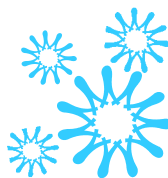


girlfriends' g! ABBERY

...with all the gab you'll need to know

March 2012

A quarterly publication from *Girlfriends Unlimited*,
the Women's Ministry of Community Fellowship Church
Lancaster, PA



IT'S THE START OF SOMETHING **NEW**,
SOMETHING WE DON'T WANT **YOU** TO MISS...

JOHN 15:5

"I am the vine; you are
the branches. If you
remain in me and I in
you, you will bear much
fruit; apart from me you
can do nothing."



The Girlfriends' Unlimited ministry is eager to unveil the start of a new series and we invite you to join us on this journey! This journey will take us into the lives of women from within our CFC church family. As a women's ministry, we have always desired to see our events or efforts focus on being very personal and relational. We desire to see women connect with each other in a real way. And that is why we don't want YOU to miss out on the start of something new... something we are calling, "Our Stories of Life on the Vine."

We have women among us whose life stories can encourage, strengthen, and give hope. Stories authored by God, himself, and played out on the canvas of our daily lives. Sometimes it's the large, overwhelming moments, when facing cancer or death, that we find life's meaning reaching to the core of our being. And in other moments, it's

IN THIS ISSUE	
Upcoming Events	Page 2
Girlfriends <i>On The Move</i>	Page 3
GAB Team Contact Information	Page 4
Discussion Book Group	Page 4

the simple, everyday choices that come to define our character and development. Whatever the circumstances, God works his plan out in our lives as we remain in Him. Taken from John 15:5, "Our Stories of Life on the Vine" was birthed.

We invite you to join us for these evenings of sharing, interaction, food and drinks. For each evening, we will be featuring two CFC women who will share of their victories, defeats, hopes, struggles, and passions. In these personal details, we will see how God, the mighty vine-dresser, was with them in every step and season of their story. We look forward to growing closer as a group of girlfriends relationally and spiritually, as we embark on "Our Story of Life on the Vine."

This spring, Girlfriends Unlimited will host an April and May "Our Stories" evening. (Please see page 2 for details.) In the fall of 2012, we will feature another "Our Stories" evening in September and wrap up the series in October with a mini-retreat held on Saturday, October 27th! Be sure to mark your calendar now! ♦



Your Opportunities to Get Involved!

Upcoming Girlfriends Unlimited Events



OUR STORIES OF LIFE ON THE VINE will meet in the CFC mini-auditorium at 7:00pm on Friday, April 27 and Friday, May 18. Beverages and light snacks will be served.

LYDIA CENTER GAME NIGHTS The 3rd Monday of each month is your monthly opportunity to relax and enjoy an evening of fellowship, games, and laughter with our girlfriends at the Lydia Center. Meet in the CFC parking lot at 6pm to drive together and return to the church around 8:30pm. For questions, please contact Jen Fisher at (717)341-9955 or bingoenthusiast@gmail.com.

Mark Your Calendar!

MARCH

Monday, March 19, **LYDIA CENTER GAME NIGHT**

Tuesday, March 20, **WEE CLUBHOUSE**

APRIL

Tuesday, April 3, **WEE CLUBHOUSE**

Monday, April 16, **LYDIA CENTER GAME NIGHT**

Tuesday, April 17, **WEE CLUBHOUSE**

Friday & Saturday, April 20/21, **AMONG FRIENDS CONFERENCE**

Friday, April 27, **OUR STORIES**

MAY

Tuesday, May 1, **WEE CLUBHOUSE**

Tuesday, May 15, **WEE CLUBHOUSE**

Friday, May 18, **OUR STORIES**

Monday, May 21, **LYDIA CENTER GAME NIGHT**

***BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP: Under the Overpass**

(starting in April or May, see page 4 for details)

ATTENTION: all CFC Mommy & Grammy Girlfriends!

WEE CLUBHOUSE is an interactive play time for moms and preschoolers. During each session, Biblical principles will be taught using seasonal themes. We will sing, play instruments, make crafts, and most importantly ... PRAISE GOD! We meet the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 9:30-11:00am. No sign-up necessary. For more information, please contact Pam King at king-pam98@yahoo.com.



SOLD OUT!

