



PEOPLES CHURCH OF  
SARNIA-LAMBTON

# Ministry of Women



FALL 2016



## New Arrival

*Blair Eden*  
Born: June 18,  
To: Rob & Jennifer  
Richard

## Expecting

Meaghan Poort  
(October)  
Dana Moesker  
(November)  
Candice Archer  
(December)  
Allison Pries  
(December)

## Ministry Update

**Summer is done**—Welcome back to another “church season.” Let me start with a shout-out to all of you who attended our summer events—Moms “meet and play” at our local parks and the first-ever summer Bible study. I hope these events were a blessing and encouragement to all participants.

**Bible Study**—This season is well underway in terms of Bible study. Thank you to all our teachers this season. A new round of studies is planned for the New Year as well. More information about that will be forthcoming in December.

**Mentoring**—There is a meeting planned shortly. Please consider this opportunity. Many women have benefitted from this model of more mature women walking younger women through the Scriptures and their implications for daily living.

**Support Group**—A group with an aim to support those with fertility/pregnancy/loss of pregnancy situations is starting soon. See elsewhere in this newsletter for more details.

**Showers**—There have been five wedding engagements announced in recent months, so there will be opportunities to bless young couples as they start on life’s journey together. As those wedding dates get closer, shower information will be posted.

**Events**—We are planning two events this season: one at Christmas (December 9<sup>th</sup> to be exact) and one for Spring. As always there will be a speaker, some fun activities and very yummy food. Some more details about this Christmas event are in this newsletter. You will receive an invitation reminder in your mailbox closer to the event date.

As you can see, there are areas for involvement, support and growth. Blessings to all of you as we walk this journey of faith together.

Beth Ann  
Ministry of Women Steward

## *Women’s Luncheon:* Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>



During the Thirst Conference, which will run October 30<sup>th</sup>—November 2<sup>nd</sup>, there will be a special event just for women—a lunch served by the Life Action team members with the women from the team sharing encouragement through powerful personal testimonies and special music.

If you will be working that day, consider taking an extended lunch break. The event will run from 11:00am—1:00pm, but come when you can and leave when you must.

In order to make it easy for moms with young children to attend, nursery will be provided for the little ones as well as supervision for homeschooled children.

More details will be made available in the coming weeks. There is no cost, but sign-up will be required for both women and children.



## Devotional: The Spirit of Fruit Beth Ann Wiersma



As I was in the hospital bed, a friend from work came to visit; her half-joking question to me, knowing my “religious bent” was if I had prayed for patience. I smiled: the Lord was certainly teaching me this.

This got me thinking about the fruit of the Spirit, that list of good things that our lives reflect when we are “in step” (ESV) with the Spirit. I don’t know how you view this list, but when I read it, I often sigh inwardly and realize how far short my life falls of achieving these. As I’ve had some more time on my hands to meditate a bit more on these, and they were brought to mind by my witty friend, I went back to Galatians 5.

The passage starts in verse 16 by encouraging us to walk by the Spirit. As believers, we are “indwelt” by the Holy Spirit. When the Spirit lives in us, we are in relationship. We allow the Spirit of the living God to direct our lives. Knowing this changes how I view that list in verses 22-23: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.”

When I think of fruit, I think of trees: peach, pear, apple and the like. I grew up in the Niagara region where there is a large industry built around these particular fruit. In order to bear the fruit, the tree needs sufficient rain/water, enough warm growing days and nutrients/fertilizer. Fruit farmers

work hard to ensure that the trees get what they need and most years, they see the fruit of their labour.

I need to think of myself as a fruit tree. God is the farmer. He has sent his Spirit to indwell me, to water and fertilize, to bring the days of growth. When I accept what the Spirit brings, the fruit comes to bear. So, that list is really not a checklist for my life: that’s really starting at the wrong end. Rather, I need to start by acknowledging the work of the Spirit in my life: am I allowing that Spirit to do the work I have invited it to do when I said I wanted to follow Christ? If so, then those fruit will manifest themselves.

Will the Lord use circumstances in my life to call attention to a particular area, to cultivate a particular fruit? Sure He will. Cultivating fruit is not always easy. Sometimes it takes more than one season to get the fruit to grow. Then the growing methods are refined; there is pruning involved. However, it’s key to understand that the Spirit of God plays a vital role here: the fruit cannot be borne in our lives without His work; we need to be open to receive His leading. The Spirit will make the bearing of fruit a real part of our growth as Christians an encouragement rather than another guilt-list of the ways we aren’t living up to the standards.

### Galatians 5:16-26 (ESV)

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity,

sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things

there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.



