



A Mother's Day Contemplation of Women in the Gospels

Even a cursory glance through the Gospels will bring to mind many women, some of whom Jesus healed while others played important roles in His life and ministry. Elizabeth; Mary, Anna; Simon Peter's Mother-in-law; the Samaritan woman, the woman caught in adultery; the widow of Nain; the woman who washes His feet; the hemorrhaging woman; the Syro-Phonician woman; Mary Magdalene; Joanna; Susanna; Martha; Mary; the crippled woman; the wife of Pilate; Mary mother of James & Joseph; the wife of Zebedee; Salome ; Jesus's sisters and numerous other unnamed groups of women who wept, or cried out words of encouragement.

Against the cultural practice of the day, Jesus accepted women as equals. In fact on many occasions when Jesus shows compassion for a woman, there is a backdrop of shocked men voicing their objections to His words and actions.

While he had no problem calling Simon Peter "Satan"; often in frustration asked the disciples "how long before you understand?" and chastises the men to get out of the way and let the "children come to me." Yet He never speaks words of anger to any woman, nor does He claim male superiority at any time. Jesus also had no difficulty using female examples, or traditional roles, in His teaching. In Mark, Jesus uses the "widow's offering of two coins" as a model for generosity. In Luke Jesus again uses the example of a widow as a sign of humility in prayer, and tells the story of the "woman who goes to great lengths to recover a lost coin." In Matthew He talks about "sewing patches onto old garments" and faith being like "yeast that is added to flour."

Somehow the teaching of the church over the years has pushed these women off to the side. Making discipleship seem a primarily male activity. Yet without them, the Gospels would have faltered or even failed.

We still have not overcome this male dominated viewpoint. Take a moment to consider how many denominations still refuse to allow women to serve, let alone take leadership roles. Think too of the outcry and shock every time anyone points out that the "Spirit" in Hebrew, is a feminine noun and would perhaps be more accurately translated as "Spirit-ess." Robbing us all of the equal male/female aspects of the Creator and leading to some difficulty in translation.

"So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:27) Note the incongruity of "created" them both in God's image with the use of "he" and "his" That one is still just too much even for modern Bible translations!

Jesus had no problem accepting the feminine and while we are all used to seeing stained glass windows and singing hymns about "Jesus as shepherd", when did you ever see, or hear these words of Jesus used as an illustration?

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem.....How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings" (Matt 23:37) - Pastor John



Meet Your Deacon Diane Terlep

I grew up in Sandwich, Illinois and enjoyed all the good things that a small town provides. I attended Northern Illinois University where I received a BS and MS in mathematics and statistics. After graduating from NIU, I moved to Crystal Lake where I became a mathematics instructor at McHenry County College for 33 years. I also started attending RCLPC at the same time becoming involved with the youth groups and Sunday education for children. One favorite RCLPC memory I have were the hayrides and bonfire at the Swanson farm.

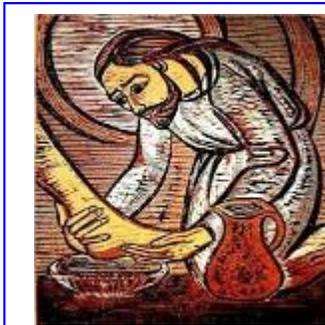
I enjoy both summer and winter outdoor activities. I have a garden and a variety of fruit trees and bushes in my yard that keep me busy making jams and juices that our family enjoys throughout the rest of the year. I like to bicycle ride, hike, and camp. Our family has visited many national parks in our travels.

Diane's Deacon Family

Bill & Marlene Best
Joyce & Jane Streling
Diane Sherwood
Karen Hutchings
Phil & Melanie Wesa
Barbara Turley

Jason Nosbaum
Danielle & Joyce Gilbert
Chris & Sheri Warren
Judith Short
Aage & Cathy Christensen
Sarah Licata

Ann Poremba
Gloria Thorson
Lou & Barb Dolmon
Joyce Rainey
George & Julie Steffen
Cindy Borre



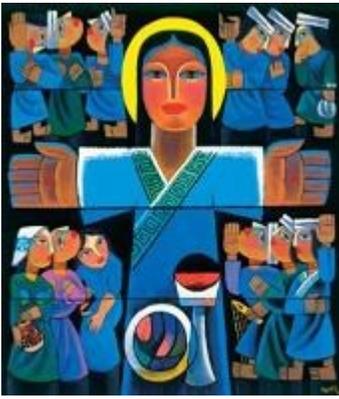
Thank You, from your Deacons!

