

Life Church Women's Ministry



HOLIDAY EDITION

JANUARY 2011

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Breaking Traditions—Pay It Forward

For some, hanging mistletoe, roasting Chestnuts, leaving cookies for Santa are among the many Christmas traditions celebrated. As a child growing up some of our family Christmas traditions included, Christmas Caroling around our neighborhood, watching on TV: “Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer,” visiting Nativity scenes, and of course, every young child’s dread: Midnight Mass. There are many Christmas traditions practiced by numerous countries all over the world during the holiday season. These traditions can be as diverse as the culture and religious practices of each and every country in the world.



“The Lord led my husband to break with our usual tradition of gift giving and receiving so that we can “pay it forward” by blessing someone or some family in need.”

As a new Christian and early on in my marriage I was blessed to have had a Pastor who taught my husband and me that aside from God’s Word, many valuable things. Our very first pastor in New York instilled in us the need to establish solid, family traditions. He explained to us and other young newlyweds the many benefits of establishing and keeping family traditions throughout the years as a couple, as parents

and as we build our lives together. So, in the raising of our children, Pastor Al and I have adopted our own family Holiday traditions; some of them include: tree decorating night – a big deal at the Royal house, b a k i n g Christmas cookies – a 2-day affair, and our youngest son, Zac’s all-time favorite: drinking eggnog – which he

Zac already begun his “Christmas milk” love affair earlier than years past and setting a new personal best beating his record for eggnog drinking! We have however planned a slight change to one of our traditions of the past by the prompting of the Holy Spirit to my husband; a breaking of tradition, so to speak, regarding gift giving. Early in November, when all our children were home together (a rare occasion because of college) Pastor Al and I requested that no gifts be given to us. Our children agreed that they would not give us gifts but if they do to be aware that we would give them away to a family in need. The Lord led my husband to break with our usual tradition of gift giving and receiving so that we can “pay it forward” by blessing someone or some family in need.

In the movie, Pay It Forward, a young boy developed a system of multiplying, exponentially, random acts of kindness for a Social Studies assignment. I recommend that if you haven’t seen the movie to watch it with your family. I am reminded of what Paul says in **2 Corinthians 9:7**, “*Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give....*” Pay it forward, what a wonderful way to celebrate Christmas this year! **LCWM**

Christine Royal

begins as early as the first grocery store sets it out and doesn’t stop until it’s no longer on the shelves! We first became aware of Zac’s love for eggnog when he was a toddler, because as soon as he realized what season it was he exclaimed, “Hey, can we get some of that Christmas milk?” To this day our family affectionately refers to Eggnog as “Christmas milk.”

This year at the Royal family’s house we plan on keeping our usual Christmas traditions.

LCWM Spotlight On.....Carol Young



"My days run long and are very busy, but I have learned that the best way to take care of me and balance my life is to make daily prayer and Bible study a priority."

I have been married to a career soldier, now retired, for 38 years. We have 2 daughters, Shari and Stephanie and a son-in-law Ben. We also have 2 grandchildren, Mariah and Isaiah.

I run a child daycare built on Christian principles, most of the children in my care know nothing of God when they first come to me. I consider it a privilege that God allows me to introduce Him to the children. I also care for my elderly mother. My days run long and are very busy, but I have learned that the best way to take care of me and balance my life is to make daily prayer and Bible study a priority. Without it my life is total chaos.

My parents brought me up as a Catholic, but I broke away from the religion when I left my parents home at the age of 18. I rediscovered God in 1990. In 2001, I was one of the founders of a church we started in a friend's basement. A year later, I was asked to lead a women's ministry. I stepped down after 5 years.

I am excited about the new team approach structure of Life Church Women's Ministry. Personally, my hope for us as women is that we grow so close in our walk with the Lord that the world will see Jesus in us. My prayer is that we are strong in our commitment to spiritual growth; diligent in our service for our Lord and Savior, and that we become a sisterhood powerful in our love for one another and those who walk through the doors of Life Church. **LCWM**

Jennie White.....

I was born in Waterbury, Connecticut where my father was a pastor at a small Pentecostal church. I am the middle child of my parent's seven children of six daughters and one son. In 1966, we moved to Hartford, CT where my father was appointed to pastor a church. My parents bought 10 Bible Story books with pictures for easy reading and our enjoyment. Since I loved to read, I read all of the books. As time went on I realized that I needed a personal relationship with Jesus and accepted the Lord as my Savior at a young age. I also had a longing to play the piano and learned by watching and listening as God prepared me to bless the church by playing the organ and singing in the choir.

