



THE QUARTERLY CUP

Women's Ministries, First Presbyterian Church
October 2009

Women's Ministry Mission Project

I want to update you on our mission project, which was to support the East Side After School project. As our committee was setting the stage to begin work on the project, we were informed by Rob Libbee that a grant was being written that might affect our ability to support the East School Project. This spring we discovered that money earmarked for East School or West School will now fall under an umbrella financial plan in which all donated funds would be divided between the two schools. This year our church is donating \$500 to each school, while the Fairfield Foundation provides \$10,000 to the program as well.

We realized the money we might provide would not be fulfilling the purpose we intended for East School. As a result, our committee decided to change our support to our second choice, which was Smile Train.

Smile Train is a charity which provides children from underdeveloped countries a chance for a normal life through free surgery to repair their cleft lips and palates. These children have difficulty eating and speaking; their families and villages many times cast them out to fend for themselves. The shame is so great that they cannot go to school or get a job.

For \$250, we can provide a child with a new life. The money we collect will make a dramatic difference in the lives of these children and their families. For more information on Smile Train, log onto www.smiletrain.com.

We need your coffee cans for banks which will be returned to you. I hope you and your family will have compassion on these little ones and support our mission project.

LET YOUR CHANGE, CHANGE A LIFE!

---- Cathy Tolbert

Are You a Carrot, an Egg, Or a Coffee Bean

---- unknown

A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of struggling. It seemed as one problem was solved, a new one arose.

Her mother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water and placed each on a burner. Soon the pots came to boil. In the first she placed a carrot, in the second she placed an egg, and in the last she placed ground coffee beans. Without a word, she let them boil.

In about twenty minutes she turned off the burners. She took the carrot out and placed it in a bowl. She took the egg out and placed it in a bowl. Then she poured the coffee out and placed it in a bowl. Turning to her daughter, she asked, "Tell me what you see."

"A carrot, an egg, and coffee," she replied.

Her mother brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrot. She did, and noted that it was soft.

The mother then asked the daughter to take the egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg.

Finally, the mother asked her to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled as she tasted its rich flavor.

The daughter then asked, "But what does this all mean?"

Her mother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity – boiling water. Each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting. However, after sitting in the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, they changed the water.

"So which are you?" the older lady asked. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean? Are you the carrot that seems strong, but with pain and adversity becomes soft and loses its strength? Are you the egg that starts with a soft heart, but changes with the heat? Do you have a fluid spirit, but after a death, a breakup, a financial hardship or some other trial, does your shell look the same, but on the inside are you bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and hardened heart?

"Or are you like the coffee bean? It actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavor. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you. When the hour is the darkest and trials are their greatest, do you elevate yourself to another level? How do you handle adversity?

"Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean? The happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the most of everything that comes their way. The brightest future will always be based on a forgotten past; you can't go forward in life until you let go of your past failures and heartaches."

May you have enough happiness to make you sweet;

Enough trials to make you strong;

Enough sorrow to keep you human;

And enough hope to make you happy.

May you always be a coffee bean.

“Love . . . comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.” (1 Timothy 1:5) This passage from 1 Timothy serves as the foundation for the beautiful children’s book, *The Princess and the Kiss*. The book, written by Jennie Bishop, is a story of God’s gift of purity.

The story takes place in a magical kingdom, and begins with a king and queen bestowing a very special gift from God to their new baby princess – her first kiss. They keep the kiss safe in their care while she is growing up.

When the princess is finally grown, the king and queen explain God’s special gift to her and tell her the kiss is now hers to keep . . . or to give away as she sees fit. The king tells her to use wisdom, though, and to save her kiss for the man she will marry.

Many suitors come to see the princess and ask for her hand in marriage. They possess various traits, such as strength, romance and beautiful gifts, but each time, the princess turns them away. She begins to worry that she will never find the right man special enough to give away her kiss.

Then one day a common man comes to the castle asking to see the princess. He does not have much to offer, but he is a kind and humble man. He tells the princess that he had been praying to God for someone special to be his wife, and that her beauty and purity had caught his eye and captured his heart. Then . . . he offers her the one gift that he does have – his first kiss. The fairy tale ends with a beautiful wedding and the prince and princess living happily ever after.

The book takes a very special and important topic and presents it in a way that is easy for parents to share and for children to understand. While the book may seem more appropriate for younger girls, I think the story can be effectively shared with girls in their tween years, and with boys as well.

Annual Ladies’ Retreat

Our annual Ladies’ Retreat is just around the corner. We will spend the day together at Blacklick Metropolitan Park in Reynoldsburg in worship, study, fellowship and fun! Our retreat leader, Phyllis Harmony, is a published author and Christian speaker who will help us learn how to follow Christ’s example of reaching out to comfort those in need, as Christ reaches out to comfort us. (2 Cor. 1:4) A poem she wrote tells us to “put a bandage where it hurts.” Phyllis is an entertaining storyteller, and has a wonderful knack for finding humor in the life lessons we all experience.

The retreat is Saturday, Nov. 7, with signups beginning on Sunday, October 18. Cost is \$15 for the day, and we will arrange carpools from the church. Come join us!

I Am a "Kept" Woman

You see, there were a few
times when I thought I would
lose my mind,
But God has *kept* me sane.
(Isaiah 26:3)

There were times when I
thought I could go no longer,
But the LORD *kept* me moving.
(Genesis 28:15)

At times, I've wanted to lash
out at those whom I felt had
done me wrong,
but the LORD *kept* my mouth
shut. (Psalms 13)

Sometimes, I think the money
just isn't enough,
But GOD has helped me
to *keep* the lights on, the water
on, the car paid, the house paid,
etc. (Matthew 6:25-34)

When I thought I would fall,
HE *kept* me up.
When I thought I was weak,
HE *kept* me strong! (1 Peter 5-7,
Matthew 11:28-20)

I could go on and on,
but I'm sure you hear me!
I'm blessed to be *kept!*

---- unknown

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First Presbyterian Church
222 N. Broad Street
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