



AREA CIRCLE NEWS

President's Message

Dear Sisters and Friends:

I would like to wish each of you along with your families, a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year and may God's grace and blessings be upon you throughout the year.

Although I personally don't like to make resolutions for the New Year, and nothing is wrong with making them if you can keep them, I do like to reflect on the past year as to what went well, what went wrong and how can I improve my service to the Lord and in the things that are expedient thereof.

I like to look at it as a spiritual report card and a time among many, to check out my life and assess how I am doing. Suffice it to say that "Hymn #55 in the Songs of Zion "Checking On Me" summarizes it all.

I am also reminded of an experience my dad, the late Brother Nathan Peterkin had many years ago. Possibly some of you might have had the opportunity to have heard him preach it as well.

As the story goes, Dad preparing to go somewhere was checking himself out in a full length mirror and admiring how good he appeared to look.

As he stood there looking approvingly, a voice beckoned him to move a little closer to the mirror to get a better look. As he did, the voice beckon him several more times to get a little closer and each time he did, he noticed that there were spots of lint here

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and there upon his suit that he had not noticed before. Then the Lord allowed him to realize he needed to take out the "swish brush" of prayer to remove those particles.

Often times when we think we are doing great, we are not. And then we too have to humble ourselves and take out the "swish brush" of prayer and clean things up.

Our spiritual life is a very close watch and we need to be constantly checking and praying that we may be found "*doing right*" in the sight of God. Another hymn that comes to mind is, #391 in the Saints Hymnal, "My God! Thou See'st Me", for surely the Lord sees and know all things.

We must also rely on Him to direct us in all things at all times. The scriptures tells us to "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding." In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (*Proverbs 3:5-6*) And we know this to be true.

So my sisters, in 2008 and onward, let us strive to be ever conscious of how we are doing in the service of our King. And let us also learn to "*Let Go and Let God*".

God bless you all is my prayer.

Sister Maria Peterkin

NEWS FROM MAINE

Submitted By: Sister Cynthia Onorato



*Sometimes moments
in our lives are set aside
to reflect on the greatness of God
To search the depths of our heart
To be still and know,
God is the "Great I Am!"
He has the master plan
to trust in his presence
to lean on his strong arm
to know of His greatness
so we can pick up our cross,
Have courage and Go On....*

The Maine Branch Ladies Circle would like to take a moment to reflect upon God's goodness. As seasons change and this world is ever-changing it brings us much security knowing God never changes and he is our source of strength. God is our core and he sustains us.

The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. Among the changes that have transpired in 2007 were: Our beloved Sister Marie Perrello was transported to heaven. Her legacy of a humble spirit and dedication will be remembered in our hearts. She supported the Ladies' Circle joyfully and she brought us much joy. We truly miss her and the gifts she had. God truly blessed her life and because of it, we were blessed.

We also had to say farewell to one of our dedicated workers, Sister Heather Onorato. The Lord blessed her with new work in Monongahela, Pa. She united in marriage to

Brother Jeremy Nicklow. May God bless her as she continues her walk with the Lord.

God blessed our circle with a new Sister, Bethany Rose Onorato. She was baptized on May 27 at the tender age of 14. She possesses a soft heart and we rejoice in her calling.

So it has certainly been a season of change for our circle. "God has been good to us and blessed our meetings." We are currently studying Women of the Bible and we have reaped much edification through our scripture study and fellowship.

We were also very grateful to be able to contribute a thanksgiving basket to a very needy family in the Brunswick area. God blessed our efforts for He supplies our every need.

"God's spirit has touched our hearts." We have had meetings, where we have joined in a circle of prayer to aid our Sisters in their lives as they have had to face changes in health, in trials and in loss.

We've had heart to heart discussions showing our love for one another. You could say, the ladies circle is our support system.

So amidst this ever changing world, there is a quiet place, a refuge, a shelter to find peace, comfort and rest. God has refreshed us with his spirit and by his grace, our strength has been found in him.

It is interesting to note that growth is not always measured in numbers; it is measured by the love that we show, by our devotion, by our acts of kindness, by our faith... That is where our strength is found and this strength abounds when we join our hearts together.



FUNDRAISING AT IT'S BEST

Submitted By: *Sister Rose Bonaduce*



In Mt. Laurel we are in the middle of building a building and doing a lot of fundraising to try and help with the costs of the things that will be needed inside the building: pews, pulpit, communion tables and such.

I was getting discouraged because some of the projects we had decided on were not going anywhere and it seemed everything we tried to sell to make funds was not selling.

