

LIVES OF FRAGRANCE

2 Corinthians 4:14-17

WELCOME

Welcome to the first edition of *Lives of Fragrance!* *Ladies Daybreak* was the original newsletter written by and for women of Tulsa Bible Church (TBC); we are happy to introduce *Lives of Fragrance* as a successor to that work. This newsletter is designed to help us, as women of TBC, to find ways in which to serve God and the TBC body, to get to know one another better, and to allow us to see opportunities for fellowship. The Women's Ministry Council Purpose Statement concludes, "We desire to use these relationships as a means to encourage and challenge each woman to glorify the Lord and to grow in Christ-likeness." Accordingly, the theme of this newsletter is taken from 2 Corinthians 2.14-17; our purpose is to encourage one another to live fragrant lives which are honoring to God.

SPOTLIGHT ON WOMEN'S MINISTRY COUNCIL

By Marcia Thrutchley

The purpose of women's ministries is to support women in the various stages of life to grow in their knowledge of God through His Word, in their love for His Son, Jesus Christ, and in sharing His love to others through the power of the Holy Spirit in the home, the church, Tulsa, and the world. Our theme verse is Colossians 1:9-10,

"And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."

Under the direction of the pastor and elders, currently serving on the council are Marcia Thrutchley, Cathy Dunn, Jean Ayo, Judy Susong, Kathy Bradford, and Amber Schaecher. Bible Studies, Kids' Day, Discipleship, Homebound Visitation, Cards, Newborns, Retreat, Resources, and Showers are the ministries which are overseen by the council. These ministries and the work of the women who are involved in leading them will be explored in greater detail in upcoming issues.

If you are new to TBC, we welcome you and offer a loving body of Christ that is striving to serve and worship in a manner worthy of the glory of God. We want to provide all women opportunities for fellowship, connectedness, study, and growth in their walk with the Lord. Please join us in the various women's activities. All ages are welcome to serve with us. If you would like more information on any of the ministries we are engaged in or have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the women on the council. Contact Stacy Stark, at admin@tulsabible.org, and she will direct your comments or questions to us.



WHAT'S NEW

JULY 4TH

Celebrate Independence Day! Thank God for the freedom we have in the United States.

JULY 13TH

A baby shower will be given for Caleb and Rachael Bradford, TBC Lighthouse Room, 5-7 p.m.

They are registered at babylist.com/baby-rachael-bradford. Diapers preferred: Pampers Pure or Pampers Swaddlers. Wipes: Pampers, Aqua pure, or Honest company water wipes. Please RSVP to 918.200.1915.

SEPTEMBER 9TH-10TH

Women's Retreat with guest speaker, Ruth Stevens, retired missionary, teaching at New Life Ranch, Frontier Cove location.

SEPTEMBER

The Women's Bible Study Groups commence their fall semester. Dates, times, and studies will be announced soon.

FRAGRANCE OF CHRIST

By Karen Krueger

Fragrant aromas, which are attractive to our sense of smell, come in immense variety. Think of a golden loaf of fresh-baked bread. Mmm! Remember the piquant scent of newly cut grass and the refreshing scent of rain after drought. Breathe in the delicate perfume of an old-fashioned rose in the afternoon sun. Inhale the unique fragrance of a baby as you cuddle that tiny person. God designed the world with an untold number of distinctive scents. Many of these scents are attractive, but some of them are repugnant, such as the stench of spoiled food.

2 Corinthians 2.14-17 (ESV) states, "But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things?"

According to this passage, we, as Christians, emanate the fragrance of Christ, glorifying God. The source of the aroma is not of us, but comes through us as we are surrendered to Christ and dying to self, offering ourselves as a daily sacrifice. Christ modeled humility, and we, as His followers, are exhorted to be humble, renouncing our pride and self-will. Salvation is not of us; we are naturally enemies of God, but He saves us through His mercy and grace. As the Gospel permeates us and we share the good news, we manifest the sweet aroma of Christ.

This aroma is sweet and a sign of life to those who are in the body of Christ, but sadly, the aroma is also a sign of death to those who refuse the gift of God. C.S. Lewis, in *The Magician's Nephew*, refers to this dichotomy in speaking of the Tree grown from the Apple of Life, whose smell, "is joy and life and health to you (the children), is death and horror and despair to her (the Witch)."

Christ describes Himself as the Bread of Life, the Rose of Sharon, the Lily of the Valley, and the Living Water. These are sweetly fragrant and also signify substance. Do we present the wholesome nourishment of that Bread to others? Do our sisters detect that sweetness in our aspect which shows that we have spent time with Jesus, learning more of His grace and beauty? Are we swift to offer the Living Water, the words and knowledge of Jesus, to assuage the thirst of those suffering the parching pangs of distress?

Christ, our great example, has not only gone before us, but is in us, strengthening us and leading us in the ways which He has planned for us. He graciously tailors the trials which lead us to depend more deeply on Him, and reveals, through those trials, passions which steal love from Him. As Pastor Jared has reminded us, our hearts are deceitful, constantly finding earthly loves to fix our passions on, rather than on Christ.

The Scriptures resound with the magnificent news that Christ has won the victory. He is sufficient. The Holy Spirit indwells us, empowering us to live fragrant lives, so that others will know that we have been with Jesus and glorify God.

RECIPE

Summer weather is here! Salads with cool, crisp flavors are an appealing contrast to summer heat. Cindy Brookshire shares her favorite summer salad with us.

Fiesta Salad

From Cindy Brookshire

- Romaine lettuce
- Corn (frozen, thawed or canned, drained)
- Nacho cheese Doritos
- Blue tortilla chips
- Feta cheese
- Ranch dressing

Wash and tear lettuce. Place in large bowl or individual bowls. Add corn, crushed chips, ranch dressing, and sprinkle feta, all to your own liking. If making the large bowl, put chips on just before serving, and add feta on top.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS

Toss 2-3 large marshmallows into your brown or demerara sugar container. The sugar will stay soft and not clump.

Make sure you date those leftovers so that you will use them in a timely fashion. Write a date on jars that you open, too. This can be done by using chalk-labels, nametags, duct tape, or simply a permanent marker on the container itself.

Tell us your favorite household hint!



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

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BRAINTEASER

Find the answers, then use the first letters to spell this biblical characteristic of a godly woman.

- First wife of Ahasuerus _____
- God says He will betroth her to Him forever _____
- She married Boaz, was in the line of Christ _____
- She behaved more righteously than Judah _____
- Abram and Sarai left this location, obeying God _____
- God placed her "for such a time as this" _____