

Life Church Women's Ministry



SPECIAL EDITION

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2010

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From The Heart Of Judy.....

Change, our lives are full of it. Times of transition: technology, jobs, preferences, and language - 'BAD' is good, what's that all about?. New England is in a time of transition.

The season is changing from Summer to Fall: the air is cooler, crisp, and clean; the leaves are turning to vibrant reds, gold, and oranges; the summer flowers are waning and the Mums, Sedum, and Burning Bush are showing their true colors. I love Fall!

Life is full transitions. Some are major and others are so insignificant that they pass by without much notice. We all experienced the transition from the womb to the world - Birth. Out of the safety of the womb, that warm, dark, nurturing, protected place into a strange world full of light, color, movement, and noise.

I recently held a newborn and she stared into my face, her little eyes taking in every part of me, almost as if she was making a connection. It was fascinating to watch her. She is beginning an adventure of discovery filled with many transitions, which will last her entire life.

'Life is full transitions. Some are major and others are so insignificant that they pass by without much notice.'

Then there are the transitions of our first day of school. Mom and Dad plan to go late to work to see us off at the bus stop with our new shoes, lunch box, and of course pictures! Losing that first baby tooth is big, and remember reading our first "chapter book", or being able to write cursive?

Jumping ahead a few years there are more firsts: our first broken heart, our first job, and our first



car, our first apartment away from home, walking down the aisle beside our Dad and leaving with our new husband to begin a whole new adventure of discovery.

Our lives continue this way. Finishing one chapter and beginning another; sometimes with great trepidation like those first baby steps but none the less excitement that leads to "what's next?"

Be blessed

Judy

Women's Ministry News

Our Women's Ministry is also in a time of transition. We are changing from a single leader structure to a team approach. I will continue to serve as the Women's Ministry Leader but in a more consulting capacity.

In the coming newsletters you will be introduced to a member of your new leadership team starting with

Fran Berman (pg 2). I'm very excited about the change and thankful to the women who have agreed to help make this ministry work for the Women of Life Church today and in the future.

I'm sure the various leaders will need to call on you for extra help from time to time so stay tuned!

The new structure consists of four main teams:

Curriculum Team — Fran Berman, Jennie White, and Carol Young

Team Building/Newsletter/ Outreach Team — Dorie Hewitt and Chizoba Obi

Hospitality Team — Carol Nixon and Jane Riveiro

Admin Support Team- Jana Henry and Amy Hollis



Christine's Corner....*Fearfully and Wonderfully Made*

As a pastor's wife of almost ten years now, I often encounter women who struggle with personal identity; painfully grappling with questions such as, "Who am I? What am I called to do? Can I really be of use to God?"

I remember asking myself similar questions when my husband was first called by God to pastor Life Church. Desiring to eagerly serve the Lord to the

best of my ability, as a new pastor's wife, I drew from my observations of the various pastors' wives of whom I was blessed to have served under. I felt that gleaning the best from those women, modelling their ministries and witnessing their faith in action would help me to be a better pastor's wife.

Although adapting my behavior after others was a "good thing," it was not the best thing, as Pastor Al often says. I had to learn to be not only comfortable but confident with me, the person God created me to be. God in His love and graciousness taught me that I am

created by Him with certain gifts and talents unique to me to fulfil a purpose that only I can execute. As I reflected on the contributions of my previous pastors' wives, now my peers, I found myself wondering why God had chosen me.

Unlike them, I could not sing solos, play a musical instrument or lead a worship team. I began wondering, "How am I to serve God as a pastor's wife?" Lord, what would you have me to do so that I can be effective for what you want to accomplish in Life Church and in our community."

"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might"

Solomon in Ecclesiastes 9:10

LCWM Spotlight On.....Fran Berman



I was raised Catholic, but not a strict Catholic. We rarely went to church growing up. But I could feel the Lord's mighty presence all the time and prayed to him many times a day. When I was a teenager I began reading the bible every night for usually an hour or so. I married my high school sweetheart after dating for 5 years.

