

Lives of Fragrance

2 Corinthians 4:14-17

October 2024 | Vol. 3, Issue 4



What's New

October

Pumpkin Painting, Oct. 25th, TBC Lighthouse Room, 6-8 p.m., bring a pumpkin, paint will be provided. RSVP to Jo at 580-517-1093.

October – November. Fall Reading Challenge for TBC kids! Contact Stacy Condie at 619-867-6798 for more information.

November

Missions Emphasis Weekend, Nov. 8-10th. Meet & mingle with TBC missionaries at the events planned for the weekend. Check the TBC website for further details.

December

Women's Christmas Brunch at TBC. Dec. 7th

Eternal Shelter

Karen Krueger

A powerful hurricane makes landfall and leaves devastation and death; homes and businesses are destroyed. Nations are in political upheaval or in the chaos of war. When confronted with tragedy and tumult, our hearts cry out for a safe place: a hiding place.

As a child growing up on a farm, I had a number of hiding places available to me, ranging from my favorite tree to hay-bale houses in the barn. In these places, I felt a sense of safe enclosure and shelter. I did not have a reason to hide, unless for a game of hide-and-seek; I simply enjoyed the solitary delight of these places.

The farmhouse had a storm cellar in the event of severe weather. Although it was designed to be a place of protection, it was not an inviting space; it was encompassed by concrete walls and a dirt floor, where spiders felt at home, but it served its purpose of providing a place of safety.

Our home itself was a safe place of warmth, comfort, and love. We enjoyed the tender care of our parents, who blessed us with consistent love and met our needs. We trusted our father to protect us and we knew that our mother would nurture and encourage us.

When we are faced with difficult circumstances, distressing news stories, or debilitating medical conditions, we need a shelter. Neither our family nor our physical circumstances can provide the deep hope which we need. Earthly options fail; our strength is gone; we must cling to our Savior, our Eternal Rock and Refuge.

In Psalm 91:1, the writer exalts God, who is his refuge; he knows that the divine hiding place is secure above all. As we dwell in that secret place, we are protected and covered; we have peace in the midst of tumult and distress. Charles Spurgeon aptly noted that sometimes the believer is preserved from danger, yet at other times, the believer is strengthened by God's grace to go through trials and to be purified by the fires of those trials (*Safe Shelter*, a sermon by C.H. Spurgeon).

How may we reach that sweet refuge, the secret place of God? Our only means of access is through the Gospel. Christ died for our sins, according to the scriptures; He was buried; on the third day He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). We must come by faith, believing that Christ did indeed pay the penalty for our sins. Paul describes our death to our old selves as being crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20). Colossians 3:3 tells us that we are dead, and that our life is hidden with Christ in God.

In John 10:27-29, Jesus speaks of those who believe in Him: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one".

These verses speak to our eternal security. As we abide in Christ, we seek to honor and obey Him in all things. We trust in Jesus when we are hurting and when we are joyful. As we faithfully trust Christ and rest in Him, God faithfully draws us closer to Himself, so that we may shelter in His refuge.

There is no greater place of safety than being held by the hand of God. Not a storm shelter, not a warm house, and not even a loving parent can be a lasting refuge and hiding place. Rejoice! We have the assurance of our position in Christ; we are loved, we are enfolded, and we have the one true Eternal Shelter.

Recipes

Caitlin Bush

Caitlin shares these recipes, which will be perfect for a special fall meal!

Garlic Butter Steak with Brussels Sprouts and Butternut Squash

Squash & Brussels Sprouts

- 3 c. butternut squash (peeled, seeded, cubed)
- 12 oz. Brussels sprouts (trim ends & halve)
- 2 T olive oil
- Salt & pepper

Steak

- 1 lb. flank steak
- 1/4 tsp smoked paprika
- 1/4 tsp chili powder
- 1/4 tsp salt (or more)
- Black pepper, freshly ground, to taste
- 2 T olive oil
- 3 T butter
- 5 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 oz. fresh thyme

Preheat oven to 400° F.