# Are You Dealing with Infertility, Pregnancy Loss or Complications, or Postpartum Complications?



Walking through infertility, miscarriage, pregnancy and postpartum complications is never easy, but it's harder when you feel alone. An increasing number of you fit these categories and the Ministry of Women desires to be an encouragement and support for you.

Coping with fertility and pregnancy related issues can be such a private and silent struggle. It can be difficult to articulate the many emotions and needs that arise during these times in life, but sharing them with women who have walked a similar path can be a tremendous encouragement. It also can be a time of spiritual struggle, despair and questioning God's plan for your life and your family.

We want to meet you wherever you are in your journey. Our involvement will only be at your request and completely confidential. There are four women from our congregation who have been preparing to minister in this capacity, under the umbrella of the Ministry of Women. No information will be shared beyond the four women currently



involved in this particular ministry except upon your request. Your circumstances are all different, so we want to show you the appropriate care to suit your unique needs and wishes.

May we pray for you or with you?  
Would you like to meet with one of

us in your home or the coffee shop to talk and share your struggle? Do you have questions about fertility options and need direction toward Christian counsel? Would you benefit from accountability in your spiritual walk or personal devotions? Is your pregnancy complicated and causing worry? Are you on bed rest and need help with some practical matters? Are you experiencing postpartum depression/anxiety and need someone to connect with, or just need to know there is someone who would come over and help you, without any judgments, if you were feeling overwhelmed?

We pray that we would be useful to you in your journey and benefit from the wisdom gained from women who have lived through these struggles, pointing you toward Christ and resources that will edify you.

Dear Sisters, we long for you to be women who love and seek the Lord in everything. We love you and will continue to pray for your unspoken needs. Rest in God's amazing faithfulness and the hope in His sovereign plan for you.

If you have questions or want to connect with us, contact Jody Douglas Laporte at 519-466-5496 or email [divamama1977@gmail.com](mailto:divamama1977@gmail.com). Call, text, email, or come and find me up at the piano on Sundays!

*Jody*

## Christmas Event: Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>

### *Messianic Mothers: Embracing Truth in a World of Deception*

Our guest speaker for the women's Christmas event will be Angie Brown, wife of Pastor Adam Brown, from The Rock Community Church in Woodstock (AGC).

Angie is currently studying in the Doctor of Educational Ministry program at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary with a focus on women's discipleship. Angie loves to open God's Word with



women and writes at a blog called [DiscerningDaughters.org](http://DiscerningDaughters.org). She also enjoys talking theology with Adam, cooking with their daughter Selah, long days at the lake, easy slow cooker meals, and attending conferences with excellent teaching, good friends, and great coffee!

We look forward to hearing from Angie and hope to see you on December 9<sup>th</sup>!



## Survey Feedback

At our women's event back in May, we asked you to complete a questionnaire regarding our women's Bible studies and our mentoring program. We value your feedback and are already implementing some things as a result.

### Bible Studies

- ◆ Several women indicated a desire for a study geared specifically toward those in the busy mom stage. Jean Naus is currently leading a class to this end. Even if you've missed the first few weeks, you are still welcome to join this or any of the other studies.
- ◆ Some desired a study in a book or chapter of the Bible. The Precept studies always fall into this category, as do the evening studies with Pat Freeman.
- ◆ Many of you let us know that you are unable to attend a Bible study at this time because of other demands on your time. We pray that you are spending time in the Word on your own and will hopefully be able to participate in a group in the future.

### Mentoring

- ◆ The biggest concern expressed was a fear of not connecting well with your mentor, and at press time we are happily anticipating addressing this and any other concerns at an open meeting arranged specifically for this purpose on September 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ Please understand we try our best to match you with a suitable mentor with the Lord's direction, and so far, He's been right on!
- ◆ To request a mentor, contact either of us anytime.



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## Recipe Section

Here's a tried and true family favourite recipe compliments of Tiffany vanKlinken, and it's perfect for cooler fall days. Enjoy!

### Crock Pot Chicken Chili

1 can diced tomatoes  
1 can corn  
1 can black beans or chick peas (drained)  
1 jar/can pasta sauce  
2-4 chicken breasts (thawed or frozen)  
1 tbsp. cumin  
1 tbsp. chili powder  
1 tsp. garlic powder  
8 oz. cream cheese

Place all ingredients except cream cheese in the Crock Pot and stir it all up. Lay the brick of cream cheese on top. Cover and cook on high for 4-6 hours or on low for 6-8 hours.

Stir cream cheese into the chili then using two forks shred the chicken. Stir it all up again.

Top with your favourite chili toppings (green onion, sour cream, cheddar cheese, etc.) and serve with tortilla chips.