My husband was raised Jewish. It didn't seem too big a deal for my parents, but they did warn me that it would be hard on our relationship. Unfortunately it truly was a major deal for his dad. We were married in a Catholic Church and also had a Jewish Ceremony at our reception. After about 5 years of marriage he accepted the Lord. Which was truly amazing. Thank You Lord!

Arnie and I have been married for 32 1/2 yrs. We have 3 children. Jason, our oldest

is 28, and has been married for 4 yrs. Justin is 22 and has just graduated college, and Michelle is 20 and living in New York trying to make it in the modeling field. All of our children were raised in church.

"I would like the women of Life Church to have a richer connection with each other as they become closer to the Lord. I want them to find their own way to him"

I knew I was an intercessor way before I ever heard the word or knew what it was. The Lord would speak things to me that I had absolutely no way of knowing. I can feel peoples pain and hurting. I would like the women of Life Church to have a richer connection with each other as they become closer to the Lord. I want them to find there own way to him.

He is so tremendous, I just want to share him with everyone. It's all about our walk, a deeper understanding and commitment.

I feel women need to connect and be able to talk about our strongholds and problem areas in our lives. To have burdens lifted. How to turn it all over to him and say I can't do this without You Lord. Sometimes we need someone to come alongside of us to make that happen.

For example a new Mom can get pointers from another Mom, who's already been through it. Or a Mother of a teenager can relate to one with adult kids. We can keep each other guidance on how to keep your marriage together through the hard times, how to reignite the passion.

I've worked from home since we had children, as a seamstress and designer. It was important for both of us for me to be home with the kids. We didn't want them to be raised

Pastor's Prayer

By Kathy Primm



Our Pastor/Shepherd has decisions and choices he is required to make for Life Church. This is only part of the responsibility God has placed upon him as leader of Life Church. Let's support him with prayer!

Heavenly Father we lift up to you Pastor Al Royal and we ask that you keep him in alignment with your Word as spoke in Micah 6:8

“He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with they God?”

Like the apostle Paul, help Pastor to serve You, Lord, with great humility and with tears, even when he is severely tested. In Jesus Name we pray - Amen

Devotional

By Judy Johnson

Have you ever wondered who Jesus was speaking about in this passage? What does he mean, he never knew them? The word translated 'knew' in Matthew 7:23 is the same word used in Matthew 1:25 which refers to marital intimacy, the coming together of a husband and wife. So how do we create an atmosphere of intimacy where God "knows" us - where we are "known" by God?

1. First, do you realize that God loves YOU? John 3:16 tells us that God loved us so much that he gave His son so we might have everlasting life. You are part of what He loves; no matter where you've been or what you've done, He loves you. 1 Corinthians 7:22-23 tells us we were bought with a price (his life); we've been 'called' and as such are HIS. 1 Peter 2:9 says He called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. And 2 Corinthians 5:15 tells us that because he died for us our lives are to be lived for Him. Exodus 20:3-6 and 2 Corinthians 11:2 both tell us that God is jealous; He does not want to share our hearts with any one

Creating a Place of Intimacy with God - Part I

- **What is Intimacy with God and why do we need it?**
- **How do we achieve intimacy with God and hold on to it?**
- **What does intimacy with God consist of?**
- **What hinders out intimacy with God - and how do we guard against these obstacles?**

2. Do you remember your first heart throb in school? Do you remember the first time "he" smiled at you in the hall or called you on the phone or left a note in your locker? God has 'called' you, HE smiled at you, and HE left a note in your locker! It's up to you to respond - "Yes, you can call again, I'd like to get to know you better", "No, I'm seeing someone else" or "I really don't have time for a relationship right now." Read Isaiah 55:3 & Luke 14:15-24.

3. Do you desire to spend time with HIM? I remember in High School as my circle of friends and their place of prominence changed as 'he' became

"..Depart from me you workers of iniquity, I never knew you."

Matthew 7:23

part of the circle. Do you remember hours on the phone; him leaving you after a date and calling you as soon as he got home and talking long into the night? That's how you got to know him; time spent together, talking, listening; sharing your thoughts and dreams. That's how it needs to be when HE becomes part of your life; you begin evaluating what is and isn't important in your life and then things start dropping away as other things take their place. Make choices that draw you closer to that place of intimacy with Him. (Psalms 37:4). He calls you away and your desire is to follow Him.