Toss cubed squash and Brussels sprouts separately with 1T olive oil each and seasonings. Spread squash and sprouts separately on 2 parchment paper-lined baking sheets. Roast squash for 30 min; roast Brussels sprouts for 20-30 min.

Season the flank steak with the dry seasonings. Heat large dry cast-iron skillet over medium heat for 2 min, then add the olive oil and the whole flank steak. Do not move the steak until it has cooked for 5 min. Flip the steak to the other side, reduce heat to low-medium, and cook 5+ min. (145° is the recommended safe internal temp.) Remove the steak from the skillet, slicing against the grain into thin strips about 1 inch wide.

Add the butter and minced garlic to the empty skillet; cook on low-medium until the garlic softens. Return the steak to the skillet with the thyme, cook for 1-2 min, coating the steak with the garlic sauce. Remove from heat; add the roasted squash and sprouts, warming as needed. Top with more fresh thyme, salt, & pepper.

Marble Pumpkin Cheesecake

Crust

- 1 1/4 c. graham cracker & gingersnap crumbs
- 1 tsp pumpkin pie spice
- 1/4 c. melted butter

Filling

- 2 pkg (8 oz. each) cream cheese, room temp
- 1/3 c. granulated sugar
- 2 T heavy cream
- 1 egg
- 1 c. canned or homemade pumpkin puree
- 1/3 c. brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp pumpkin pie spice

Preheat oven to 375°

In a small bowl, mix crumbs with spices and melted butter. Press the mixture evenly on the bottom and sides of a 9-inch round pan (with removable bottom). Refrigerate 5-10 min.

In mixing bowl, place cream cheese, sugar, and heavy cream. Beat with mixer until fluffy. Add the egg and blend well. Reserve 2/3 c. of the cheese mixture. To remaining mixture, add pumpkin puree, brown sugar, & spice, blending well. Pour the pumpkin cheese mixture into the chilled crust, spreading evenly. Use a spoon to drop dollops of the reserved cream cheese mixture, then make swirls with a knife.

Bake for 25 min. or until the center is set. Turn the oven off. Leave the door open, allowing the cheesecake to cool in the oven for at least 1 hour. Slide a knife around the cheesecake to allow easy removal of the pan. Place on serving tray. Refrigerate 2+ hours before slicing.

Updates

Karen Krueger

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry

The Operation Christmas Child (OCC) Shoebox Ministry is a branch of Samaritan's Purse Ministry. Shoeboxes filled with gifts and the Gospel message are sent out around the world to children in need. This ministry has delivered over 220 million shoeboxes to children since 1995! What an amazing way to demonstrate the love of Christ and to share the Gospel in more than 170 countries and territories! Pick up a shoebox at TBC and ask Forrest and Nina Cowan about other ways in which you can help!

Remembering the Women's Retreat

The 2024 TBC Women's Autumn Retreat was held on September 13-14th. Over 50 women attended the Retreat; we enjoyed opportunities for fellowship, sang praises to the Lord, and listened to seven women share testimonies of how God has worked in their lives. Our speakers were Stacy Condie, Stephanie Villines, Ali Rogers, Ashlyn Ahrens, Candy Surrent, and Leslie McGowan. Candy's friend and fellow missionary, Susi Fachin, shared a brief testimony, with Candy translating her remarks into English. God's design for women mentoring women was explored, as the speakers shared the impact of godly, caring women on their spiritual growth. Table discussions allowed each woman to share in a small group setting. The beautiful setting of the camp, which overlooks Lake Hudson, gave women a quiet spot for time alone with the Lord.

The Women's Council is thankful for each woman who helped to plan and prepare for the Retreat and for each woman who attended the Retreat. Our prayer echoes Paul's yearning for the Colossian believers, "My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:2-3). May Christ be glorified in all of our thoughts, words, and actions.

Lives of Fragrance is a publication of the Women's Ministries of Tulsa Bible Church. For corrections, comments, or written contributions, please contact Karen at flnewsandviews@gmail.com.

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