In a very short period of time, your generosity has taken the Deacon Emergency Fund balance from less than \$500.00 to almost \$3,000.00! Words cannot express how grateful we are to you for your support of this very worthwhile cause, the funds of which are designated for congregation members who have an unusual, one-time-only need for financial help. Thank you!

SCRIP ~ Easy Fundraising

Would you like to support our PADS lunches by buying Scrip cards? All you need to do is choose a business where you like to shop, buy gas, food, gifts, clothes, movie tickets, home improvements, and more. Then order your card and denomination from the order sheet hanging on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Make your check out to RCLPC and please write Scrip on the memo line. Attach the check and place it in the Scrip mailbox at the front door (down the stairs). When the cards come in, you will receive an e-mail to pick up your cards in that same box. It usually takes about two weeks and we put our orders in once a month. The dates to have your orders in by are... Sunday May 22nd, Sunday June 19th and





Presbyterian Mission Co-Worker in Colombia to Preach at RCLPC

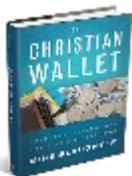
César Carhuachín, a PC(USA) mission co-worker in Colombia will preach at both services on Sunday, June 12. He will also be available during the Education Hour between services. Dr. Carhuachín, who was born in Peru and has served churches in Argentina and Charlotte, NC, currently teaches biblical studies and theology in the Reformed University's School of Theology, run by the Presbyterian Church of Colombia. The seminary was founded in the early 1980s to train clergy for the Presbyterian Church of Colombia. The School of Theology seeks to integrate all theological study into the context of Colombian society. Today students from various Protestant traditions study at the school. In addition to his duties as professor, César frequently preaches at local churches

RCLPC Mission Team

The Mission Team is a joint team of the Session and Deacons which promotes opportunities for mission outreach both locally and globally. "We go in grace, challenged and strengthened by the Spirit to do God's work and show God's love in the world. We seek to look beyond our walls and beyond ourselves--to see God's image in every face, and to serve God's people in every place life leads us." Involvement will consist of not only educational understanding and financial support but actively participating in mission service using the time and talents of individuals. Mission consists of the sub-teams of Compassion, Peace and Justice Team and Earth Care Team. For information on all the missions we are supporting, please take a look at our RCLPC Mission Partners booklet in each pew.



Mission meets on the first Monday of even numbered months at 7 PM in the Lounge. Our next meeting is June 6. Joan Jensema is our Chairman. New members are always welcome. Contact Joan or just come to a meeting.



A Book of Note...

The Christian Wallet

Spending, Giving, and Living with a Conscience

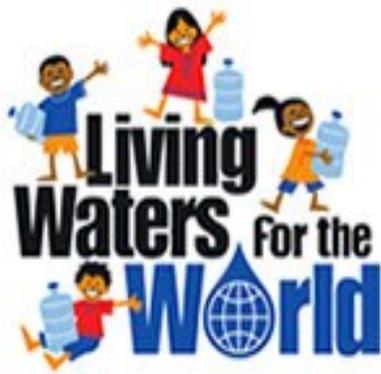
By Mike Slaughter, with Karen Perry Smith

Review by Jessica K.

When I think about Christianity being counter-cultural, it's not issues of sex or public prayer that come to mind—it's money. It "makes the world go 'round," so they say, and the mainstream ways of using money—buying more and more stuff, corrupt financial systems playing on human greed, underpaying and abusing workers so we can buy things cheap—those seem anything but Christian.

