

Service is Worship in a Family of Believers

by Rosalind Miller

Women's Ministry at Wallen Baptist Church is designed around four pillars of the faith: Word, Witness, Welcome and Worship. Usually, we think of worship as that time we spend in church which is very true, but it also includes serving others. There are many verses in the Bible that command us to serve:



Matthew 25: 31-39 *Show the love of Christ to a hurting soul.*

Galatians 6: 9-10 *Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*

But my favorite is 1 Timothy 6:17-19. *Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put*

their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Serving others takes on many forms: Calling an elderly aunt, helping your neighbor pick out

paint colors, or babysitting for a young couple so they can keep their marriage strong. Our lives get so busy with working, taking kids to all their events, and keeping the house clean and the lawn mowed, that we don't take the time to see that others are hurting and just need someone to listen and to care about them. Divorce is everywhere. Death and sickness are touching many people in our church. These individuals need someone to

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Sister to Sister

by Denise Cheviron

Have you been longing or searching for a more intimate way to know God? Do you want to walk in a way that is pleasing to HIM? If you answered yes, then taking part in "Sister to Sister" may be for you. "Sister to Sister" is a ministry that connects women through biblical discipleship. Using Titus 2:3-5 as a model: *Older*

women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior; not malicious gossips, nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, that the work of God may not be dishonored.

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Featured Friendship Circle...

Book Club by Rose Hensley



We originally planned to disband our Book Club for the summer, but some of you indicated that summer is the best time for you to read for enjoyment. In order to continue, we need ladies who are willing to say, “You can come to my house,” and “Let’s read _____” and “I’ll lead that discussion.”

I’ll send out the emails, and you can come if it’s possible. The dates, if we continue with the second Mondays, would be June 13, July 11, August 8, and September 12. Let me know and I’ll pass the word.

We welcome new people to join us for the summer or whenever their schedule permits. We want this book club to be a flexible, relaxed commitment by reading a variety of books. Feel free to suggest books for the group: fiction, non-fiction, whatever. However, you must have read the book to suggest it—no pigs-in-pokes, please! We encourage you to read books that perhaps you

wouldn’t normally be drawn to, but because they are the ‘book of choice’ for that month, you’re willing to try it.

We just read *Crossing Oceans* by Gina Holmes for our April 11 meeting. We’ve chosen *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23* by Phillip Keller for the May 9 meeting.

In October, we’ll discuss *The Singer Trilogy* by Calvin Miller. Inexpensive copies are available at amazon.com. I haven’t checked the Allen County library. People at church might have copies they would be willing to lend. If you have access to libraries outside Allen County, they may be another resource.

Feel free to call me, Rose Hensley, at 485-9891, e-mail me at gingerrose25@juno.com or talk to me at church about this book group. The meetings have been extremely enjoyable. I can give you names of others in the group to talk to also. I hope you’ll enjoy it yourself.

“May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands.”

- Psalm 90:17

SPRING CLEANING FOR A MOTHER'S SOUL

by Lynette Bleed

Take one warped perfectionism gene. Add one part over-the-top standards. Heap on some self-induced guilt and less time. What do you get? 100% Spic and Span.

I come from a strong, "clean" heritage. My mother taught me well. I know how to clean house. Somewhere else in my upbringing, I was taught that cleanliness is, indeed, next to godliness. Years later, I married a man whose mother could win any "white glove" competition. Until then, I never knew a woman could be "cleaner" than my own mother.

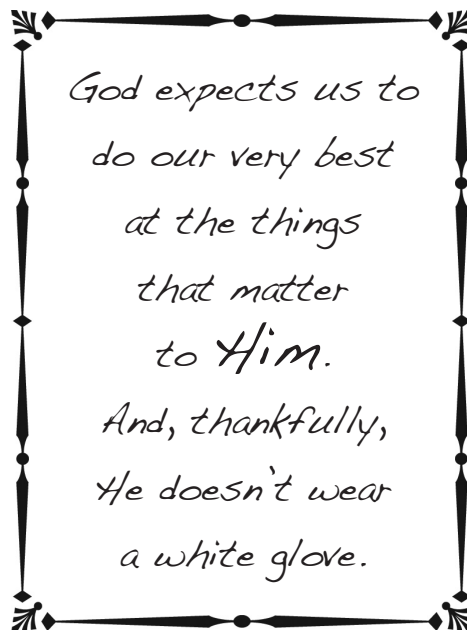
When my kids were little, I kept a spotless house. You would have been so proud of me! A decade later, my kids and husband are still saying how wonderfully clean our home was, and what a significant difference it made in their lives... not.

