

Spring /Summer 2008

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The Church of Jesus Christ

Penn Mid-Atlantic Ladies' Uplift Circle

Letter From The President

Freedom Isn't Free!

Dear Sisters and Friends,



With the recent celebration of July 4th, it is difficult to not think of the freedoms we enjoy in this blessed land of America. Many causes have been fought for in this country; the right to declare our freedom from English rule, the right for no taxation without representation, and freedom to chose our religion, to name a few. Our freedom of religion gives us the right to profess our belief in Jesus Christ and belong to His Church, The Church of Jesus Christ.

Not all the battles have been with other nations, the Civil war was fought at a great cost to both sides. In June my sons and I visited Gettysburg and with the help of an historian/guide, we felt a portion of the price those soldiers paid on behalf of the rights of others.

No, freedom isn't free and it isn't the freedom to do whatever we want to do either! It is the freedom to do what we know is right. We know that it is right to believe in Jesus Christ and that The Church of Jesus Christ IS His Church. Because others have fought for us, we are able to proclaim this. However, this comes with responsibility. We must be diligent workers in His Church and for His Gospel we need to safeguard all that He has provided so that no one will ever be able to take it from us. In that same manner, we must cherish all that He has provided.

Although some might not realize it, the Ladies' Uplift Circle is a privilege we have because others paved the way. They showed bravery and desire to begin this auxiliary and we are blessed because of their strength and determination. It is our responsibility to uphold all that they "fought" for.

Our next business meeting will be on September 6 at the Imperial Branch. We do not often get large numbers of sisters at our business meetings which is unfortunate because just a few then decide for the rest of the Circle. I implore you to clear your schedule and plan on attending this meeting, as well as future business meetings. Many important decisions will be made including the election of officers. According to the by-laws, it is time for me to step down and one of you will be elected!

In honor of all those who have gone before us and paved the way for us to enjoy our Ladies' Circle, **you** need to attend the business meetings. I realize that all of our lives are filled with other obligations and duties, but remember freedom isn't free. **If we're to enjoy the freedom we have to meet as a Ladies Circle, we must be willing to put forth the effort needed to maintain that freedom.**

*Election of officers will also occur during the October General Ladies Circle business meeting. Although her term limit is not up, Sister Lorraine DeMercurio has made it known that she is stepping down as vice-president. PLEASE keep these matters in prayers!

I have been honored to be your president for these four years and promise that I will continue to be an active supporter of the Ladies' Circle. Thank you for all of you support, prayers, and words of encouragement it has been a privilege to serve you in this

office. May God continue to bless you all. Love, Sister Jacqui King



“...to keep the peace and the freedom of the people, and to grant unto them their sacred privileges to worship the

Lord their God, yea, to support and maintain the cause of God all (her) days...” -Alma 50:39

Circle’s Top Ten List

“10 Reasons Why I should attend the Area Circle Business Meeting in Imperial on September 6, 2008.”

10. You'll be saving gas by carpooling! (Pack 'em in)
9. A free lunch!
8. Finally! A spiritual reason for not doing house work on a Saturday.
7. The Sisters need to meet together - It's a woman thing!
6. You dieted so it's time to eat and enjoy yourself, especially the desserts!
5. Laugh a little (Joy in the Lord)
4. Sisters need to hug and squeeze each other!
3. The Sister's smiles are a ray of Sonshine!
2. Being present to vote for spiritual leaders in the Circle so we can grow together in love and work for the Lord!
1. Circle Up to Lift Up!



Visiting Sisters

are in need of a Ladies' Circle meeting to attend. If your Circle would like a little boost, please contact one of the following Sisters:

- Sis. Marian Yoder (724)899-3778
nanayoder@hotmail.com
 Sis. Karen Progar. (724)495-7894
klprogar@earthlink.net

No special preparations have to be made to host Visiting Sisters; just your regular Circle meeting. If you would like to plan something special or a little different than that of a regular meeting, you could consult with our sisters and they will give you some ideas as to what other Locals have done in the past. Why not host a guest teacher or maybe have a light snack and fellowship after the meeting? It's whatever **your Sisters** would enjoy and are comfortable with. *Let us rejoice together!

“And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which labored with me in the gospel...and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.”
-Phl 4:4-5

Fellowship Weekend/Business Meeting

On April 26, 2008 The Penn Mid-Atlantic Locals held their annual Fellowship Weekend at the Antiochian Village in Ligonier, PA.

Friday evening we gathered together for singing and testimony. Those who weren't raised in The Church were asked to share their testimony. What a great way to begin the weekend! Of course, there were tears...and some laughter too.

