

## Community Connection

A few months ago several opportunities were offered to our body as a way of impacting the community during the Thanksgiving and Christmas season. We would like to recognize those who participated in these events to bring the love of Christ to our neighbors, both near and far. A heartfelt **Thank You** goes out to all of you who donated your time, talents and/or money, particularly in these difficult economic times.

**Operation Christmas Child:** Jeannie & Randy Smith; Char & Larry Bennett; MEMS Group donated 15 boxes; CFC Singles Fellowship donated 34 boxes; Family Groups & Pioneer Clubs donated 257 boxes; and \$1400 was also contributed by these groups.

**Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive:** Bennett Brown; 55 volunteers rang the bells for 84 hours.

**Angel Tree:** Ashli Lee Crawford; Natalie Gassman; Robin Bedwell; Janet Hazelwood; the L.I.G.H.T. Homeschool Group; All the Sunday School classes; Individuals & families that sponsored 144 children; The many volunteers that helped with the Angel Tree Party and delivered gifts.

**Boxes of Love:** Carol Taylor; 16 Volunteers shared the gospel & gave 32 boxes of food to needy families (at least 5 people have accepted Christ as Savior through this effort).

**True Meaning of Christmas Gatherings:** 18 Folks from CFC participated in training for a party. These parties are going on throughout the month of December.  
- Suzanne Skaff



### Carolyn's Corner

As women, it is essential for us to be in God's Word on a regular basis. It is our total dependence on God, through His Word, that gives us peace, comfort, and strength for our circumstances.

Have you prioritized knowing and relying on God's Word? As Minister to Women, I encourage each and every one of you to take advantage of the Bible studies available in the coming year. If I can be of help to you, please do not hesitate to call me at 262-3000.

### Save the Date

January 6

Mending Hearts groups begin

January 7

Wednesday Studies Resume

January 13

MEMS begins

April 24-25

Just Give Me Jesus  
Anne Graham Lotz leads a 2-day revival in Jacksonville at the Veterans Memorial Arena.  
Details: [www.annegrahamlotz.com](http://www.annegrahamlotz.com)

May 1-3

CFC Women's Retreat

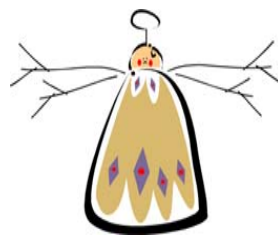
### 2008 Women's Ministries Team

Cindy Harby, Director of Women's Ministries

Debbie Brackett	Helen Jones
Margaret Davis	Leslie Jones
Naomi Gillis	Stephanie Kaloupek
Kim Harmon	Gail Logan
Carol Hayes	Carolyn Phillips

## Bible Studies for January 2009

- ◆ Sign up begins December 28th at the Women's Cart
- ◆ Studies begin Wednesday, January 7 at both 9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ Childcare provided mornings & evenings



### Isaiah Part 2

Precept Inductive Study. "Comfort My People" (9 lessons). In Isaiah 40-66 the Lord told Isaiah to speak kind words to Israel. He wanted to comfort His people with His words. These chapters speak of God's great redemption for them. This study will give you a taste of the world's future. \$15.75

### How to Study the Bible

Do you often feel like other people seem to know how to study the Bible, but you don't? If you really desire to find out what the Bible says and how it applies to your life then please join us for a 4 week study to learn the inductive Bible Study method. (plus we will look at other Bible Study methods also!) A commitment to this process will allow you to grab on to the Word of God and really make it your own. No cost.

### Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman (Begins February 10)

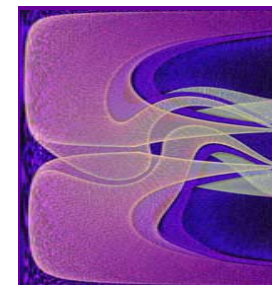
A video study by Beth Moore. The Old Testament story of Esther is a profile in courage and contains many modern parallels for today's overloaded and stressed women. Women will learn strong lessons of faith, providence, and hope to equip them to live courageously "for such a time as this." 10 weeks \$17.00

### Scriptural Salve for Your Soul

God uses the difficulties of living in a sin-cursed world to conform us to the image of His Son. In this small group study of God's Word, we will learn how to be braided with God in the loving purposefulness of pain and hardship in our lives. We will learn how to use the current, past or future trials of life to bring glory to God and therefore, grow in peace, rest, hope and joy. Limited group size. 16 weeks, no cost. For information or to pre-register, call class secretary Catherine Aday at 230-2279, Catherine@adayfam.net.