We had one last project for the year and I asked the Lord what that project should be. I said to Him in my prayer I wanted something that would sell and would give me and whoever bought it a spiritual uplift and maybe become a continuing fundraiser for us.

A friend of mine who does flower arrangements and who I have helped in the past, suggested we do Poinsettia centerpieces. I told her that I was not a crafty person and didn't think I could do it. She just laughed and I asked her why she was laughing and she said "Rosie you're not following what you tell me all the time." "Have faith and it will work out".

So I started on my quest for supplies. As I started to buy the supplies, I realized up front this could be a very expensive endeavor and I prayed again to the Lord that if this was what we should do, I needed to buy the supplies as cheap as possible.

The next day my friend Lucy called me and told me if I was going to do centerpieces to get to the Christmas Tree Shop because they had all their Christmas flowers, ornaments, baskets and containers on display. She told me I could get enough supplies for 20 or 25 centerpieces for less than \$150.00.

She knows this because she owns a flower shop and it was what she spent to make up 25 centerpieces for her shop. Well lo and behold I got everything for exactly \$129.54.

I then needed to recruit someone to help me make all these things up, so I called my bud and Sister, Chris Perri and I said "Hey Chris, do you want to work on a project with me?" "I sure don't know how these things are going to turn out, but I figure when we're working for the Lord we can't go wrong".

The devil is always working to try and interfere in our lives. The day before we were going to get together, Sister Chris called me and she sounded terrible. She had a horrible cold and told me if I really needed her she would help, but she wasn't feeling too well and didn't know how long she would be able to last.

I told her whatever she could give me I would take and we would do the best that we could. So the next day we started our project. We made 24 flower arrangements and when we were done, we were pleasantly surprised at how beautiful they were.

I looked at Sister Chris and told her now all we have to do is sell them. Well the devil was in it again. We went to a holiday craft fair and we didn't sell a single arrangement. Many stopped and said how beautiful they were, but none were sold.

Needless to say Sister Cindy, Sister Faye and I were very discouraged about this and we went home thinking now what do we do. We tried for two weeks to get into two more craft fairs that were going on in our area and all the tables were sold out.

FUNDRAISING AT IT'S BEST, CONT'D.

That night I went to bed discouraged and prayed asking the Lord why did He give me this idea and encourage me with the cost of the supplies only to leave us with none of them sold?"

He told me in a dream the reason He wanted me to do the poinsettias was so that I and anyone who would buy them would notice their color. He said they are of the deepest red you will ever see.

He told me that each time I think of one of these centerpieces to remember Him and what He shed for me and that when someone is doing good to support the growth of His kingdom, He will not leave them alone when they ask for help. When I woke up, I knew we would sell every centerpiece we had.

That weekend we were going over to my cousin, Tony Micale's house for his 70th birthday celebration and I had all of the centerpieces in my van. My husband Joe said that he would remove them and put them in the basement and I could try again next year". I told him, "No Joe, I have a feeling that we can sell them today."

After we got to Tony's, I started telling different ones that we were selling centerpieces to support our Church Building Fund and by the time we left, all of the centerpieces were sold along with six of our decorative food jars.

Since that time, I've had one of the centerpieces on my dining room table and 12 people that have come into my home have commented on how beautiful it is. I have told these people why I was encouraged to make them.

The one on my dining room table is one of the largest Sister Chris and I have done and we now have orders for 12 of them for next year at \$50.00 a piece!

When You're Down to Nothing, Gods up to Something



Worry looks around, sorry looks back,
Faith looks up

SCRIPTURE CHALLENGE



"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth".

II Timothy 2:15

The Lord said, ***"Before I formed thee in the belly, I knew thee"***. Who is the prophet and where is it found?

Who is the last enemy that shall be destroyed? Where is it found?

Can't wait for the next newsletter issue to check if you have the correct answers? Contact Sister Betty D'Orazio at 732-985-9425 or bdorazio@mresc.k12.nj.us.

**"MAKE A DIFFERENCE,
VOLUNTEER"**

HEALTH ALERT



DON'T LET YOUR MEDS MAKE YOU SICK!

According to a recent poll, nearly six out of 10 of us have used prescription drugs incorrectly. And even when we take our meds as instructed, unexpected side effects sometimes pop up!

The key to protecting yourself and your family? Good communication with your doctors, says pharmacist Robert Fakelmann, RPH. So the next time you're given a prescription, be sure to ask...

Is there a safer version?

