

Sister-to-Sister



Sister in the Spotlight

With an infectious smile and a great laugh, it is delightful to spend time with Jane Risse. Jane is a true southern gal as she was born in AL and grew up in Columbia, SC. She attended Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN for two years before taking a job with the phone company. Jane has worked for Southern Bell, now AT&T, in various jobs for the last 37 years.



Jane was married at one time and has a son, Matthew, who is grown and married. Jane came to Providence Road in 1980 and has been here ever since. She loves working with the littlest folks in our congregation and calls our children, “the tiniest little treasures.” Through the years, Jane worked with some women’s Bible studies and taught children’s Sunday school classes but says her true love is working as the nursery coordinator. Jane has done that for the last 20 years and believes this is where her true gift lies. Jane says that she’s always had this huge attraction for children and that is the source of much of her joy.

Further evidence of Jane’s connection with young children is her nickname, Aunt Fun. When asked how she got this name, Jane told me that she had a friend who had tried to have children for years. Finally Jane’s

friend and her husband had a little girl later in life and were only comfortable allowing Jane to babysit for the child when they went out. This child named Jane Aunt Fun. Her nieces and nephews picked it up and the name just stuck. Aunt Fun enjoys tea parties and dress up parties that she hosts for her short friends!

You may have heard that Jane is recently engaged. About a year ago, Jane was living a very contented life. She was not unhappy as a single woman, enjoys her job, has lots of friends at church and in her neighborhood, and is close to her family. So she wasn’t really looking for a relationship. Two of her good friends, Nancy Files and Genia Chatfield, encouraged her to meet David Emerson. Although reluctant at first, Jane did meet David and agreed to go to lunch with him one Sunday after services. They have been

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together ever since. Jane says that she was surprised by their romance as she never imagined that she would marry again. But she also says that, next to her father, David is the sweetest, kindest and most tenderhearted man she has ever known. While dating over the past year, it became increasingly evident that God wanted them to be together. As they prayed together and separately over their relationship, they realized they could do more for the kingdom together than they could do apart. They saw the value in being together, loving one

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YOUR WORTH IS FAR ABOVE RUBIES

Want to know a great way to encourage a sister? Write her a short note of encouragement or appreciation to be published in Sister-to-Sister each month.

There will be a box placed in the lobby, along with some small cards for you to write your notes on. Write your note, sign your name or remain anonymous and leave the card in the drop box. Or email your note directly to hbarrett@prcoc.org.

To: Kendra Ledet

Thank you for always making me smile with your bright spirit! You are such a great mother and wonderful friend! Thanks for being willing to be silly with me. I always enjoy our time together!
Jill Shaeffer

To: Wendy Hines

You are such a dear friend! What a pure example of a Godly woman you are as you serve your family in love and minister to the women around you. It is a joy to call you sister!
Jill Shaeffer

To: Sharon Moore

A special thank you for being such a great listener and always having an encouraging word.
Jennifer Franklin

To: Grethen Dowdy and Sally Loftis

Your efforts and all the time spent in study for the Tuesday morning Bible Class is greatly appreciated. I have learned a lot and appreciate your love for the

Lord and your dedication to teaching others.
In Him, Jo Ann Dees

To: Sharon McCubbin

Bibs-n-Bibles is a labor of love for you. It shows in all that you do for the babies at Providence Road. Thank you for your many hours spent in taking care and teaching our little ones.

In Him, Jo Ann

To: Barbara Flatt

Thanks so much for working on the GEMS Facebook page. You are doing great!
Holly

To: Andrea, Julie and Barbara

Thanks for your help this past weekend...couldn't have done it without you!
Holly

To: Sandy Welfare

Just a note of thanks to you for allowing God to equip you for works of service to Him. Be encouraged and remember Hebrews 4:10. "...He will not forget the work you did and the love you showed for Him by helping His people."
Stay Blessed in Him,
Corlis Ellis



Check out www.gemsministry.blogspot.com!

TAKE GOD’S WORD FOR IT

Are you dressed for the day? I’m still in my pj’s, sipping on coffee as I write this. After losing a considerable amount of weight, finding something to wear from my closet is becoming increasingly difficult. I don’t want to buy too much yet, I’m still losing. As I contemplate my choices, I’m struck by all that our Lord has to say about our wardrobes. Not pants and shirts and which colors match and compliment my skin tone, but my spiritual wardrobe. Matthew 6:30 tells us not to worry about our clothes because “if God clothes the lilies of the field in such splendor will He not much more clothe us?” I used to believe this verse applied more to the physical side of our lives, but let’s look together at how God uses these verses in our lives spiritually.

