until it dissolves. Top with additional marshmallows if desired.

9 Steps to a More Meaningful Christmas

1. DON'T OVERSPEND.
"GODLINESS WITH CONTENTMENT IS GREAT GAIN"
(1 TIMOTHY 6:6).
2. HAVE A GRATITUDE ATTITUDE (PSALM 107:1).
THIS WILL GO A LONG WAY IN DISSOLVING HOLIDAY BLUES.
3. SHARE WITH THE NEEDY.
VISIT A NURSING HOME, BUY GIFTS FOR A NEEDY FAMILY, OR
BRING A MEAL TO A SHUT-IN. YOU'LL BE "LENDING TO THE
LORD--AND HE WILL REPAY YOU!" (PROVERBS 19:17; MATTHEW
25:40)
4. CELEBRATE CHRIST'S BIRTH WITH SOMEONE WHO IS LONELY
OR FACING DIFFICULTIES. "WHEN YOU GIVE A BANQUET, INVITE
THE POOR, THE CRIPPLED, THE LAME, THE BLIND"
(LUKE 14:13).
5. PAUSE AND PRAY OFTEN (PHILIPPIANS 4:6; 1 THESSALONIANS
5:17).
6. SING, RECITE SCRIPTURE, REJOICE! SINGING PSALMS AND
HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS" (EPHESIANS 5:19).
7. PRAY FOR PERSECUTED BELIEVERS (HEBREWS 13:3).
THE CHRISTMAS SEASON OFTEN BRINGS INCREASED
PERSECUTION.
8. TAKE A GIFT OR PLATE OF COOKIES TO UNSAVED
NEIGHBORS.
9. MAKE "THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY"
(COLOSSIANS 4:5).

Notes and Journaling

- Do you sometimes struggle with "peace"?
- When we slow down and stop to pray and meditate - even for a few minutes - how does that change our ability to experience God's peace?
- **READ** Acts 10:36, John 14:27, Colossians 3:15 & Isaiah 26:3
- **WRITE or DRAW** your thoughts:

2021 Bible Reading Plan



****SPECIAL HOLIDAY EDITION****

**November - December
thrive! - Ladies Ministry**

Rejoice!

As you take time during the holidays to read these special Scriptures, we pray that you have a spirit of Thanksgiving. Our prayer is that we all cultivate a heart of thankfulness that directs us into the Christmas season, excited to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior. The Scriptures in December encourage us to explore the birth, life, ministry, and the promises Jesus Christ has shown us. We look forward to serving you more in 2022!

-thrive! Ladies Ministry

November

November 1 - 1 Thessalonians 5:18

November 16 - 2 Corinthians 9:15

November 2 - Ephesians 5:18 - 21

November 17 - Psalm 95:2

November 3 - Psalm 106:1

November 18 - Revelation 7:11 - 12

November 4 - Philippians 4:6

November 19 - Psalm 136:1 - 3

November 5 - Psalm 107:1

November 20 - Psalm 136:4 - 9

November 6 - Psalm 100:4

November 21 - Psalm 136:10 - 22

November 7 - Colossians 3:15 - 17

November 22 - Psalm 136:23 - 26

November 8 - Colossians 4:2

November 23 - Psalm 92:1

November 9 - Psalm 28:7

November 24 - Revelation 11:17

November 10 - Psalm 100:1 - 5

November 25 - 1 Timothy 4:4 - 5

November 11 - Psalm 116:17

November 26 - 1 Timothy 2:1 - 4

November 12 - 1 Corinthians 15:57

November 27 - 1 Timothy 1:12 - 15

November 13 - Romans 14:5 - 6

November 28 - Psalm 107:15

November 14 - Psalm 118:1

November 29 - 2 Corinthians 2:14 - 15

November 15 - Psalm 50:14

November 30 - Psalm 98:1

Notes:

December

December 1 - John 1:1 - 5; 14 - 18

December 2 - Luke 1:1 - 12

December 3 - Luke 1: 13 -25

December 4 - John 1:6 - 9

December 5 - Luke 1: 76 - 80

December 6 - John 1:19 - 34

December 7 - Isaiah 11:1 - 10

December 8 - Luke 1:46 - 58

December 9 - Luke 2:1 - 7

December 10 - Luke 2:8 - 14

December 11 - Luke 2:15 - 20

December 12 - Matthew 1:18 - 21

December 13 - Matthew 1:22 - 25

December 14 - Luke 1:67 - 79

December 15 - Luke 2:41 - 51

December 16 - Matthew 4: 1 - 11

December 17 - Luke 5:1 - 11

December 18 - John 2: 1 - 11

December 19 - John 6:1 - 14

December 20 - Luke 8:40 - 56

December 21 - John 3:16

December 22 - Luke 4:16 - 19

December 23 - Luke 19:10

December 24 - John 14:6

December 25 - John 8:12

December 26 - Isaiah 6:11

December 27 - John 10:10

December 28 - John 14:27

December 29 - John 14:1 - 3

December 30 - Matthew 28;20

December 31 - Matthew 11:29 - 30

Notes:

UPCOMING EVENTS

- DEC 5 - (PM SERVICE) - CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION
- DEC 11 - TOY SHARE - REGISTER ONLINE AT CBCKANNAPOLIS.COM
- DEC 12 -(PM SERVICE) - KIDS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
- DEC 19 -(PM SERVICE) - FAMILY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM (ADULT CHOIR)

THRIVE! LADIES BOOK CLUB

MEETING ON ALTERNATE SATURDAYS @ 10:00 AM
 AT THE HOLY GRIND COFFEE HOUSE, CHINA GROVE, NC
 IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT:
 REBECCA SCOTT-FIELDEN 704-680-2613

NOVEMBER 27TH
THE WOMEN OF CHRISTMAS
 BY LIZ CURTIS HIGGS

GRIEF SHARE

"IT HURTS WHEN WE LOSE SOMEONE. FIND HELP AT GRIEF SHARE."
 FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
 LISA SCEARCE 704-640-4381

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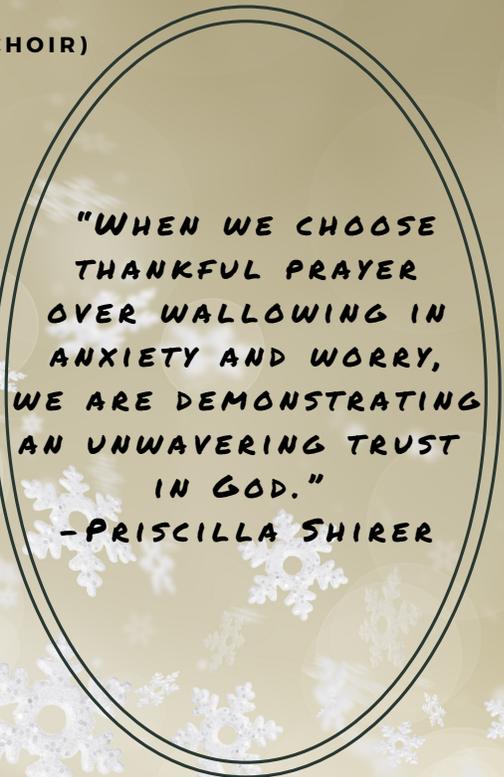
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