Despite all the ads on television touting their powers, new medications are not always better than the old ones used to treat the same condition. "Drug companies bombard doctors with new versions of medications, which leads many physicians to prescribe them, even though the revamped option often isn't better," Fakelmann explains. **To protect yourself:** Ask, "Is this drug clearly more effective than older, better-known options?"

Is this the best dose for me?

Most drugs are tested on "average" sized people - men and women who weigh around 150 pounds. This can lead to overdosing for smaller folks and under dosing for larger ones, says Fakelmann. **To protect yourself:** Double-check that your doctor has taken your size into consideration.

Do any of my meds overlap?

More than 40% of Americans get their prescriptions from more than one doctor - and many get those prescriptions filled at multiple pharmacies. Trouble is, if a pharmacist doesn't see all of your prescriptions, he can't catch overlaps-which can lead to over-medication and other problems.

To protect yourself: "Keep a list of your medications in your wallet, and provide that information to every doctor and pharmacist you visit," urges Fakelmann.

Can I keep taking OTCs?

"Over-the-counter medications and supplements can interfere with your prescription medications, making them either more or less effective than they should be, or causing dangerous side effects," explains Fakelmann.

To protect yourself: "Tell your doctor about every single medication you take-right down to your multivitamin and the occasional aspirin," advises, Fakelmann.

Article by: *Camille Noe Pagan*

AWARD WINNING APPLE CAKE



One of *Sister Sally Hettler's* (New Brunswick, NJ branch) famous recipes that has won blue ribbons several times is her delicious apple cake.

Mix together the following ingredients:

1 cup Crisco oil, 1 tsp. salt, 1 tsp. baking soda, 1 tsp. vanilla, 1 tsp. cinnamon, 3 large eggs lightly beaten, 1½ cups sugar, 2 cups flour, 4 large apples thinly sliced/chopped and ½ cup walnuts.

Topping: Combine ½ cup flour, ½ cup brown sugar and ¼ cup medium soft butter. Sprinkle on top of cake. Bake at 350° 50 minutes or longer, depending on oven. Check for doneness with tooth pick.

QUARTERLY BIRTHDAYS**JANUARY**

Sis. Michele Burns - Metuchen - Jan. 1st
 Sis. Colleen Smith - Metuchen - Jan. 1st
 Sis. Geneva Dell - Freehold - Jan. 3rd
 Sis. Cindy Bright - Levittown - Jan. 9th
 Sis. Shirlee Connor - Levittown - Jan. 9th
 Sis. Suzette Huttenberger - Freehold - Jan. 6
 Sis. Pat Valenti - Levittown - Jan. 10th
 Sis. Lori Schmitt - Metuchen - Jan. 11th
 Sis. Tammy Valenti - Levittown - Jan. 12th
 Sis. Juana Sanchez - NBrun. - Jan. 18th
 Sis. Alyssa Reyes - NBrun. - Jan. 19th
 Sis. Melanie Suska - Bronx - Jan. 20th
 Sis. Lydia Tenorio - Edison - Jan. 31st

FEBRUARY

Sis. Dot Klund - Levittown - Feb. 1st
 Sis. Carrie Clancy - Freehold - Feb. 7th
 Sis. Linda Young - Edison - Feb. 7th
 Sis. Christina Nunez - Edison - Feb. 8th
 Sis. Kathy Onorato - Maine - Feb. 12th
 Sis. Joan Rogolino - Brooklyn - Feb. 13th
 Sis. Mary Thickstun - Edison - Feb. 15th
 Sis. Bethany Onorato - Maine - Feb. 23rd
 Sis. Nyema Reyes - NBrun. - Feb. 24th

MARCH

Sis. Lynda Sgro - Mt. Laurel - Mar. 1st
 Sis. Virginia Pizzaia - Edison - Mar. 6th
 Sis. Lydia Micale - Mt. Laurel - Mar. 7th
 Sis. Nancy Murillo - Freehold - Mar. 7th
 Inez Bacchus - Bronx - Mar. 16th
 Sis. Rachel Benyola - NBrun. - Mar. 20th
 Sis. Tessa Churchill - Maine - Mar. 22nd
 Sis. Teri Bravo - Edison - Mar. 23rd
 Chiara Micale - Mt. Laurel - Mar. 29th

NEWEST ARRIVAL

Brianna Teresa Reyes

November 4, 2007 - 11:01PM

8 lbs., 6 oz.

