

Penn Mid-Atlantic Ladies' Uplift Circle



Spring 2011

Inside this Issue

- 1 Letter From The President
The Blessings in Business Meeting
- 2 The Spartanburg Ladies Circle
- 3 Visiting Sisters
- 3 The Uniqueness of Women
Upcoming events

Letter From The President

How Peculiar Am I?

I apologize if this is a subject you have heard before. Recently I had the opportunity to spend some time with an individual who was visiting from another country, doing extensive research on restoration churches. I learned some very interesting things, some good, some not so good. Do you ever think how people outside the church perceive you? We are in an age where everyone wants to be accepted; where technology dominates much of our communication; where first impressions are lasting impressions. It is important that we stand firmly on our beliefs. It is important to always represent the church in a manner that would be pleasing to God. If we are bothered by something that someone has said, go to that person, not to everyone else gossiping about the situation. Do we represent the church in our work place or in our school place? Would someone question our religious stand if we were sitting in a traffic jam or standing in a long checkout line? Would they know you respect God by the language you use, the books you read? Would they know you love God by your comments or photos on Facebook or MySpace? Do you show compassion for mankind? Help the needy without being asked. Do you give financially to the church freely or complaining? Are you involved in something because you want to help or because you want the praise? Do we dress in a manner that the world wants to see, or in the manner the Lord wants to see? Everyday, He watches over us. He provides, He

blesses, He protects us, He loves us. He only asks that we be **His** peculiar people. *“for thou art a holy people unto the Lord thy God, and the Lord hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth.” Deut 14:2.*

God Bless you all in your lives and your service to Him.

*Sister Robin Burns
PMA Area Ladies' Uplift Circle
President*

Business Meetings; Can They Really Be a Blessing to Us?

With the busy lives we are all part of, it seems that taking time during our weekends to attend business meetings, might seem like a huge sacrifice or imposition. We might be tempted to think that business is boring and discussions on how best to spend our fundraising monies just doesn't "fit" into the beautiful blessings that occur during our spiritual meetings. However, if you have indeed attended several of our last business meetings, you will know how spiritually blessed you can be! Remember that each business meeting begins with scripture readings and then beautiful devotions. So many wonderful lessons came forth through those precious minutes. Tears flowed, voices lifted in song, and sisters praised God's name. We also have had meetings where the "business" was broken up a bit, with sisters sharing a little testimony. At the close of one business meeting, the

Lord even sent his words to us through the gift of speaking in the spirit! This last meeting ended with 30 minutes of the sisters' testimonies. Many, many blessings do occur during our business meetings, but sometimes our absence just cannot be helped. It is sad to think that not all of the circle sisters have an opportunity to share or hear those blessings first hand.

Included in this issue is an article from the Spartanburg local. While hearing the locals' reports, many of us were inspired by the efforts of this small, yet determined local. We hope their story encourages you. In future editions, I would like to include personal experiences of you sisters who have been touched, spiritually, during our business meetings, so that all may truly know the blessings that occur during business meetings. Please email me at jacquiking1@yahoo.com to share your blessings.

The Ladies' Uplift Circle Spartanburg, SC

"In January of 1920, the General Conference of The Church of Jesus Christ granted the women of the Church permission to form an organization for the Sisters. The Sisters felt the work was prompted by God and they expressed great joy as they discussed their role as women in The Church of Jesus Christ". These words bear repeating because this body of women was special then and is special now and there is much to accomplish.

Likewise, in 1985 the Ladies' Uplift Circle was organized in Spartanburg, SC at which time there

were four members. There has never been more than eight members at one time. In 2005, the membership dropped to three faithful members. Presently there are five Sisters in the organization; namely, Sisters Gloria Keenon, Ruth Hill, Connie Rossi, Mindy Rao and Mamie Means.

The Ladies' Uplift Circle women are passionate and fascinated by the work they have done throughout the years both locally in their communities and around the world assisting The Church of Jesus Christ in missionary work and various projects. They get things done and find great joy in their role being a part of the highest female organization in this Church. All women of The Church of Jesus Christ as well as non-members of the Church can be members of the Ladies' Uplift Circle. These Sisters have been called in this role and they have answered with great joy. God has the chief seat among them and He directs their paths and has blessed them mightily in all their endeavors.

