



JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

A TIME OF RENEWAL

by Signe Pagel

I love the first week of a new year!

The after-Christmas glow is still present and a calmness is evident for a week or so (before regular activities and busy routines start up again). It is in this first week of January that I contemplate how I am using my morning quiet time with God and take stock of whether I need to get back on track with my intentions.

I look forward to my Bible reading and prayer time each morning -- it is the first thing I do after getting dressed (right after making a cup of strong coffee, that is). At roughly 7:15 a.m. I sit down in my "prayer chair" (a comfy wing-back) with my coffee, my Bible, my prayer journal, and my devotional book. My introspection this first week of January has shown me that in 2021 I got off track with my prayer journal . . . sometime around mid-year I started neglecting to write down my prayers and also God's response to them. As a result, I don't have a record of how I saw God working in my life and in the lives of those for whom I prayed. At my age, it's nice to have those words to read rather than have to rely on my failing memory! So, in my quiet time with God this week one of my prayers has been for the Holy Spirit to renew my desire to see and record God's presence. Another prayer on my heart today is found in Psalm 51:10. We often say it in worship as a component of our Confession, but I think it is also especially appropriate as we begin the new year and renew our intentions as a Child of God.

"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

Psalm 51:10

This first week of the new year finds me eager to experience God anew as the Holy Spirit opens my eyes to God's presence, His Word, and His grace.

My prayer for you as we enter this new year is found in the words above, from "Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God," by Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend. May each of us experience renewed hearts and a passion for Jesus in 2022.

“
Holy Spirit, living breath of God,
Breathe new life into my willing soul.
Let the presence of the risen Lord,
Come renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause your word to come alive in me;
Give me faith for what I cannot see,
Give me passion for your purity;
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.
”

Pot-Luck Breakfast . . . Wednesday, January 12, 9:15 – 9:50

Women on Wednesdays is kicking off the new year with food and fellowship. Come early for your Bible study and have breakfast with us or join us even if you aren't in a study group -- we'd love to see you!

It's a New Year . . . and We Have New Bible Study Groups!

Starting Wednesday, January 12

The Well

10:00 - 12:00

"Elijah -Faith and Fire," by Priscilla Shirer

This is a 7-week in-depth journey through the life and times of the prophet Elijah to discover how the fire on Mount Carmel was forged in the valley of famine. And how the emboldened, fiery faith you desire is being fashioned by God in your life right now. Order your study guide from Amazon or Christian book stores for \$17.00 est.



S.O.A.P. Bible Study

10:00 - 11:30

"Jesus Our Everything," by Love God Greatly

This is a seven-week Bible study on the Book of Hebrews. Through this study you will grow in your understanding of who Jesus is, what He desires for your life, and how you can rely on Him every day.

Facilitated by Pat Thompson, you will study scripture by journaling your observations, applications and prayers. The study guide is \$14.99 at Amazon.com

Gospel Message and Discussion

10:00 - 11:30

Lisa Bloomston will facilitate a 7-week video-based study of the Gospel. It features group discussion and a time of encouragement as you connect to God's word in fellowship with other women. Study materials will be provided.

CIRCLES OF FELLOWSHIP

If you are looking for a way to connect with women and participate in a light Bible study, our Circles of Fellowship may be perfect for you. There are three different Circles, and each meets monthly through the month of May. Contact K.C. Grosse for more information: 239-896-5334.



NEW! - EVENING ON-LINE BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Nights at 7:30 beginning January 11, for 7 Weeks

This session is especially designed for those of you in the workplace who can't participate in our daytime Bible studies and for those who aren't able to leave home in the evening. The curriculum, by the B-B-T organization, will show you how to apply Biblical principles at work. Facilitated by Signe Pagel, you'll meet by weekly video conference. Materials provided.

The 7-week study is, **"Radical Jesus"** -- *"Jesus is a radical figure who is still challenging the ways of the world, pushing us past our limits and loving us through it. When the radical traits of Jesus are allowed to penetrate our hearts, lives and workplaces are transformed."*

On a Mission to Serve

MEET DAVA COLCORD, AUTHOR AND GOD'S SERVANT

by Signe Pagel

A few years ago, I met Dava at a New Hope event and I remember thinking as I headed home, "Wow, this woman is so very clear about her purpose - to serve the Lord!" Since that initial meeting, I have observed Dava's love for Christ and have learned more about her passion to engage people in conversations about God and introduce them to his son, Jesus Christ.

Dava and her husband David left their professional jobs and country club life in the mid 1980s for missionary training, and in 1990 went to the mission field of Macau, China. That began a journey for Dava and David throughout China, Hong Kong, and countries along the Mediterranean until 2001 when they returned to the USA. David went home to the Lord in 2014.



"I want to lead a spirit-led life, not a logic-led life."

Since her missionary days, Dava continues to listen to God's calling for her life, leading Bible studies, serving the Christian community, and witnessing to people searching for life's meaning and fulfillment found only in God. In October 2021 she began a monthly Christian fellowship at the Presbyterian Apartments called "New Beginnings," that has seen attendance from 20 to 30 people. Speakers share about their walk with God and their witness for the Lord in the workplace. New Hope members Karen Benson, Cindy Lawrence, and Bob Rae have given presentations thus far.

Dava is starting yet another program on January 11. "Starting Point" is an 8-week program that is limited to eight residents of Presbyterian Apartments. It is a safe place to ask questions about the Bible and Christianity and participants will each be matched with a woman from New Hope who will encourage their walk of faith during the eight weeks. New Hope member Mel Mundy is a co-facilitator, and Dava and Mel plan to offer more "Starting Point" programs as the interest for them grows. In addition, Dava holds a weekly prayer session for residents of Presbyterian Apartments.

Dava is the author of two books. The first, *"Up the River on a Leaky Junk, and Other Life Tales,"* (2017, New Harbor Press) describes the experiences she and David had as missionaries in Asia. Her latest book, *"If Olive Trees Could Talk,"* (2021, New Harbor Press) is a glimpse into her journey with Jesus through good times and challenging times. The stories within the pages are a testimony to the companionship of God.

We often think of missionaries as those serving overseas; through Dava, we see the value of missionaries right here in Lee County, working where God has planted them to bring His word into the lives of others.



Left: Cindy Lawrence speaking at "New Beginnings" in November.

Right: Karen Benson speaking at "New beginnings" in October.

Bottom right: Cheryl Dolenc and Cindy Lawrence with residents of Presbyterian Apartments.



How you can help:

Women are needed to match with future participants of "Starting Point" to encourage their faith journey. Contact Dava Colcord or Mel Mundy for information.