There are countless books out there about being generous and wise with our money—faithful stewardship, missional giving, debt reduction, etc. Mike Slaughter, pastor of Ginghamburg United Methodist Church in Ohio, has written a few of those himself. What sets *The Christian Wallet* apart is its deeper, more holistic approach to how Christians use and view money.

In just over 200 pages, Slaughter covers everything from paying taxes to tipping in restaurants, giving to panhandlers, buying fair-trade, and the question of what is "enough." Acknowledging there are no easy answers, Slaughter admits his own problem areas and shares stories of people who've learned from experience and inspire us all to spend, save, give, and live in ways that honor God and our neighbors.



Living Waters for the World Update

Thank you for your enthusiastic and generous support of Fiesta Agua Viva! The event was successful beyond our imagining. Whether you helped to plan, set up, or staff the event, whether you brought food or provided music, were a donor for the silent auction or came and enjoyed the food and fellowship, you added to the success. \$3941 was raised, benefitting the clean water project with the people of Jerez Village.

The RCLPC Living Waters for the World team is meeting monthly in preparation for the implementation visit to the Belén church in Jerez, Guatemala, in July. The education team has been meeting bi-weekly to plan health and hygiene activities for the children of Jerez. The installation team is awaiting arrival of the system within the next week and the opportunity they'll have to practice assembling it.

In Jerez, the men of Belén have been cleaning and tiling the water tank, working on the well, and have started work on the building that will house the water system. Their target completion date for the building is late May.

Do you have a large, sturdy suitcase or trunk that we could use to pack the water system parts and tools for travel to Guatemala? Give the Kelewaes or Johnsons a call, and we will arrange to get it from you.

We want to invite you to share a light supper with us on Wednesday, May 11, from 5:30-7pm. Sandi and Brian Thompson-Royer, mission co-workers in Guatemala, will join us for supper and share their

Summer Scheduling of Fellowship Hall

This summer's dinner theater play will be the musical, Hello Dolly! Construction of the stage will begin as soon as the Rumage Sale ends, we're a busy church! If, at any time, you would like to be able to use Fellowship Hall, please keep in mind that as the stage grows, Fellowship Hall gets a bit smaller. However, just by using the blue partitions, it will still be able to accommodate eight or more tables for your event. Apologies in advance for any inconvenience this may cause the planning of your event/activity in Fellowship Hall this summer.



Stamp Out Hunger, USPS Food Drive May 14th

Every second Saturday in May, letter carriers in more than 10,000 cities and towns across America collect the goodness and compassion of their postal customers, who participate in the NALC Stamp Out Hunger National Food Drive — the largest one-day food drive in the nation. To donate, just place a box or can of non-perishable food next to your mailbox before your letter carrier delivers mail on **May 14th**. The carrier will do the rest. The food is sorted, and delivered to an area food bank or pantry, where it is available for needy families.





Summer Sunday School Help Needed

The children's regular Sunday school program will be ending on May 22nd for the school year. Summer Sunday school will be offered during the months of June and July. However, volunteers are needed to sign-up to teach on each of the Sundays. The dates needing volunteer leaders are: June 5th, June 12th, June 19th, June 26th, July 10th, July 17th, July 24th, and July 31st. No experience needed. Curriculum and games will be provided for you. Summer Sunday school is a great way to get connected with our youth

as they learn about God's love. Grades included are preschool through fifth grade. Please consider taking one of the dates in the Summer. There will be a sheet on the sign-up board. Questions, call Karen Nelson at 815/477-4862 or email nelvenska55@sbcglobal.net. Thanks.

Vacation Bible School Surf's Up at the Surf Shack

The RCLPC VBS will be grabbing surfboards and heading to the beach to Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love at Surf Shack!! Kids get 'amped' to learn that God creates, helps, loves, calms and sends them. On this ride, kids are reminded that the Lord is great and awesome as they experience both Old and New Testament passages that point them to the attributes of their Heavenly Father.

Dates – June 13th-17th 9 AM – Noon

Grades: Pre-K to entering 5th Grade

Fee: \$10

Forms are available on the web at <http://www.rclpc.org/vbs/2016/registrationForm2016.pdf>

We are also looking for more volunteers and we have started to gather supply needs. Please see the display for more details.