4. How serious are you about getting intimate with God today? Look at the marriage vows and consider the extent to which you are willing to commit to that covenant with Him -without this level of commitment true intimacy can never be obtained. He wants you that badly. You are His Bride (the church) do you desire to make Him your groom?



Holly Cascone and family

From our second date in 1989, Peter and I knew that if we were going to have children, we would adopt. We were married in 1994, 6 months after I finished college. Peter worked in the warehouse at a gas company and I worked in a retail store. Then I worked for a temp agency and eventually landed a permanent job at a health care company where I still work today. Peter is now a truck driver for the same gas company. We went on vacations several times a year and in 2005 we went to Vegas twice in one year and after the second trip I wondered.... Is this all there is?

Then the Lord drew me to Him and I was saved Easter 2006, two weeks after my husband was saved. All at once I understood the words to the song Amazing Grace. One

Sunday evening, Peter and I watched Bruce Wilkinson's *The Dream Giver* DVD and when it was over, my husband and I said at the same time, "Let's adopt a boy!" Nine months later, by God's grace, Paolo came off a plane from South Korea and we were parents.

"We went on vacations several times a year and in 2005 we went to Vegas twice in one year and after the second trip I wondered.... Is this all there is?"

Once Paolo's adoption was finalized, we immediately started on our second adoption and in May 2010, we brought Ruth home from Ethiopia. We had

Is this all there is?

experienced God's grace once again. When we watched *The Dream Giver*, Bruce said that you would fear your dream. Up until that moment, I didn't know I was supposed to feel fear. I thought that since I was afraid, it meant I didn't really want to be a mom. But now I know fear should not stop me from pursuing the dream God gave me.

When we called the adoption agency for our first adoption, and attended the first class, we learned about the options for adopting. We prayed and sought God to choose the country we would adopt from. The day Peter told our social worker we would be adopting from South Korea was the same day Paolo was born.

For our second adoption, God lead us to Ethiopia, and He even used Paolo to help make this decision. Pastor Al preached about patience and God taught us patience. Ruth came home over two years after we started the process to adopt her. God gave us the children we were meant to have. Many adoptive parents that I have talked to have said the same thing about their children – they were meant to be together.

Christine's Corner cont'd

The Lord reminded me of David's wisdom as he grappled with similar questions; **"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made"** (Psalm 139:13-14).

If we truly grasp the concept that we are fearfully and wonderfully made, it will change the way we view ourselves and our subsequent behavior. Now when faced with difficult situations, I no longer ask, "What would pastor's wife so-and-so do?" I've learned to rely on the Lord to lead and direct me. In his graciousness the Lord taught me that it was ok to be different.

In our desire to submit to our husbands and please our children, it is easy to compromise or even lose our identity in the

process. I want to encourage every woman of God that you truly are "fearfully and wonderfully made!"

If you're like me and probably most women, you may question; "Am I the one?" Maybe God can use someone else; after all what can I alone do? what can one person do? Can one woman really have an impact?" When Esther was faced with the same questions, she prayed, fasted and acted.

Her actions then allowed God to do His part. **"Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish"** (Esther 4:15-16). I want to

encourage you to step out on faith, pray, fast and take action. Do it today!

After being saved for over 23 years, I still have to fight off the enemy's ploy to place thoughts of inadequacy in my mind. As a pastor's wife of a small and growing church I often need to take up tasks of which I have no passion, giftedness, or experience simply because a need is presented. These seemingly insignificant tasks have blessed others and the work of the Lord beyond my wildest expectations.

So the next time you're faced with feelings of inadequacy remember the words of Betty Reese, **"If you think you are too small to be effective, you have never been in bed with a mosquito."**

LCWM Spotlight on..... Fran Berman cont'd

by someone else. Now we just have Justin home and he's working 3rd shift. Things are changing, I am working very part time now. I'm helping out with answering phones for Arnie's business when he's away, working on the road, every other week. At this point I awake by praying before I get out of bed. I listen to worship songs as I make

breakfast and clean the kitchen up afterward. I pray before meals. Do laundry, cleaning, cooking, sewing, reading the bible, looking up verses the Lord has given me, praying for many, giving people a call to see how they are and helping others with their needs or problems. I love to scrapbook, make cards, crafts in

general, I love to travel. I've been blessed to have seen so much. God has created such a beautiful world for us to explore. The mountains, the oceans, the skies. and wonderful amazing sunsets.