God is indeed a God of order. As women, we all know that our homes run more smoothly, if they are orderly, organized, and sufficiently clean. (And I'll just bet that over-achiever in Proverbs 31 kept a Mr. Clean house.)

So, how does a struggling perfectionist find balance, especially, if she is trying to please God? I think the key phrase is "sufficiently clean." Translation: clean enough. Relationships matter more

than a super-clean house. When our kids are grown and gone, we'll have plenty time to clean. (And our houses won't get very dirty!)

Ready to tidy? These spiritual-elbow-grease tips could very well have lasting or eternal effects.



Don't say, "I don't do windows."

Years ago, a mom that I admired with five teenage daughters, explained the concept of "windows" to me. I was impressed and thought *I have to do this with my kids*. I continue to learn every day that it's not easy. "Windows" are those rare moments when our kids invite us into their world to talk. If we're too busy, too tired, or too clueless of their world, they'll invite us less and less. This "quality time" cannot be conveniently scheduled by us. It happens when our

kids are ready and willing to initiate a conversation.

Check your filters

The most harmful kind of dirt nowadays comes right into our home through technology. Technology is a significant part of our kids' world. We can't afford to be ignorant of it. We must learn it, so we can protect and set boundaries for our kids. Anti-virus software and parental controls are important.

Pray through the rooms of your home

Let's not forget the power of prayer! Praying and worshipping God in your child's room can be effective, especially if your child is troubled or having nightmares.

Freshen the Air

Our kid's acceptance of Christ's sacrifice is our most important prayer as parents. We can then model how to depend on God and walk with Him, by exuding the aroma of Christ in our own daily lives.

Here's a thought that might help in prioritizing the "cleaning" of our homes: "Don't give 100%, when 90% will do." But 90% sounds like such a mediocre standard! Doesn't God expect me to do my very best?

God expects us to do our very best at the things that matter to Him. And, thankfully, He doesn't wear a white glove.

Worship

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someone to come along side to remind them that they aren't alone and that Christ loves them.

If you would be interested in being placed on an e-mail list to be alerted to needs within our church, please e-mail me at millerdnr@comcast.net or Kim Plattner at dkplattner@gmail.com. When a need arises, I will send out a general announcement not listing the name, but explaining the need. If you have time to help out, you would call or e-mail me back and I would then give you the specifics.

The following lists some examples of ways to serve:

- Write letters of encouragement (sickness, death, loss of job, etc.)
- Make phone calls to check on our female Senior Saints
- Visiting our lady members in the hospital or nursing home
- Drive someone to appointments
- Clean house for someone who was recently in the hospital
- Mow the lawn or clean up a flowerbed

Many of you are already doing these things. The ABF's are helping in so many ways. But we still have people in our church who need a little extra help from time-to-time. If you or someone you know in our congregation could use extra help, but aren't getting it through family members, ABF's, or neighbors, please call me, Rosalind Miller, at 438-2026 or e-mail me at millerdnr@comcast.net? Wallen is a great church. Serving others will only make it better.

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God— this is your spiritual act of worship.” - Romans 12:1



Christie's Gardening Tips

General Pruning Guidelines

1. Use sharp tools so as to make clean cuts.
2. Never prune more than 1/3 of the plant away.
3. Remove dead branches or limbs.
4. Remove branches that cross or rub against each other.
5. Remove diseased portions of the plant.
6. Disinfect tools between plants to prevent spread of disease or fungus.
7. Bushes ~ if not sure when to prune, generally after they flower is best.
8. Look how the plant grows in nature if you're not sure what shape to prune it.