### The Lord's Table

This small group Bible study presents solutions to overeating and other food related issues, right from the passages of Scripture. This study is a compelling call to return to God's Word to find the reasons why we overeat or struggle with food, as well as the permanent solutions it provides. 15 weeks. Evenings only. There is limited room, so please reserve your space quickly by calling Christine Schievink at 217-0615. \$17.99 for materials.



# The Purple Thread

To keep the women of Christian Family Chapel informed, connected, and involved.

Volume 1, Issue 2

[www.christianfamilychapel.com](http://www.christianfamilychapel.com)

Winter 2008/2009

**"We proclaim Him ... that we may present everyone mature in Jesus Christ." Colossians 1:28**



### From Cindy's Desk

December already....it seems like it was just January 2008 and we were making New Year's Resolutions. In the busyness of life not only do we lose track of time but we often get distracted and disoriented. We need a compass to help us navigate the paths of life. I have recently been doing a Bible study, *The Fingerprints of God* by Jennifer Rothschild. Jennifer lost her sight when she was 15 and is now dependent upon others to help her find her way....to not get lost and mixed up. Unlike Jennifer, we may have our sight, but still walk in darkness and become disoriented when we take our eyes off the Lord and operate in our own counsel and guidance.

Like most of you my December is extremely busy. Just when I think "I have it all together" some unexpected event or distraction will pop up. I find myself focusing on the "to do" list and the problem instead of going to the Provider. Wow, how quickly I can get myself in trouble doing that. I get flustered and frustrated when I try to do it all in my own strength. If we can but remember the verses of Proverbs 3:5-6: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.* During these uncertain times this is our hope and security.

I pray that during this busy season you won't get bogged down in the little stuff but will keep your eye on The Compass and remember why we celebrate.....because of the miraculous birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

*Peace, Hope and Joy,*

Cindy (Director of Women's Ministries)

## A Christmas Card from Susan Clark

From sweating to freezing, from seagulls to moose,  
From beaches to mountains, and flip-flops to boots,  
From shrimp grits to venison... green grass to white snow,  
From turning down the AC to cranking up the stove.

From palm trees to maples, "y'all" to "youz guyz",  
Driving to town is now sixty-some miles!

From blizzards to hurricanes, the contrasts are great,  
The differences seem many from state to state.  
But because we share the same Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord  
We are one in the Spirit, and have life evermore.

Dear ladies of CFC,

Greetings from the Adirondack Mountains of New York! Since transitioning from staff at CFC to Adirondack Bible Chapel, Ian and I have experienced many changes as we continue to acclimate to our new surroundings.

Do we miss you, oh my, YES, but we are confident that God has us here and in this we rest. Please keep us on your prayer lists as we so appreciate the prayers of the saints. We think of you often and give thanks for your faithfulness and your lives that continue to speak into ours.

We love you, and I love you...In His Grip and In His Care,

Susan



## Meet Marie Harmon

*"A gray head is a crown of glory; It is found in the way of righteousness."* Proverbs 16:31