A Blended Family - Applying Biblical Principles to Problem Solving

By Rochelle Christie Spann

Commitment and Communication

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interest of others.” Philippians 2:3-4

Problem solving is a challenge for any home and more so in a blended family. We regularly hold what we call “family council meetings” in which everyone can bring any up issues they have. Everyone gets a chance to speak without being interrupted and it's a way of stopping small niggles snowballing into bigger issues by addressing them directly. The meetings usually end with all of us making a commitment to put each other's feelings before our own.

Discipline

“If a brother sins against you, go and show him to his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.”

Matthew 18:5

Discipline is one of the biggest issues we struggle with. What is an acceptable action for a stepparent to take when a child needs to be disciplined? We are constantly faced with situations that require us to remain non-biased, which can be difficult, so that

our children feel respected and loved. While we have had many successes, there have also been times when we have failed miserably as stepparents. Ultimately we feel that it is important for us to put each other, and the children's wellbeing over winning an argument or making a point.

Patience

“The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride.” Ecclesiastes 7:8

Developing a healthy relationship with a stepchild based on trust and mutual respect does not happen overnight and requires a great deal of patience. Both the parents and the children have to be committed to making it work.

Unconditional Love and Acceptance

“Everyone should be quick to listen and slow to speak and slow to become angry.”

James 1:19

Listening to children makes them feel safe and valued. It is important to create an environment where children look to you as someone who loves them unconditionally and is genuinely concerned



about them. Spending time alone with a stepchild is key to creating the same openness and closeness that you have with your biological children. They have to feel that there are no favorites, which is no easy feat. God has no favorites and neither should we. Stepparents need to periodically assess what is and isn't working. It is also important to always show a united front.

Prayer

“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.”

1 Peter 4:8

In a house with a thirteen year old stepson who sometimes forgets I am the parent, an eleven year old daughter who has just started middle school but thinks she has gone off to college and rules no longer apply to her, and a four year old niece who thinks it's okay to hit friends that make her angry, I am constantly driven to prayer. If we didn't have God at the center of our family we would not make it. As Hebrew 13:6 tells us that “...God will never leave us or forsake us.”

Announcements

Harvest party - Saturday, October 30, 2010 from 6:00 - 8:00 PM at Life Church.



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



Ladies of Life (Current Study - How to Read the Bible) - 2nd Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM at the home of Kathy Primm. Next meeting is Thursday, October 14. 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 Aponte 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. Next meeting is Sunday, October 24, 2010 from 2:00 - 5:00 PM in the Coffee House. Please feel free to bring you lunch. Contact Donna-Rae at 860-658-1329 for more

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Thanksgiving Box assembly - TBD

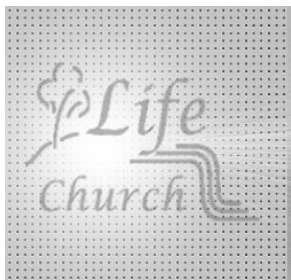
Caroling at Meadowbrook - TBD

FoodShare, Hartford CT - Saturday, December 11, 2010 from 12:00 - 3:00 PM. 13 or more people are needed to help sort produce at the Regional Market. Please contact Chizoba (Claire) Obi at 860-214-5616 for more information.

Women Only Events

ZUMBA! - Mondays and Thursdays - 7:00 - 8:00 PM in the large Sunday school room. Cost for each class is only \$5. Please contact Fran Berman at 860-688-9564 for more information.

Monthly Women's Ministry Meeting - Friday, October 1, 2010 at 7:00 PM in the large Sunday school room. Please contact Judy Johnson at 860-482-8651 for more



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

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Printed at Olivieri Quickprint Center, 17 Hartford Avenue, Granby, Connecticut 06035, (860) 653-6928, Fax (860) 653-3768, olivieriquickprint.com