Isaiah 61:10 says that God has “clothed us in salvation and arrayed us in a robe of righteousness.” Galatians 3:27 says that “we are clothed with Christ.” What else is in our spiritual wardrobe? Well, the woman of Proverbs 31 was clothed with strength and

dignity; we are to clothe ourselves with humility (1Peter 5:5); compassion, kindness, gentleness, and patience (Colossians 3:12); with strength (Isaiah 52:1); and with garments of praise (Isaiah 61:3).

2 Corinthians 5:2 tells us to long to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling. Colossians 3:14 asks us to put on our overcoat of love because it binds us together in unity. And of course, over all this, we are to put on God’s armor to protect us from the “elements” of Satan (Ephesians 6:11-17).

Wow, looks like I don’t have to worry too much about what to wear today! I hope when you see me, my friends, you see what God has provided for me to wear today and not what I have in my closet! I have a beautiful and complete wardrobe in Him!

“Rather clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 13:14

- Julie Hallman

Connecting Mind, Body, and Soul

Women’s Winter Retreat on March 5-6, 2010

Providence Road Church of Christ

Friday, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Saturday, 8:30 am - 1:00 pm

Join us for a winter get-away without leaving town!
You can register at the door.



Topics:

A Joyful Heart - Kay Epling

Training for Godliness - Marcus Coble & Julie Hallman

The Fragrance of Christ - Kathleen Tatro

What Does Your Wardrobe Look Like? - Julie Hall & Lavonta McVicker

HEY SIS

Hi, PR Sisters,

This is your opportunity to ask questions of a fellow sister, “Dear Abby” style. Do you have questions that you might be dying to ask someone but are afraid? Do you wish you had a place to turn to get advice about kids, marriage, homemaking, time management, or whatever happens to be on your mind? Here is the place. I will try to address as many of your questions as possible. So, ask away! The email address you will need to know is heysispr@gmail.com.

Hey Sis,

How do I develop a work ethic in my children?

Thanks a bunch, *Mother of Two*

Dear *Mother of Two*:

Remember, your children are watching you very closely and this fact can come back to praise you or haunt you. Therefore, how you conduct yourself will contribute to the way your children treat their everyday activities such as work or school. Developing a work ethic in your children starts when they are very young, and just a few deliberate acts can make a difference. Start at an early age to show your children that you take your responsibilities very seriously whether it is maintaining the house or going to a job outside the home. This means when you commit to something, you follow through. This applies to everything from getting them to school on time to making sure that dinner is on time every night. If you

are constantly late or rushing to be on time, your children will see this! And what do they learn? That it is ok to be in a rush all the time! Therefore, when your children get older and have homework or other responsibilities: don't bail them out. Let them suffer the consequences of their actions (it only takes a few times and they'll get it).

Start young with chores. My kids were taught to pick up toys even before they were able to walk. If you have bins for toys they can put them in the bin, with help, before moving onto a new toy. When they were tall enough, about age 4, they set and cleared the table. I used plastic plates to save on clean up and broken plates. Children love to be able to help so making it fun and letting them do it on their own helps develop self-esteem along with a work ethic. When my children got to be around age 8, they started to help with laundry and washing dishes. When they first started helping, we would do it together. Gradually, they ended up doing it on their own, learning the responsibility of doing their own laundry. Then when they were around age 10 my husband and I started giving them allowances which came with family responsibilities such as dishes, laundry, and bathrooms that they had to take care of for a month. We had 3 areas we divided up because we have 3 children. Some chores were better than others and my children liked certain tasks better, therefore, they would switch with each other in order to do their

favorite chore. We also gave them opportunities to make some extra cash as they got older that were excluded from their monthly chores. They would use this extra money for things such as food while hanging out with friends or buying new clothes.

Also, it would be a grand idea to persuade your child to get a job when they are old enough. This may sound crazy to some but there are just things you can't teach at home. For example, you can't show your kids bad leadership without them experiencing it and your children have to learn how to look up to authority that is not their own blood. My children have all benefited from having jobs. As a family, we decided that our children would contribute to their auto insurance when they had a job and fill half their tank with gas. This taught them that having a car has a cost associated with it and that cars can't run on faith alone (my husband wanted to teach them about “home taxes”, but we won't go into that).

To conclude, you need to show work ethic, teach it through responsibility, and then follow up with real life experiences. Develop a plan that works for your family and follow through. If you need guidance ask other moms that have children older than yours and don't underestimate what your children are capable of doing. Basically, leadership by example.

-Tina Travis

THRIFTY MOM

When Brandi asked me to write a column for this newsletter, my brain started spinning. Thrifty Mom is a lot of area to cover! There's budgeting, couponing, knowing the right places and times to shop, and many more ways to be thrifty. I think I'll stick this month with an example of one of the easiest ways I know to be thrifty - coupons.