Many of us know Marie from seeing her seated in the portico following second service, patiently waiting for her ride – son Allen (one of our Elders, and Executive Pastor) and daughter-in-law Elaine. Meeting with Marie one morning, she shared about her life and those she loves most – late husband Will, children Allen and Caroline, 6 grandchildren, and 12 great-children. Marie was a toddler when her mother and sibling died in childbirth. She was raised an only child by her father, grandmother and aunts in Columbus, GA. In 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Marie's teacher led her to a personal relationship with Christ. She shares, "In those days the teachers would ask if you went to church, and if you didn't you were embarrassed." Later, she met and married Will Harmon. Will's career in finance took them to several cities in the South. All of Marie's memories of Will are glowing with love for him. She shares child-



hood photos of Allen and Caroline, recounting the joy they brought her. She recalls how much more time was needed in those days for homemaking, "because there were no washing machines, we did the wash by hand." Marie and Will were married 64 years when he went home to be with the Lord. Shortly after, Marie moved to Jacksonville. Marie is blessed to see family values and love for God being passed from generation to generation. Her cozy apartment is filled to the brim with photos and albums neatly updated with each great grandchild's most recent picture. She stays socially active in her retirement community and at CFC and talks by phone almost daily with daughter Caroline in Lenoir, NC. Recalling how often Allen and Caroline asked her to read to them, her advice to younger women in the church is "take time to read to your children." Marie enjoys being plugged in with other women from CFC in the Amazing Grays fellowship for women 70 and over. Her favorite activity with Amazing Grays is singing.  
- Carol Hayes

## Amazing Grays

Amazing Grays is designed for ladies over 70 who might not feel a deep Bible study with homework is right for them. The Amazing Grays meet on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:30 in Building D. The ladies enjoy a snack and singing, fellowship with each other and the leaders, guest speakers, games to learn Bible info, and spending quality time in prayer. The group was originally formed when Marie Harmon expressed a desire to have some ladies to pray with and this has become a close-knit group. You need not be a member of CFC to join, so if you know someone who might enjoy Amazing Grays, please tell them about it. We regularly provide rides for 8 of our 9 ladies. If you would like to join us and can prove that you have met the age requirements (or will soon), call Carileen Bollinger at 739-8030.

## Mary or Martha?

Mary, Martha, Maggie, Marsha, Miley, Madonna, or Merry Lou Sue? IDK! As a woman I sometimes feel the need to determine which personality I encompass (Mary or Martha) - all the while thinking that if I could just be the Mary then I will be pleasing the Lord. In Luke 10 Mary does choose the better- to sit and listen at the feet of Jesus. However, it does not seem right to think that Mary is better. If it was her normal tendency to sit while Martha did all the work, then while it would be nice to be Mary, it would not be so nice to deal with Mary. Martha appears to be an efficient and necessary servant. Martha is in charge, she gets things done and she is to the point (John 11). I like her. I say this in defense of Martha because I think I tend to be her. In Luke 10, she is distracted, she's trying to do a million things because Mary probably didn't help earlier in the day- this is not in the text. However, it is Martha who invited Jesus in and it is in honor of him that she wishes to make so much food. She loves and cares for him and hopes to show it in what she can give to him. As she attempts to prepare all that she can she becomes overwhelmed, frustrated and upset that she is unable to do it all without help. She asks that Mary help. Jesus sees her struggle but does not give in to her plea. He tells her Mary has chosen the better- this would have made me feel so defeated. Wanting so strongly to give a good meal to Christ, and then realizing he did not need me to give, so much as to *be with him*. Defeated, but then relieved and loved. Christ loves us and wants to be with us. He does not need anything from us beyond our person. As I read the story I tried to find a way to put Martha in the good light and show that Mary wasn't as great as everyone portrays her to be. I then realized the story is not about being a Mary or Martha but about *being with God*. Listening, resting, being at his feet.

Who is it that wants us to be with him? Who is this God of Glory, Son of God, and Son of Man? Who is this King Eternal who came to the earth and walked the land? Who is this Savior Messiah who died so I could live? Who is this they call Emmanuel, God with us? Jesus Christ, sent by the Father out of love and who remained obedient in that love. It is He, Christ, who is God, who is in us, that we worship. It is him whom we seek to love with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength, because he wants all of us. Would it be enough to give him just our heart or just our mind? I can't say, but I believe that he wanted all of it. Celebrate the King, born as a babe.