I studied accounting at college and received a Bachelor of Science degree from Central Connecticut State University. After my divorce from my husband I realized I did not know who I was and that my self esteem was low. God opened my

eyes to the fact that He had been speaking to me for quite a few years. During one of the women's meetings at church, the story of Hosea and his wife Gomer was discussed. God told Hosea the prophet to marry a wife of harlotry and have children of harlotry. Hosea married



"I realized that I had placed many things before my relationship with the Lord. Whether it was my job or my relationships with men or my family, God was consistently calling me out of this idolatry into a deeper relationship with Him."

Gomer, who was a prostitute. After they married, she bore Hosea a child. Not long after that, she bore the children of other men while continuing to be married to Hosea. This story showed God's great mercy and faithfulness to His unfaithful people despite their behavior of consistently turning to other gods. I realized that I had placed many things before my relationship with

the Lord. Whether it was my job or my relationships with men or my family, God

was consistently calling me out of this idolatry into a deeper relationship with Him.

When I came to Life Church three years ago, I knew I would be ministering to someone. I knew I

would minister to women in some capacity. Today I want to help women hear the voice and heart of God on a consistent basis. I want them to know the God that I know who walks and talks with me daily and helps me through each area of my day. I want to grow together with them to a more intimate relationship with Jesus, to fall in love with Him. I don't have all the answers but I know the One who does. **LCWM**

Pastor's Prayer



By Dorletha Clyde

give you Pastor's according to my heart who will feed you with knowledge and understanding." Jeremiah 3:15. And, "I will set up Shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking," says the Lord. Jeremiah 23:4

Our Father, Lord God Almighty, we come before you to give you thanks and praises for Pastor Royal and his family. Father we thank you for the knowledge and understanding that he pours into your people. Thank you for the sermons that he feeds us with. Lord, may he continue to shed light on the

Word, wherever the road takes him. Thank you for his family faithfully supporting him. May First Lady Christine and their son's always have his back. May your grace, mercy, and peace always be with his family. May Pastor Royal continue to bless your people and continually life up the cross of Jesus from which we gather our strength.

Lord, make his feet as hinds feet (Hab 3:19), that his strength faileth not and that he will be strong in difficult places as he listens to that still small voice (1 King 19:12) saying, "This is the way, walk there in."

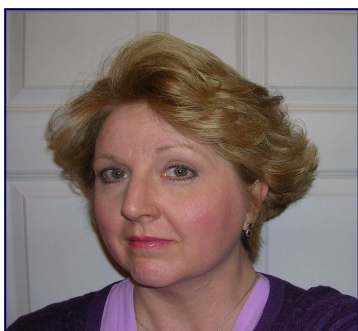
In Jesus' Name, Amen! **LCWM**

Thank God for Pastor Royal who has been feeding our spirit, from the pulpit to the doorkeeper. God has been supplying Pastor's sermons. What God pours into Pastor Royal, he gives back to us. God has said, "I will

Feedback

BE THANKFUL FOR WHERE THE LORD HAS YOU!

As I read the November 2010 newsletter almost every article keyed the same thought. "As Christian women we are to be thankful for where the Lord has us." Ephe-



Life Church Women's Ministry

sians 5:15-21 says, "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but

understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God."

He says we are to be wise; we are to redeem the time. How better to redeem our time than to be thankful and to have a merry heart towards everyone around us? And yes, that includes our husbands. Imagine the peace in our homes if we are thankful for our husbands. If we thank him for being such a good man, for being a good dad, for being a hard working man. Maybe you are in a place where you don't think that about your

man. Find something about him that you can build up and be thankful for. Maybe he's a smart dresser, or maybe he's a quiet thinker with wisdom. Maybe he picks up after himself or he is a good cook. There is something about him that you can be thankful for. When you start looking for the good in him and let him know that you are truly thankful for him you will begin to see more good and before you know it you will be married to the man of your dreams once again. Remember your Knight in Shining Armor that you married? He's still in there, but in order to see him you have to have a thankful heart.