Saturday morning we met for the business meeting and our president, Sis. Jacqui welcomed all in attendance and read from Mosiah 2:1: *“And behold, I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom; that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God.”*

Sis. Karen Progar presented a devotion reading from Moroni 7:34. *“And he hath said: Repent all ye ends of the earth, and come unto me, and be baptized in my name, and have faith in me, that ye may be saved.”* Continuing in the theme of service, she used the

testimony of our recently departed sister, Elsie Gehly, as an example of one who served others. At age 74 Sister Elsie became our first Area President. Anyone who knew Sis. Elsie remembers her for her sweetness, mild manner and the smile she always wore; never a cross word. What a good example of a righteous woman. Follow Sister Elsie, for she followed Christ.

We continued with the Circle pledge: *“We pledge ourselves to read and search the Scriptures and ask God to direct and bless our Ladies' Uplift Circle in every way. We will do our duty in visiting the sick; we will neither find fault nor offend in word or deed, but will be a help each other and help others to the best of our ability.”*

A few bits of information from our meeting:

- Next Fellowship Weekend to be held at Seven Springs Resort May 1-3, 2009.
- Area Conference in Imperial Saturday, September 6, 2008. Meeting time” 9:30-12:30 p.m. One meeting with lunch to follow. (Remember, Circle Up to Lift Up!)
- Locals: Please continue to fast and pray for the blessings and growth of the Circle.
- \$750 was collected for the Saved By Grace Orphanage in India
- \$150 in Wal-Mart gift cards were collected and donated to the Muncey Vacation Bible School for supplies.
- Three Joy Bags were disbursed. Recipients: Sisters Vicky D'Antonio, Lorraine DeMecurio and Nancy Speck
- Ideas were expressed to get the young women of the church involved in Circle.
- Card Sender, JoAnn Niehl, sent 33 cards; Get Well, Thinking of you, Sympathy and Birthday.
- The Songs of Zion: Circle Sisters updated the binders at the World Conference Center in time for the October

meeting. May God bless our volunteers!

- New Questions:
Bible – “What maketh many friends?” and “What does a friend do?”
Book of Mormon – Who was a true friend of Liberty?
- Imperial, McKees Rocks and Vanderbilt to bring Joy Boxes to the Sept. 6th meeting
And each Sister is to bring a \$5.00 Wal-Mart gift card.
*Remember to keep the receipt with the card in case there is a problem at the time of redemption.

After lunch we enjoyed a seminar with the theme of “Jesus My Wonderful Friend” with an emphasis on the importance of recording our testimony. The text was taken from Acts 26:16-18, Jesus speaking to Paul:

“...But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.”

Jesus appeared unto Paul (and unto us) for a purpose; he called us to be a witness, that we may shine our light among the Gentiles and all mankind.

In conjunction with the lesson, we took time to record our testimonies. (The testimonies will be collected with the intent of compiling a book, available to purchase at a later date. Now wouldn't that be wonderful reading?!)

*Homework for all readers: Please take the time to answer the questions on page #4 under My Testimony and follow instructions as to where to send it. The form is also available on-line at www.pmaladiescircle.org under

Minutes 2008. Let's help to make this effort a reality!

On Sunday morning Bro. Tony Ricci was our guest speaker. He opened by posing a question, “Do you have a name?” By Christ giving us His name he takes ownership of us; we have an identity. In John chapter 15 Jesus says, I no longer call you my servants but I call you my friends. He is our best friend! Bro. Tony continued by saying that when he was a boy he didn't like school, but when he made a friend, school became bearable. (We smiled, who couldn't relate to that? No matter how old we are it still applies) He went on to say that some friends are jealous but Jesus belongs to all of us and we need to share him with others! He told us about a woman who approached his mother and asked, “Do you believe in Jesus Christ?” That woman was Sis. Mary Joswiak, who was willing to share her testimony with a stranger; a Buddhist. Her testimony was received and now Sis. Thu, Tony's mother, and her family are members of The Church.

“A friend loveth at all times.”
Proverbs 17:17 It's unconditional love! We should never argue, but agree to disagree. *“...and now, as ye are desirous to come into the fold of God, and to be called his People, and are willing to bear one another's burdens, that they may be light...”* If this is your desire, then you are my friends. Put your hand to the plow and don't look back!

We enjoyed a beautiful time of testimony, communion and then dismissed for lunch. It was time to say good-bye to our sisters until next year. See you in Seven Springs!

Area Officers:

President – Jacqui King
Vice President – Paula Hemmings
Corresponding Secretary – Sherri Wasik
Asst. Sec. – Angela Yoder
Treasurer – LuAnn Carson
Financial Secretary – Diane Robinson
Auditor – Lucetta Scaglione
Historian – Lucetta Scaglione
Card Sender – JoAnn Niehl
Librarian – Marian Yoder

Editor – Becky Tarbuk
Web Manager- Sherri Wasik

A Note of Thanks

To all who labor and have labored on behalf of the Circle to make nice things happen. Gracias Amigas!