"Among Friends" Conference = **Friday & Saturday, April 20 & 21**

Featuring Kathy Troccoli & Special Guests

CFC tickets are **SOLD OUT!** For ticket-holders, please note the following important details.

Kathy Troccoli's "Among Friends" Conference is scheduled for Friday evening, April 20th (7-9pm) and Saturday morning, April 21st (9am-12:30pm). Among Friends will be held at the Worship Center (2384 New Holland Pike Lancaster, PA 17601).

It is our intention for the conference to serve as a retreat for CFC ladies to connect and cultivate deeper relationships. CFC ticket-holders are privileged to have premium seating, so please consider



meeting in the Worship Center lobby 30 minutes prior to event start time (Friday at 6:30pm, Saturday at 8:30am). We can be seated together as a group. Contact a member of the GAB team should you be arriving late but desire to be seated with the group.

Do not forget your ticket; you **MUST** have a ticket to enter the event. For questions, contact CFC's office 299-6505, ext. 101 or email rhinerdeer@communityfellowship.com.

For conference details, please visit

<http://amongfriendsconference.com/lancaster.html>.



Girlfriends

On The Move

Spotlighting the work and ministry of our CFC Girlfriends, using their God-given gifts to make a difference in our world.



Meet KELLY TOWERS, partnering with LOVE146, leading the Lancaster Task Force

1- WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT?

I am passionate about seeing any injustice cease. Specifically, to help the oppressed and vulnerable who otherwise do not have a voice themselves. Micah 6:8 really motivates and moves me: "Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with the Lord".

2- HOW HAVE YOUR PASSIONS LED TO INVOLVEMENT IN A PARTICULAR AREA(S) OF MINISTRY OR SERVICE?

Over the years God has been continually exposing me to various aspects of social injustice. In 2007 over the course of 2 weeks I was exposed to child sex trafficking via a television Dateline special about overseas child sex trafficking, the movie "Human Trafficking" and then finally at CFC when a representative of Love146 shared about their ministry. God had fully broke my heart to the issue of ending

sex trafficking. I then had the opportunity to travel with Love146 overseas to witness first hand the atrocities of human trafficking. It was from these encounters that I knew God wanted me to get more involved on the fight of ending child trafficking.

3- WHAT DOES YOUR SERVICE LOOK LIKE ON A WEEKLY, MONTHLY, OR YEARLY BASIS?

The Love146 Task Force is completely volunteer run. You don't have to be a specialist! Just have a willing heart! We meet the first Monday's of each month at

7pm at my house. It is comprised of both people from CFC and others. At the meetings we share about what we have been learning in the area of sex trafficking and plan for future fundraising and awareness events.

4- SHARE ANY UNIQUE STORIES THAT HAVE TOUCHED YOUR HEART IN WORKING WITH INDIVIDUALS IN YOUR AREA OF MINISTRY?

During my travels overseas I had the opportunity to visit several of the safe homes supported by Love146. When we were entering this one specific safe home the young Cami girls ranging from 6-18 years old honored our arrival by placing beautiful flowering leis over our necks. Tears welled in my eyes because I was thinking how we should be honoring these courageous girls. They no longer are the victims but survivors! God has so much in store for these wonderful young ladies and we should be doing everything in our power to lift them up! ♦



Meet JENNIFER KNEPPER, volunteering with Water Street Ministries, Lancaster Alternative Gift Fair, Bead for Life, among others

1- WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT?

I am passionate about engaging in the work of injustice, whether that take form in trafficking, healthcare disparities, racial discrimination, etc. I tend to think more broadly about topics and don't have one specific area that I tend to focus on, but being an RN lends me to concentrate on healthcare and how issues like poverty affect access to care.

2- HOW HAVE YOUR PASSIONS LED TO INVOLVEMENT IN A PARTICULAR AREA(S) OF MINISTRY OR SERVICE?