Parents: Brother Isaac & Sister Alyssa Reyes

SPIRITUAL ANNIVERSARIES**JANUARY**

Sis. Joan Rogolino - Brooklyn - Jan. 6th (51)
 Sis. Colleen Smith - Metuchen - Jan. 6th (23)
 Sis. Marisol Mujica - Edison - Jan. 12th (5)
 Sis. Mary Onorato - Maine - Jan. 19th (50)
 Sis. Lydia Link - Bronx - Jan. 24th (54)
 Sis. Faye Well - Mt. Laurel - Jan. 24th (?)
 Sis. Janet Bilardo - NBrun. - Jan. 24th (14)
 Sis. Betty Crudup - Freehold - Jan. 28th (40)
 Sis. Rita Ross - Freehold - Jan. 29th (42)
 Sis. Miriam Reyes - Freehold - Jan. ? (3)



Sister Santa Scala, pictured with her natural and spiritual sister, Sally Hettler, celebrates her 81st spiritual anniversary on February 6th

FEBRUARY

Sis. Rosemary McLaughlin - Edison - Feb. 1st (27)
 Sis. Rose Bonaduce - Mt. Laurel - Feb. 6th (36)
 Sis. Santa Scala - NBrun. - Feb. 6th (81)
 Sis. Lydia Zaino - Edison - Feb. 21st (26)
 Sis. Sally Hettler - NBrun. - Feb. 27th (70)

MARCH

Sis. Janice Huttenberger-Edison - Mar. 23rd (33)
 Sis. Nyema Reyes - NBrun. - Mar. 27th (14)
 Sis. Jessica Pittius - Metuchen - Mar. 28th (8)



If your birthday or spiritual anniversary was missed this quarter, please send your information via e-mail to Sister Maria Peterkin at mpeterkin01@hotmail.com.

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 9th - Valentine Tea Fundraiser -
12:00PM at the Hopelawn, NJ Branch
Hosted by: *Sister Colleen Smith* and *Sister Michele Davella Burns*.

February 13th - Heart Health for Women,
7-8:30pm at the Princeton Fitness & Wellness
Center, Princeton, NJ (*Dr. John D. Passalaris*
will review known risk factors of heart disease
in women and current recommendations for
decreasing your risk). Free registration.
1-888-897-8979.

March 15th - Area Business Meeting -
10:00AM at the Levittown, PA Branch.
Hosted by: *Levittown Ladies' Uplift Circle*

April 5th - Fast & Prayer/Spring Brunch
Fundraiser - 10:00AM at the Metuchen, NJ
Branch. Hosted by: *Metuchen Ladies' Uplift
Circle*

April 18th - 1:00PM, General Ladies Uplift
Circle Meeting, Greensburg, PA

June 7th - Atlantic Coast Ladies' Uplift Circle
40th Celebration - 12:00PM, The Heldrich
Hotel, New Brunswick, NJ

PLEASE NOTE: Fast & Prayer for the Circle is
the last Saturday of each month.

NEWSLETTER NAME CONTEST

Our newsletter, currently called, Area Circle
News, needs a new name. Got ideas? Please
submit your suggestions to Sister Maria
Peterkin at mpeterkin01@hotmail.com.

Submissions are due by February 28th. Name
to be voted on at the March 15th business
meeting.

Be sure to check out the General Ladies'
Uplift Circle Website at:
www.generalladiescircle.org

AREA OFFICERS

President - Sister Maria Peterkin
Vice President - Sister Colleen Smith
Secretary - Sister Alice Suska
Asst. Secretary - Sister Teri Bravo
Fin. Secretary - Sister Mitzi Calabro
Treasurer - Sister Rose Bonaduce
Auditors: Sisters Betty D'Orazio & Lynda Sgro
Card Sender: Sister Teri Bravo
Editor: Sister Alyssa Reyes
Historian: Sister Nyema Reyes
Librarian: Sister Jessica Pittius

LOCAL PRESIDENTS

Bronx: Sister Lydia Link
Edison: Sister Rosemary McLaughlin
Freehold: Sister Roberta Hunt
Hopelawn: Sister Mitzi Calabro
Levittown: Sister Dawn Boruch
Maine: Sister Kathy Onorato
Metuchen: Sister Michele Davella Burns
Mt. Laurel: Sister Rose Bonaduce
New Bruns: Sister Maria Peterkin

NOTE OF THANKS

I would like to offer my gratitude and
appreciation to *Sister Betty D'Orazio* for
spearheading our new Scripture Challenge
Column as well as *Sister Cindy Onorato* and
Sister Rose Bonaduce for their contributions
to our newsletter.

I encourage and welcome all circles and/or
sisters to become actively engaged in the
newsletter process by submitting your
experiences, articles of interest, recipes,
pictures and any other material that would
enlighten and uplift our readers as well as
volunteering to be part of the staff.

Sister Maria