RCLPC
Rum-
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2016
mage Sale
ING!!!

June 3 9-3 and June 4 9-12

WE NEED YOU TO MAKE IT SUCCESSFUL!!!!

If you can help us out, please sign up on the Sign up Board in the Gathering Place outside the church office. You can also call Mary Finch, Marge Stewart, or Linda Schweers. We can use helpers in any and all areas of the sale, but the need is greatest in the following areas:

DAYS OF THE SALE: Cashiers, greeters, baggers, whether you can work a couple of hours or all weekend long, we need you!

Garden/Sports: If you can help with pricing/sorting and working in this area the days of the sale, please contact Mike Rugh.

Donations needed!!!! Tissue paper, newspaper, plastic shopping bags You may drop these items off in fellowship hall starting May 22 in the designated bins.

We also need to **borrow tables** for display purposes. Please put your name on the underside of your table, so you can pick them up after the sale. You may drop these items off in fellowship hall starting May 22 in the designated bins.

Here's the timeline of all the upcoming Rummage Sale events and deadlines:

Sunday, May 22 Noon: Clean up/set up rooms and fellowship hall for collection items, any and all people are welcome to come and help!

Sunday May 22: Deadline for requesting any large item for pickup. Please contact Marge Stewart at 815-459-9008 before this date if you need your item picked up. Please leave your name, address and phone number.

Monday May 23 – May 31: MTWRF 9am -1:pm, Weekends 9am -1 pm

Donations collected in Fellowship Hall: items can include clothing, toys, housewares, furniture, sports / garden equipment, linens, dishes, kitchen items, seasonal decorations, books/DVD, etc. Please, no TV's, cell phones, cameras, computers, printers, fax machines, baby cribs, or discontinued car seats.

Saturday May 28: Large furniture pickup

May 31-June 2: Sort and price donations (volunteers extremely welcome)

Friday June 3, 9 am – 3 pm: RUMMAGE SALE!

Saturday June 4, 9 am – 12: RUMMAGE SALE!

Saturday June 4 Clean up: Noon to ? Clean up for Blessing Barn pickup, also need volunteers with trucks or vans to help take away items for donation or recycling.

Session Highlights

April 25, 2016

Rev. John Dillon Moderator

Approved Session Meeting Minutes from March 28, 2016

Reviewed and discussed 2016 March financial report

Established an Ad Hoc committee (Pam Palmer, Steve Connell, Tom Lafontaine, John Dillon) to review current committee structure for discussion at May 2016 Session Meeting

Approved candidate slate provided by Nominating Committee for approval at May 1st Congregation meeting.

Ruling Elders (2019) - Al Popp, Cindy Theobald, Bob Grecco, Laura Beamer and fulfilling 1 year term (2017) Rachael Sowa

Session Youth Elder (2017) – Nate Zacher

Deacons (2019) – Nancy Blakely, Cheryl Lilly, Sharon Ray, Allison Larson

Audit Committee Member (2019) – Paula Ekstrom

Nominating Committee Members (2018) – Dorothy Vick, Scott Iddings

JCB Endowment Member (2019) – Kevin Heaphy

The Session offers sincere appreciation to the Nominating Committee for their diligence in bringing forth this year's candidates. Thank you Pam Palmer, Cindy Theobald, Kathy Rabe, Nancy Blakely, Connie Rasmussen, and George Steffen.

Approved the pulpit staffing in July during Pastor John's scheduled absence:

July 10 – Phyllis Mueller

July 24 – Fred Neuschel

July 31 – Darryl Bessant

Approved Confirmation dates:

September 18 – Session questioning

September 25 – Confirmation

Approved for membership on May 15, 2016:

Michael Scott Griswold – Affirmation of Faith at 9 am service

Margaret Elizabeth Griswold – Affirmation of Faith at 9 am service

Brandon Scott Viner - Affirmation of Faith at 11 am service

Paula Elizabeth Viner - Affirmation of Faith at 11 am service

Next meeting May 23, 2016