The same is true for our children, our neighbors and the stranger on the street that Kristen talked about. The more we are thankful and are looking on the "bright side of life" the more we will be able to touch the lives around us. A thankful heart and a smile can go a long way. **LCWM**

Letters JANUARY

Health and Wellness for the Modern Christian

By Rochelle Christie-Spann



In our society how we look has become more important than who we are. We are bombarded by the media with images that look nothing like most of the beautiful women we know. It is imperative that we have a healthy body image if we are to avoid believing the negative messages on TV that continually influence how we view ourselves. When we have a distorted view of our physical bodies it is difficult to look past what we think we need to look like and accept how God designed us.

Our body image is only a part of our whole image. God sees us for who we are completely, body, soul and spirit. He is concerned about who we are inside and the condition of our hearts. We are the ones who are so caught up in our outward appearances.

Psalm 139 :14
“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”

I am not saying that we as women should not have self-confidence and feel good about how we present ourselves to world. We should take pride in how we look, however we should be MORE concerned with how God sees us than how we see ourselves or how others see us.

If we know and believe that we were created in God’s image and likeness we can get rid of the unhealthy thoughts we have about ourselves and ask God to replace them with the truth about who we are in Christ.

We will never be happy comparing ourselves to other people. The one we should be striving to be more like daily is Christ. Once we accept that we cannot be anyone other than who God designed us to be...unique, we can then celebrate who

1 Samuel 16:7
“The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

we are and walk in the confidence that we are children of the living God.

Spend some time with your Heavenly Father today, ask him to help you identify any negative thoughts or attitudes that contradict the woman of God He desires you to be. Replace those thoughts with that which will not pass away, the Word of God. **LCWM**

BEAUTY TIP
1 PETER 3:4
“But let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious.”

Ladylove

She rises in beauty like a blossom in the warm grass.
He opens the wave of the ocean, motion of her heart
Her blush changes in the brightness of her gaze.
She stands waits for knowing his ladylove will never part
Stands with passion she always yearns his romance for she is his ladylove
By Karen (Kay) McLamb -2007.



By Judy Johnson

We've been trying to establish a firm foundation that will support the level of intimacy God wants to have with you through the many seasons of your spiritual walk. Do you have someone in your life that you truly trust; someone you know you can depend on no matter what happens, no matter what the storm may look like or what the signs may indicate, you KNOW them, you trust them and you stand with them in that friendship. That kind of relationship takes time and effort. It takes experiences, it takes challenges and questions, tears and laughter, disappointment and victories, but most of all commitment to the relationship. There are two specific friendships I'd like you to read about: David & Jonathan (1 Sam 18-23, 2 Samuel 9:1) and Naomi & Ruth (Ruth). Please read about these people; their relationships, their struggles, and their faithfulness/commitment to each other.

I trust that you were able to spend

some time getting to know HIM (re: Part 2 – Getting to Know You). How do you get to know someone? How do you get to the point where you realize that they are someone you want to know better? One thing you need to realize is that it's not about you at this stage it's about getting to know them. What makes them tick? Last month we closed the study with this question: Do you understand what you can expect from HIM? Did you discover anything? Consider that between David & Jonathan (1 Samuel 18:1-3) and Ruth & Naomi (Ruth 1:16-17), what could they expect from each other?

So what can you expect from God? Here are just a few examples: Prov 18:24, Heb 13:5, 2 Peter 3:9, 1 Cor 10:13, 1 Thes 5:24, and 1 John 1:9. It's important that you discover these truths, write them down and claim them for yourself.

As with any relationship, there are stages we go through. Visual an onion, if you cut one end off you see rings (layers). What we are doing

Creating a Place of Intimacy with God (Part 3)

Friendship

here is peeling back the layers that lead to intimacy; one at a time. The outer skin is often thin, almost fragile. Sometimes it falls right off but other times it clings and takes effort as you peel it away one little piece at a time. Other times it's hard and thick; almost impenetrable. And, if you've ever peeled or chopped an onion you know there are tears, but oh, it's worth it for the flavor and pizzazz an onion adds to a dish. Tears come with relationships too but they don't need to signal disaster.

A life without friendship is missing a wonderful ingredient, but a life without a relationship with Jesus Christ is a life without hope and meaning. (1 Thess 4:13-18). He's committed to this relationship, are you? (Deut 4:29) **LCWM**

By Jennie White

“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, Your God reigns!” Isaiah 52:7

How Beautiful Are Your Feet?