I would say that shortly after college when I started working in the medical ICU at Hershey, we would see people that are quite sick and who pass away quite unexpectedly and it leaves you facing your own mortality and wondering what I am doing with my life. A variety of influences came into play over that formative time for me and I began to get more involved in outreach. About that time I got a letter asking RNs to consider volunteering at the Water Street Health

Clinic-I found my niche and a place where I really felt God could use me and my professional background to help people facing health disparities and the strain of not having insurance. Then I read an article about the Harrisburg Alternative Gift Fair and just felt really excited about that possibility. I felt that Lancaster was a prime location for an event of this nature. God has brought so many amazing people into my life that make the Lancaster Alternative Gift Fair a success. I am able to see how the hands and feet of God really contribute to the overall picture of something coming together. God uses each of our skills and abilities to create the whole body of Christ and it has been continually inspiring to be a part of the gift fair year after year and see how God orchestrates this.

3- WHAT DOES YOUR SERVICE LOOK LIKE ON A WEEKLY, MONTHLY, OR YEARLY BASIS?

I have tried to volunteer weekly at the clinic. However, that doesn't always happen but I do try to recruit my students and fellow RNs to the clinic and get them excited about volunteering. We plan for the Gift Fair



Girlfriends Gabbery

Girlfriends Unlimited
Community Fellowship Church
200 Bethel Drive
Lancaster, PA 17601
Phone: 717-299-6505

Girlfriends Unlimited is current, fresh, and made for today's woman. It casts a new vision for reaching and connecting women and is filled with fun and energy.

Girlfriends Unlimited is all about changing hearts, changing lives, one girlfriend at a time. We have a passion to see each woman become all that God created her to be: nothing more, nothing less.

The GAB Team: Girlfriends Advisory Board Contact Information

Ruth Hinerdeer (rhinerdeer@communityfellowship.com)

Jemmie Bartlett (Bart54fish@comcast.net)

Deidre Cravey (deidrecravey@gmail.com)

Amanda Tlumach (ilyamanda@gmail.com)

Katie Miller (jmkmnm151@msn.com)

Alicea Binkley (jacbink@gmail.com)

A special word of welcome and thanks to the newest members of the GAB Team!

Katie Miller, Jemmie Bartlett and Alicea Binkley

For a listing of all *Girlfriends Unlimited* events, check out the Women's Ministry pages on the CFC website & view **UPCOMING EVENTS.**

Visit us online at www.communityfellowship.com

Continued from page 3.



Meet JENNIFER KNEPPER...

year round so that usually entails a monthly meeting. More recently, I started serving with the missions team at CFC, which meets on a monthly basis.

4- SHARE ANY UNIQUE STORIES THAT HAVE TOUCHED YOUR HEART IN WORKING WITH INDIVIDUALS IN YOUR AREA OF MINISTRY?

The story I always remember is a patient who had been in a wheelchair as long as I knew him. He had been a chef and when he started to experience back and joint pain and then couldn't work, he was left uninsured, unemployed and without a lot of options. He came to the clinic and we were able to get him care and eventually he was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis and treated accordingly. I hadn't seen him for a long time and when he *walked* into the clinic I didn't recognize him!! It was great to see him walking and being able to be employable again because his healthcare had been taken care of. This story goes to show how there are a lot of people one step away from a medical disaster that can take a devastating toll. The lesson I've learned is you just never know what people have been faced with in their life and everyone deserves an opportunity to see the love of God played out in practical ways. ♦

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP coming soon...

It is the hope of the GAB Team that you have been inspired by the hearts and passion of other CFC ladies featured in this newsletter. Even greater, it is our hope that you are inspired by the heartbeat of Jesus as you read the accounts of how He served and with whom He spent his days here on Earth.

Are you ever left questioning if your heartbeat aligns with God's and if His love is truly pouring out of your life?

Under the Overpass is a book that could provide insight into your own heart and motivations. It did for me.

Girlfriends Unlimited is taking a break from our traditional Bible studies. In this season of embarking on new journeys, we are launching our **1st Book Discussion Group**. As a group of women, we will walk through the pages of Under the Overpass and discuss the relevance of loving the overlooked in our lives. Would you consider joining myself and others?

Don't be surprised if this 4-week study doesn't conclude upon the final folding close of the book. I anticipate God igniting our hearts to action and that just might require stepping outside our walls of comfort or social norms. That will likely look different for each of us individually. Please contact me if you are interested. The details (location, day, time) is largely dependent upon the interest and group size. Thanks for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Amanda Tlumach

GAB Team Member & Book Discussion Facilitator
ilyamanda@gmail.com, 717-371-3263