Editorial

By Sis. Becky Tarbuk

Well Sisters, it's that time of year again when a newsletter needs to be compiled and sent to every woman and young girl in our Area. The purpose in my mind for this bi-annual venture is to not only inform you, but my hope is that there is at least one thing within the newsletter that will bless and inspire you. At the same time you will get a glimpse as to what the members of Circle are doing, where they are going, what's on their mind and a partial list of accomplishments. Your fellow sisters are active and joyful and have an important role in the church, home and family. It's a vital role that is worthy of encouragement, praise and mutual support from women just like you. (Take the Circle for a test drive! See



<http://www.generalladiescircle.org/bookclub> "It's Time For Young Women Who Love The Lord To Stand"). Check out a Circle meeting near you. There may be Circle meetings held within your branch. Don't be shy - ask when and where they meet. Find out when they hold their next meeting. If there isn't a Circle in your branch maybe you can start one with the assistance of our Area President. As long as there are two sisters who want to meet together to read and study the scripture, a Circle may be formed. The Ladies' Uplift Circle is a place where the sisters and friends of the church can thrive. I say emphatically that this is a scripture based organization where we strengthen ourselves that we might be able to help others and in a combined effort, support the church. You may attend a Circle meeting in another branch or even go to the website above and see what other

options are available to you. (The GLC is in the process a developing a satellite Circle, if you will for those in the outposts of the church) There you will also find a link to our Area Circle Website. The Circle needs lively stones; women who are active in their service to God and/or want to dedicate themselves more fully. Step up and be a part! Make your Circle the kind of group that our women, young and old alike, want to be a part of. It's up to each individual to make a difference. Join us won't you!

"...And their meetings were conducted by the church after the manner of the workings of the Spirit, and by the power of the Holy Ghost, for as the power of the Holy Ghost led them whether to preach, or to exhort, or to pray, or to sing, even so it was done." – Moroni 6:9

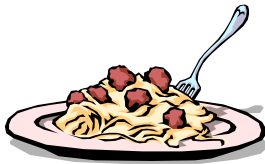
Recipe

Tired of Ragu! Here's a great recipe from the Ladies' Circle Food-A-Plenty Cookbook. It's easy and so good! It was submitted by Mrs. Caterina Benedetto. Make a batch of this fabulous sauce and surprise someone with an invitation to dinner. Ahhh...there's no better way to spend a Sunday!

"Italian Spaghetti Sauce with Meat Balls"

Sauce:

- ¼ C. olive oil
- 1 med. Onion, chopped
- 2qt. tomato puree
- 1 sm. can tomato paste
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 5-6 leaves of sweet basil (1 t. dry)
- 1 clove garlic (whole)
- 1 bay leaf (optional)



In the pot: Brown onion and garlic in olive oil until golden. Add ½ can of paste by tablespoons and sauté together. Add tomato puree slowly, sautéing after

each addition. Add salt, pepper and basil. Cook slowly for 1 hour.

Meatballs:

- 1 ½ lb. ground beef
- 1 C. Italian seasoned bread crumbs
- 3 eggs
- 6 sprigs chopped parsley
- 1/3 C. grated Italian cheese
- 1 clove garlic, chopped very fine
- Salt and pepper to taste
- ¼ C. water

In skillet while sauce is cooking, prepare meatballs. Mix beef, bread crumbs, eggs, parsley, cheese, garlic salt, pepper and water. Mix well with hands. Knead to mix well and then shape into balls. Brown on all sides. Add to sauce with bay leaf and cook for one hour at low heat. Do not cover sauce while cooking.

"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." – Hebrew 13:2

My Testimony

We are asking all sisters to share their testimony. We will collect them and create a booklet to be sold as a fundraiser. Following is a form to help with this endeavor. You may submit an electronic copy to Sisters Karen Progar at klprogar@earthlink.net or Jacqui King at jacquiking1@yahoo.com or mail a copy to Sis. Karen at 277 Holt Rd. Aliquippa, PA 15001-9125. The form can also be found on PMA website under 2008 Minutes. Thank you again for your support of this worthwhile project.

Name:
Branch:
Date of Baptism:
Tell us about the day of your baptism:

Where were you?

What touched your heart?

Who baptized you?

How old were you?

What did you feel that day?

Share anything else that you think we'd like to know

Were there any experiences had?

Favorite hymn:

Favorite Scripture:

What I love best about The Church of Jesus Christ is:

What I love best about Ladies' Circle:

Who Are You Really?



If Jesus read your Facebook, would he recognize you as one of his lambs? Are you one person in church and another person on-line? Who are you, really?



"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." –Galatians 3:27



"Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God." –I Peter 4:1-2