A few years ago, I bought a pair of Nine West boots with a 2 inch high heel, soft light brown suede and pointed toe. I just loved them. With my shoe size, which I won't mention here, I have a hard time finding shoes and boots that I like so I was thrilled. I wore them a few times.

Then one day I wore them to work. For some reason my feet were in misery and by lunch time I was on my way to Kohl's to give my feet some relief. It was quite obvious to others that I was in a lot of pain since I saw a few folks glance at my feet and then at my face without commenting. I placed my foot gently on the floor as if not to disturb something inside the boot and walked in a way that did not display comfort or confidence in my steps. When I got home, I realized that I had a few calluses on the bottom of my feet - the toe of the boot was pointed so I could not spread out my toes. Also, the sole of the boot was quite thin, thus my discomfort.

As I read the scripture above, I thought about my feet and what they represent in the spirit. The foundation that we have laid as we walk about being light and salt to the world is very important. Since the feet are what hold us up in the natural

Amy Hollis

Invite you to contemplate that scripture: If God’s Word is true, (and it absolutely is) then we must pay close attention to this one! You have the choice, every time you open your mouth, to declare life into your situations, your body, your finances, your loved ones; or you can curse those very same things just by the words you speak.

As one who has experienced many migraines, I need to choose wisely what I speak when pain and diminished vision hits. “I’m blind; my head is killing me!” Just words; a harmless way to communicate what I am experiencing, right? Because God’s Word is true, those very words act as a curse; effectively diminishing my vision to blindness and declaring literal death over myself, were it not for God’s grace and protection. When in pain, I must consciously choose words that edify my body and situation even though it is a struggle. “Lord, thank you for taking my pain when You died on the cross. I receive healing in my body. By Your stripes, I am



healed.” When I speak those life-giving words, I declare God’s blessing over myself and I prepare to receive healing. Perhaps an extreme example, but I can think of many times when I have spoken things into existence—some good, some bad. One thing is sure; there is power in our words!

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. I Peter 5:8. While God is omniscient and omnipresent, the devil is not. He cannot read our minds, but he certainly is listening to the words we speak and can send

“The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit..” Proverbs 18:21

assignments to kill, steal or destroy us or our situations by using the very words we have spoken.

God spoke the heavens and the earth into existence. Follow God’s example. Speak in faith--out loud--and declare prosperity in your finances, health into your body, blessings and favor on your job. At the same time, I urge you to use caution when you’re tempted to complain or focus on and talk about things that aren’t the way

you would want them to be. Our God, ever loving, provided for us in these situations, as well, teaching us to “call into being that which does not exist.” (Romans 4:17) Speak the opposite over a negative situation and watch what happens.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for loving us and teaching us to be more like You. Teach us to guard our tongues, for in our words is the power of life and death. Encourage us to speak out only that which is life-giving and edifying to ourselves and others. Send your Holy Spirit to convict us before we would speak any words that would curse or bring death to a situation or another person. Let us be ever-aware

of the power of our words. In Jesus name, Amen. **LCWM**

“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” I Peter 5:8

Devotionals—Jennie White cont’d

body, spiritual feet are our foundation. The Word of God Ephesians 6:14-15 says “Stand therefore [hold your ground], having tightened the belt of truth around your loins and having put on the breastplate of integrity and of moral rectitude and right standing with God, **and having shod your feet in preparation [to face the enemy with the firm-footed stability, the promptness and the readiness produced by the good news] of the Gospel of peace.**” Amplified Version.

I thought about those boots. They would not offer the protection or be sufficient as preparation to face the enemy with firm-footed stability, promptness and readiness produced by the good news. Yes they were cute, but they would also keep me out of balance and unready to fight the enemy. I thought about my feet, the calluses and dead skin that had grown so hard that I could not place my foot with confidence, or firm-footed stability and promptness.

Some of us go about our daily lives the same way. We don’t read the Word of God except when in Bible study or we hear it on Sunday morning from our pastor. When we hear the pastor we think, “Well I’ve got my dose of God for the week”. Of course Satan knows the word of God much better than many Christians and knows how powerful it is against his devious acts. I implore you to spend time in the word of God daily, sit at His feet and listen to what He has prepared specifically for you each day. Let Him peel away the dead skin on your heart. God wants to prepare our feet with the gospel of peace, to give us . . . beautiful feet! **LCWM**

From The Heart Of Judy.....