I know a lot of people think that a .50 coupon isn't much good. "What good is a .50 coupon on a \$3 bottle of Lysol toilet bowl cleaner?" Here's where knowing how to use coupons come in handy. Say that Lysol cleaner goes on sale for 2/\$3 (this happens a lot actually). If you are shopping at Harris Teeter, Bi-Lo, or Lowe's Foods here in the Charlotte area, they **always double coupons up to .99**. So, at one of those stores you'd only be paying .50 for the cleaner.

1.50 sale price - 1.00 (doubled coupon value) = .50 cleaner. You've saved \$2.50 on that cleaner! Or if there is a .75 coupon, the cleaner would have been free!

I don't know about you but I'd rather have that 2.50 to use towards something else.

Most of my coupons come from the Sunday paper. I'll write more later about other places I find coupons but if you want to try some deals this month, get a newspaper this Sunday and shoot me an email at sarahyden@yahoo.com. I'll send out a list of deals that I have access to from those coupons.

Here's a list of things that I try not to pay more than .25 - .50 for (using coupons): toothpaste, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, shampoo/conditioner, cleaning materials, ketchup, mustard, rice, soy sauce, salad dressing. Many times I've gotten free foods too like Eggo's, Uncrustables, cereal, bread, produce, granola bars, yogurt, etc.

A penny saved is a penny that can be used for something better than groceries. ☒

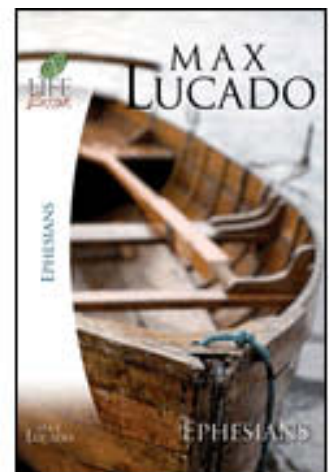
- Sara Hyden

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Class is starting a new study on **March 9th**. They will be studying **"Life Lessons: Ephesians"** by *Max Lucado*.

It is twelve lessons on Ephesians which include intriguing questions, inspirational storytelling, profound reflections, and space for journaling. The letter to the Ephesians celebrates the beauty of the Church—the Bride of Christ, and gives us basic overviews of a Christian life.

Class begins each Tuesday at 10:00 am and is led by Gretchen Dowdy and Sally Loftis. Childcare is provided. The class will run through May 11th.

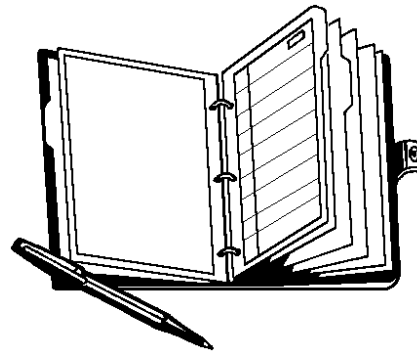


HAPPY BIRTHDAY

3/1	Melissa Wilson
3/2	Ida Mae Hodgson
3/3	Cheryl Lucas
3/3	Suzanne Sutphin
3/8	Aida Perdomo
3/9	Scarlette Weaver
3/11	Barbara Berlin
3/11	Barbara Flatt
3/11	Macey Tillotson
3/13	Kathleen Tatro
3/14	Lavonta McVicker
3/17	Sandy Welfare
3/18	Sharon McCubbin
3/18	Laura Slater
3/19	Annette Lynn
3/19	Kristi Pinkston
3/19	Lucrecia Leon Porras
3/24	Michele Webster
3/24	Carolyn Eppley
3/25	Melody Juarez
3/25	Teresa Havey
3/26	Sharon Mundy
3/26	Ann Kirby
3/27	Karen Jefferson
3/27	Jennifer Johnson
3/28	Erlinda Witt
3/28	Lisa Walker
3/29	Darla Buenrostro
3/29	Edwina Hawkins
3/30	Kathy Bannister
3/30	Pam Trachtenberg
3/30	Tanya Huff
3/31	Cindy Leone
3/31	Connie Gordon
3/31	Joanne Foreman

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- Ask Kourtney Skillman about the upcoming wedding!
- Congratulate Tanya Duncan on her baptism in February.
- Say a prayer with Terri Hernandez for her daughter, Tammi Drennan.
- Encourage Kim Brashear with the great work she is doing with the Kings Kids Choir.
- Congratulate Shelli Murray on her new job.
- Congratulate Karen Wright on 35 years of marriage.
- Say a prayer with Marjorie Long as she recovers from knee surgery.

