

January 2012

THE SPICE

A taste of what's happening for women.

Let's Celebrate!

It's a new year! Did you celebrate the first new day? Wear a silly hat, laugh, and blow a noisemaker?

Did you celebrate the second new day? The third, fourth, and fifth new days of the year? No? Aren't they just as special? *"Hmmm...Not really,"* you say? What about Psalm 118:24: "This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it."

Sounds like silly hats and noisemakers could be on God's agenda for every day!

It's easy to rejoice when holidays on the calendar prompt us to but much harder when everyday life becomes...everyday life. A few days after the New Year's celebration, the hats and noisemakers usually get tossed in the trash. Often, along with them goes the joy for rejoicing in the everyday days ahead.

This year can be different. Forget the "I won't do this and I will do that" type of New Year's resolutions; try a new way of thinking instead. As part of each new day, find something to rejoice about. It could be a beautiful sunrise, encouragement from a friend, or an answered prayer. There are also the unexpected joys in everyday life, like laughing with your family when you burn the rolls (again), a spontaneous smile from a grouchy co-worker, or the friend who brings you chocolate on the moderately worst day of your life.

Our slogan as Christians should be "Just Celebrate." Celebrate because every day God desires for us to see him at work in our lives. To catch a glimpse of God, a "God sighting" in the everyday-ness of life, makes us stop and rejoice in his presence.

This year, make a new calendar—a "joy for today" calendar. Each day, write down one thing (or more) you can rejoice about. And keep that silly hat where you can see it to remind you to celebrate every day!

FAITH EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH



THE WORD

"Each morning I will sing with joy about your unfailing love."

—Psalm 59:16

THINK ABOUT IT

Today I can sing for joy because:

The Rich Home

by Sharon Glasgow

Jesus mentions the Queen of Sheba in Matthew 12:42. He honors her desire for His wisdom. The Queen of Sheba took great pains and trouble to find wisdom, yet the wisdom available to her at that time was the lesser wisdom of a man. The wisdom we have access to through Jesus far out shines that of Solomon. If the Queen of Sheba would travel six months to find truth, how much more should we search for wisdom by opening our hearts to Him who freely gives wisdom, truth and the secrets of His heart?

When people travel to our home it is not the seasonal décor or the cleanliness that will ultimately impress our visitors. It is not the perfectly sculpted yard or the new car in the garage. It's the pearl of spiritual insight that they will be drawn to through the Holy Spirit living through you. They will be full and satisfied when they have departed, and the richness of the visit will live on forever when you impart to them the riches God has placed in your heart.

Your home is where your heart is. Ask God for wisdom. Spend time getting to know Him and you will not only be spiritually rich, but those who enter your home will find treasures that people have traveled the whole earth in search of.

<http://www.proverbs31.org/everydaylife/balance.php>

Everybody Eat Cake!

In honor of Chocolate Cake Day on January 27 (a well-known holiday to Americans as well as internationally!) here is a fabulous recipe for a yummy chocolate cake that is gluten-free, too. So there are no excuses—everybody eat cake! (Recipe courtesy of glutenfreehomemaker.com)

Cherry Chocolate Cake

- 1¾ cup regular flour OR gluten-free flour mix (available in most regular and natural grocery stores)
- 1 cup sugar
- ¾ cup cocoa powder
- 1½ teaspoons baking soda
- 1½ teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 can (21 ounces) cherry pie filling
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 cup boiling water

Mix the dry ingredients together in a large bowl. Add the eggs, pie filling, and extracts. Mix in the boiling water, stirring gently. Pour into a greased 9" x 13" pan. Bake for 30-35 minutes at 350 degrees. Top with powdered sugar, and enjoy!



Saving Time With Shared Food Preparation



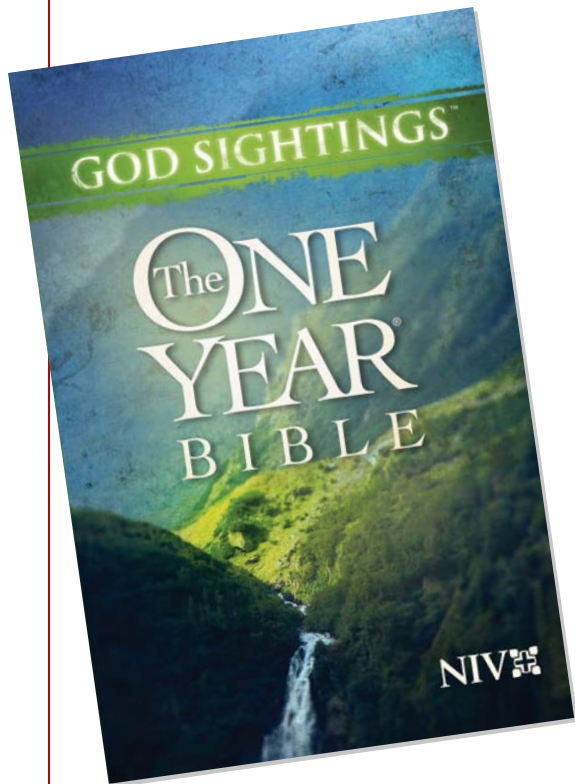
It's National Hobby Month, so you have permission to lay aside the to-do list for one day and spend time doing something you enjoy—quilting, photography, crafts, cooking, reading. Even taking a nap can be a hobby! Do you have a hobby you would like to share? Let's get together with some friends and do it together. Let Mary Shaw know and we can set a date. marywshaw@gmail.com

Join with other women to prepare quality meals that can be frozen and reheated for quick and easy dinners on busy evenings. Our goal is to meet approximately once a month and make 4 different meals each time so that you can use one every week (or when ever you want). The first opportunity is **Saturday, February 4, 1:00-4:00pm at the home of Stan and Kathy Raczelowski in Westford.** The next event will be **Friday, March 9, 9:00am-noon at the home of Stuart and Heather Woodring in Acton.** We are attempting to vary the days and times in order to accommodate a variety of women and their schedules. Please watch your weekly bulletins for additional information. See Charlene Wiebe for more information. KelvinandCharlene@gmail.com

Media Morsels

Book Review

God Sightings: The One Year Bible



(available in NIV or NLT translations)

Catch a glimpse of God every day for the rest of the year!