The Spartanburg Ladies' Uplift Circle works together with great unity of spirit and purpose. There are no big I's or little U's - they are one in Christ. Their purpose is to do what their hands find to do in service to their Lord for His Honor and Glory. In their work they have been blessed to help many families during these bad economic times not only in the surrounding communities but also within the Branch with food boxes each month. Sometimes there is only one family in need; however, there has been as many as four in one month but no one is ever turned down. Much of this food is provided by these five

Circle members from their own pantries and kitchens.

In addition to monthly food baskets, they also purchase school supplies and give donations to the homeless children shelters. In their efforts to bring love and joy to the nursing homes which they visit and to the children shelters they give hundreds of snacks, gift items and gift bags during Christmas time. The majority of these gift and food items are purchased by the Sisters of the Circle. They also have several fundraisers throughout the year to help raise money for these outreach projects. The Sisters of this Circle also purchase, prepare and deliver a complete Thanksgiving dinner to the nursing home annually. There is always a box in their Church lobby and some of the Brothers and Sisters of the Branch donate items or give a cash donation. Many cards of sympathy, encouragement, sickness, birthday, thinking of you and incarceration are sent out to those in need. Each food basket, box recipient or Christmas gift bags also receive a card with a flyer inviting them to their Branch and an introduction about the Circle. The Spartanburg's Circle also participates in the General Ladies' Uplift Circle's efforts as they are able with their dues and donations.

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). In conclusion let it be said that Jesus is the head of this small body of women which He uses in many ways to spread His Gospel. They are willing vessels not finding fault nor offending in word or deed being a help to each other and helping others to the best of their ability. This small group of Sisters has been blessed by the Hand

of the Lord to carry out His work by reaching out and touching many lives. There is such tremendous joy in these Sisters' hearts knowing that they are a part of that first elected group formulated in 1920 by Sister Cadman and others who have accepted their roles as women in The Ladies' Uplift Circle of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Visiting Sisters

By Sisters Carol Monaghan and Marian Yoder

The Visiting Sisters of the Penn Mid-Atlantic Area invited the brothers to join them for a trip to the Roscoe Branch. We felt the warm welcome of the Roscoe saints and we all shared a day of worship and fellowship. We had a wonderful turnout of approximately twenty brothers and sisters. The elders from Roscoe, Brother Lawrence King and Brother Jim Abbott were joined by visiting elders Brother Nathan Buffington from Imperial, Brother Joe Draskovich from Greensburg and Brother David Nolfi from Clairton.

Brother Nathan served as our opening speaker and spoke of the Lord's ensign, Mt Zion from Isaiah 18th chapter. We live in the land of promise and we have a hope of entering Zion. He encouraged us to hold onto the vision.

Brother David followed Brother Nathan and spoke about how today we find men and women as lovers of self more than lovers of God. We should first seek the kingdom of heaven and his

righteousness and all these things will be added unto you. (Matt 6:33)

Brother Joe felt prompted to praise God for the Ladies Circle, the lifeline of the church. He related the story of Dorcus, a seamstress who gave away coats. She loved the Lord and the saints with all her heart. When she passed away, widows stood and wept for her. When Peter prayed, he said Tabitha arise and she opened her eyes and sat up. Peter called all the saints and widows to witness this great miracle (Acts 9th chapter verse 36)

Many beautiful testimonies were given that called to remembrance the faithful and dedicated sisters who have supported the Ladies' Circle and who have taught the younger sisters by example.

After the meeting we gathered for lunch and fellowship. It was hard to leave because of the sweet spirit and love we all felt one with another.



The Uniqueness of a Woman

She can deal with stress and carry heavy burdens. She smiles when she feels like screaming, and she sings when she feels like crying. She cries when she's happy and laughs when she's afraid. Her love is unconditional. There's only one thing wrong with her. She forgets what she's worth! Remember you are unique!

Upcoming Events and things to remember:

World Missionary Conference
June 25 – July 1

Special Project:
Native American VBS

Next business meeting:
9/10/2011, Fredonia 10:00 AM

Gift items for next meeting:
layette items

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