- A. Dorothy King



## Service Opportunity

*"...I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."* - Matthew 25:35-36, 40

I'm Helen Jones and I have been asked to tell you about the **Hands, Feet & Heart Ministry** that I have had the privilege of chairing for the past year. The Hands, Feet and Heart committee was formed to help with special events, clean the kitchens quarterly (not very glamorous, but necessary!) and most importantly, take meals to those in need due to various circumstances. When I accepted the position as chairwoman of this committee, I thought, "GREAT! All I have to do is coordinate people for the tasks from my computer – no interaction needed!" Well, God, in His infinite wisdom, had other plans for me (as he often does) and blessed me richly by putting me directly in touch with the people that our ministry is helping.

My prayer for every woman in the body of Christian Family Chapel is that they could experience the joy and gratitude of those we are ministering to and how one small act of kindness can make a world of difference in someone's life. I would encourage anyone longing for connection and impact at CFC to consider volunteering for our ministry. It is not a huge commitment – you do what you can when you can, but it is a great way to meet other women in the body, have great fellowship (those who clean together, stay together) and most importantly, be the hands, feet, and heart of Jesus.

*The Hands, Feet and Heart committee needs more members. For information contact Helen at 642-2098 or helengus@att.net.*



## 1 Corinthians 13 - Christmas Style

- ❖ If I decorate my house perfectly with lovely plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights, and shiny glass balls, but do not show love to my family - I'm just another decorator.
- ❖ If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals, and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtimes, but do not show love to my family - I'm just another cook.
- ❖ If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home, and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family - It profits me nothing.
- ❖ If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties, and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ - I have missed the point.
- ❖ Love stops the cooking to hug the child.
- ❖ Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband.
- ❖ Love is kind, though harried and tired.
- ❖ Love doesn't envy another home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.
- ❖ Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way.

- ❖ Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who can't.
- ❖ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.
- ❖ Love never fails. Video games will break; pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust. but giving the gift of love will endure.

**Let's Pray** - Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, that starry night in Bethlehem. Like the shepherds, I am still amazed at Your great love. May I not lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas, but celebrate Jesus' birthday with joy! In Jesus' Name, Amen

**Now It's Your Turn** - What are some ways that you can make sure to love your family well this holiday season? Are there any activities that you need to eliminate from your busy schedule to alleviate over-commitment? Is your family being neglected because of a hectic Christmas schedule? If that question wasn't painful enough, here's another one. Is Jesus being neglected as you prepare for His birthday? Ouch!! I just stomped on my own toe!

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## Missions Moment



Dear sister,  
My charge to you for the Holidays and the New Year: **WHEREVER YOU ARE – BE THERE!** These words come back to me at times, since changing countries gets a little harder by the year. As I write this I'm getting ready to visit my elderly parents and oldest son in Sweden. People ask me if I'm getting excited about going. I usually get excited once on the plane, but until then I have so much to do. In this area I can **BE WHEREVER I AM**, most of the time. But many times I have fallen for the lie, "Everything will be all-right as soon as \_\_\_\_ is over!" Who says that? Not God! He wants me to **BE** and learn just in that situation He put me in. If it's with strength-consuming toddlers, time-consuming teenagers, sickness and death, caring for elderly parents, or whatever I am facing... He wants me to **BE THERE!** There is so much joy in acknowledging His presence in the tough situation, rather than just enduring or hoping for other circumstances.

The last few years have introduced a different kind of separation for me – college age kids! This is harder for me than being separated from my parents. It's easier for me to **BE THERE** rather than to fully concentrate on where I **AM**. There is nothing wrong with thinking about and praying for my child, it is the worry I struggle with. For this reason the words of Philippians 4:6-7 mean so much to me: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Dealing with grief (separation, circumstances, and more) has most often driven me to the Lord, to receive His comfort and peace. His Word is good, and so is the fellowship and counsel with other believers. You, dear sister – through the body of CFC, have helped me by praying for me, and standing behind me in so many ways. **THANK YOU! MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

*Kristina Hendrix*

*Kristina and her husband Forrest are missionaries with Greater Europe Mission to her native country of Sweden. Their church plant in Stockholm continues to grow as they are temporarily living back in Jacksonville for family reasons. To donate or meet with the Hendrixes, please contact them at [fhendrix@gemission.com](mailto:fhendrix@gemission.com).*