**GEMS CALENDAR**

- | | |
|-------|--------------------------------------|
| 3/5-6 | Winter Retreat |
| 3/6 | Wedding Shower for Jenna Trapasso |
| 3/14 | Wedding Shower for Calley Wright |
| 3/20 | Wedding Shower for Kourtney Skillman |
| 3/27 | Card Making Fellowship |
| 5/22 | BBQ Dinner Fellowship |

BAPTISM ASSISTANCE

Baptism assistance provides a safe and clean environment for baptisms. Two people are assigned to be in charge of the baptismal area for one month at a time. Responsibilities include personal assistance, location of items in the rooms, location of restrooms, laundry of used towels and clothing, replacement of the clean laundry, and keeping the general area clean. Specific instructions are available in a handout at the sign up table.

Coordinator: Carolyn Matthews

Baptism Assistance

Thai Peanut Chicken Marinade

1/2 c peanut butter
1/2 c oil
1/4 c white wine vinegar
1/4 c soy sauce
1/4 c lemon juice
4 minced garlic cloves
8 cilantro sprigs
2 tsp dried red pepper flakes
2 tsp chopped ginger



Combine all ingredients in food processor or blender. Cut chicken, put it on skewers in a pan. Pour enough marinade to cover chicken. Use excess that has not touched chicken to dip chicken in. Bake chicken at 375 degrees or cook on grill. You can also cut up chicken, marinade it, then stir fry it with other vegetables.

- submitted by Laura Slater

SISTER IN THE SPOTLIGHT, CON'T

another, loving others, and allowing God to work through their relationship to affect those people they meet along the way.

I asked how David proposed to her and Jane said that he didn't drop to one knee! They had discussed getting married but Jane didn't know when or how she would receive that special ring. So, David planned a sweet romantic evening for Jane on the night before Valentine's Day. He brought roses and balloons and took her to a nice restaurant for dinner. At one point, Jane excused herself from the table for a moment and when she came back, David pulled the ring out from under the table. Jane said she was so surprised that it was actually happening and caused such a ruckus in the restaurant, that all the other patrons began applauding and came over to congratulate them and look at the ring! Jane says that although they were both at the point in their lives where they were content with life, they really do believe that God is in the middle of their relationship. Jane says that David has helped her grow beyond some of her fears, let go of the past, and build trust in God and in other people. She would like to encourage David in these areas as well. She said, "I have truly learned that if you will stop and let God work in your life, He will but you do have to give it to

Him first." Jane and David will be getting married on March 13 in a small and simple ceremony with their children in attendance.

I asked Jane for one encouraging word to leave with her sisters and she talked about the years that she spent as a single mother...years of singleness that are now coming to a close. Jane said, "My heart truly reaches out to the women who are single parents, whether through divorce or death...it's a tough and emotional place to be. I would so encourage them to never, ever quit their relationship with God, no matter how down they feel or how empty or how lonely. Hold on to that relationship because even when you don't feel Him working or see Him working, He is there. I have made the journey and I see it, feel it and know it. There were times that I didn't but I never quit. I may have gotten slack but I never quit. Hang on to that. There is going to be a better day. There is hope."

And if you don't believe that, just take another look at the smile on Jane's face. I think it is partly due to happiness realized at an unexpected moment in life. But more importantly, it is mostly due to a walk with God who has shown her how faithful He truly is!

-Holly Barrett

2010 WOMEN'S RETREAT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

November 5 - 7, 2010 Litchfield Beach & Golf Resort

You are not going to want to miss this year's retreat! You're sure to have the time of your life! If you've never been, you'll want to get this date on your calendar!! If you've been before, you're in joyful anticipation just reading this!! Don't miss this time of sisterhood fellowship (chocolate included), spiritual renewal, inspirational worship, beachside meditation, and nearby shopping! All for you, in sunny South Carolina! The best part is the cost is only \$90! Here are a few money saving ideas:

1. Ask for a gift certificate for the retreat for Mother's Day or your birthday.
2. Grab \$90 out of your tax returns and put it back for the retreat.
3. Put \$10 in an envelope marked "Women's Retreat" every month until the retreat.



If you'd like to join a retreat team, please contact Andrea Eller at andreasemail@carolina.rr.com.

We'd love to have your help - but most of all, we'd love to see you there!



4900 Providence Road
Charlotte, NC 28226

GEMS Vision: We will glorify God in Charlotte and beyond by bringing women to Christ, maturing them into a loving community of believers, and equipping them for service in the name of God.

GEMS Mission: The GEMS Ministry will empower women by offering unique opportunities to:

- **G**row spiritually through Bible study and prayer,
- **E**ncourage one another in love,
- **M**inister to the needs of today's women, and
- **S**hare our lives across all generations and backgrounds.

MOMS!

If you think your college age daughter would like to receive *Sister to Sister* at school, please email her address to brisley@carolina.rr.com.