Revitalize your Bible reading this year, and experience the power of God's Word each day as you study excerpts from the Old Testament, New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs. Discover the amazing ways God expresses the truth found in the Bible to the world around you and in your own life. Read, meditate, and then celebrate the God sightings he will reveal to you every day.

Invite your family and friends to join you in reading the Bible in a year, and share your God sightings as you journey together!

Soul Food For Women

Whether you want to be encouraged daily or prefer to just come to one group meeting a month, we will provide what you need. **The kick-off meeting will take place only 5 minutes from the church at Maria and David Rosa's home (143 Newtown Road, Acton) on January 4th at 7:15pm.** At this meeting we will discuss your availability to contribute to the group, your specific needs for encouragement, and your preference for meeting times.

There are 3 methods by which you can utilize the One Year Bible's daily reading plan:

1. Purchase a hard copy at www.christianbook.com/OneYearBible or at www.amazon.com (type in God Sightings)
2. View or listen to the daily readings online: www.oneyearbibleonline.com. Click on the month, located on the left side of the web page. Then scroll down and click on the day.
3. Follow the daily readings in your own Bible, using the simple schedule available through Maria Rosa (mrsmbrosa@yahoo.com).

Internet Review

Internet Café Devotions

Grab a seat, and let the counter baristas at *Internet Café Devotions* serve your daily cup of inspiration! Don't waste time on the internet this year; **make the most of it** by connecting to daily inspiration for your everyday life. At *Internet Café Devotions*, they have just the right blend to help you grow in your relationship with God and his Word. You'll connect each morning with a team of women sharing devotional specialties from their real life, along with Scripture nuggets of God's truth for you to savor at the internetcafedevoations.com

There are many other on-line sources for women, here are two recommended by some of our ladies.

<http://www.proverbs31.org/> or <http://www.reviveourhearts.com/>



NEW YEAR

NEW MINISTRIES

NEW BEGINNINGS

WM OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPRING 2012

FEFC Women's Ministries is here to help you serve one another. How will you be involved with your fellow sister believers? Let us know if you want to help or join any of the new ventures.

SECRET SISTER - SIGN UP NOW

Have you ever prayed secretly for a fellow sister-in-Christ? What a way to bond in heart! As a "secret sister" you would be committed to praying for one other sister on a consistent basis. During the year, as you are prompted by the Holy Spirit, you would also send her encouraging notes and anniversary or birthday cards. Fill out the attached card with your pertinent information so that we can "secretly" pair you up with someone.



SOUL FOOD

See article on page 3
Support group for your soul. Get inspiring emails, group meetings, encouragement partners, connectivity, shared insight from the Holy Spirit, as much or as little as you desire. RSVP to Maria Rosa (978-263-7020) if you can attend the initial meeting.

EXERCISE - DANCE

TARA KASEY IS COORDINATING A NEW ZUMBA CLASS USING DVD'S. LET TARA KNOW (TARA_KASEY@HOTMAIL.COM) WHAT TIME AND DAY WOULD WORK BEST FOR YOU, WHAT QUESTIONS YOU HAVE ABOUT THE SUGGESTED "SHARED LEADERSHIP" AND WHETHER OR NOT YOU COULD OCCASIONALLY HELP LEAD A CLASS. INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN YOU IN A FREE FUN WAY TO WORK OFF THOSE HOLIDAY POUNDS.



SEASIDE ESCAPE

Coming in February
 Be prepared to beat the cold and renew your spirit at this year's Day Retreat held at FEFC.



SHARED FOOD PREP

See article on page 2
 Sat., February 4, 1:00-4:00pm at the Raczelowskis'
 Fri., March 9, 9:00am-12:00pm at the Woodrings'
 Let us know if you could host a month or if you have suggestions for sharing our favorite recipes.



January

A Taste of What's Happening for Women

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			7:15 Soul Food Kick Off At Maria Rosa's. Prepare to read thru the Bible this year and be blessed. mrsmbrosa@yahoo.com			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Bring Staples for Community Supper						Home Improvement Ministries Family Getaway Weekend Jan 14-16 www.HIMweb.org/fg
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Bring Staples for Community Supper						4:30 Annual Potluck /Business meeting. Bring Main dish & a salad or dessert blasmus0707@ comcast.net
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
						Family ski/snowboarding In Franconia NH. Contact Vicki 4.stevens@veizon.net
29	30	31				

Family Opportunities: Check the FEFC newsletter for Ski Trip info

HOME IMPROVEMENT MINISTRIES

Ever spend thousands of dollars to take your children to places like Disney World—but all they wanted to do was stay at the hotel and swim? This mid-winter getaway certainly will not cost you thousands of dollars—yet your kids will have plenty of pool time and you will be part of a relaxed weekend alongside other parents who want to spend time with their kids and be in the company of families with similar values. Join us for a long weekend in the beautiful Holiday Inn in Boxborough for a relaxed mid-winter vacation. From:

<http://www.himweb.org/events/fg/FamilyGetaway2012.html>