As we approach this Christmas season I want to ask you a question that you may want to ponder for a while. As you think back over the years, what was the BEST gift you ever received?

Do you remember the moment you began tearing back the wrapping paper and the realization of what it was became apparent to you – do you remember? I do. I was twelve. I grew up in a loving and safe home: Dad went to his machine shop every day and Mom stayed home and did what Moms did. I was smack dab in the middle of five siblings: three brothers and two sisters. Dad and Mom loved celebrations and Christmas was no exception; Dad made a big deal of handing out the gifts as everyone oohed and aahed over each one. But this year was different, there was a collective sense of anticipation I didn't quite understand until "the gift" was given.

You see, as we got older we came to realize that a different one of us received "the special gift" each year. I had no idea this was to be my year. As I tore back the wrapping paper and realized what it was my little heart almost exploded with joy and tears streamed down my face – my very own sewing machine! – "I" was receiving the "special gift" this year, I could hardly believe it. You see, being in the "middle" often times I felt "overlooked". But it was ME, I really was SPECIAL. It's been 40+ years and my whole family still remembers the Christmas when Judy got the "special gift."

In this season of gift giving and receiving, make some time to seriously think about the greatest gift anyone can receive, the gift of eternal life (John 3:16-17). Do you remember the moment? Did your heart leap for joy and tears stream down your face when you realized the "special gift" was for you? Maybe you've been offered the gift and didn't receive it. I encourage you to do so, unwrap it and bask in the sheer joy of the revelation that: YOU are loved by the creator of the universe, that He died for YOU, and that He desires to have a personal relationship with YOU. And I pray that you remember that moment for years to come.

Have a Blessed Christmas

Judy



John 3:16-17

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

Announcements

Becoming Women of Faith (Current Study - Beth Moore, Living beyond Yourself) - 1st and 3rd Friday of every month at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Next meeting is Friday, January 22. Please contact Judy Johnson at 860-482-8651 for more information.



Ladies of Life (Current Study - How to Study the Bible) - 2nd Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM at the home of Kathy Primm. Next meeting is Thursday, January 13. Please contact Cathy Primm at 860-653-9045 for more information/directions.



Girls of Grace - 4th Sunday of the month from 12:15 - 12:45 PM in the large Sunday school room. Please contact Deonne Aponete at 860-770-4317 for more information.



Thursdays with Grace (a time of fellowship) - 2nd Thursday of the month at 1:30 PM. Please contact Judy Johnson at 860-482-8651 for location.



Psalms Life Group - 4th Sunday of the month. Please feel free to bring your lunch. Contact Donna-Rae at 860-658-1329 for more information.

NEW! "Hour of Power" 2011— January 17 - 21 starting at 7:00pm each night. The title of the series is: "The Boat or the Water." Come all five nights to hear Pastor Royal discuss: divine destiny, personal insight, "good to great", and supernatural power.

Events

Cookie Swap—Saturday January 22, 2011 at 1:00pm - hosted at the home of Jane Ellrod.

"Cookie Swap is a fun time to fellowship together....come with 2 doz of your favorite cookies, and leave with 2 doz of assorted cookies"

Due to parking, please R.S.V.P. - Dorie Hewitt at 860-748-9861, dhewcna@msn.com or Jane Ellrod at 860-844-0260, jane.ellrod@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

A sign up sheet will be available on Sunday at Church—please see Dorie Hewitt to sign up.

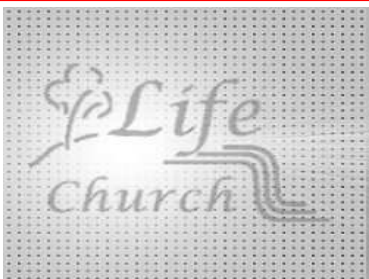
Women Only Events

Monthly Women's Ministry Meeting - Friday, February 4, 2011 at 7:00 PM in the large Sunday school room. Please contact Judy Johnson at 860-482-8651 for more information.

Thanks to our Volunteers!

A big **thanks** go to everyone below who helped out at the FoodShare Regional Market on Saturday, December 13, 2010.

Judy Johnson, Rochelle Christie-Spann, Carol Nixon, Marilyn Lollar, Annie Weekes, Phyllis England, Ray & Laura LaFond and family.



If you have any comments, questions, or additions to this newsletter, contact the Editor.

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