

JUNE 2011

THE SPICE

A taste of what's happening for women.

Burn Bright!

Grab your sunscreen! It's time to head to the beach to soak in the sunshine, relax in the cool salt breezes, splash in the waves...and savor the grit of sand in our sandwiches! Yum.

Summer is here, but as the days are heating up, do you find your faith growing cold? Does your Bible study group stop meeting in the summer? Does your daily routine become anything but routine?

Finding time for prayer, Bible reading, and worship can become a challenge during the busy summer months. And it sure is tempting to trade time with God for that pool party and barbecue! But don't let your faith burn out just because it's time for summer break. Pack your beach bag with the following faith essentials, and stay burning bright for Jesus all summer long!

Sunscreen—Prayer. Cover yourself with prayer every day for protection from burnout and any harm that might come your way.

Snacks—Scripture. Taste and see that the Lord is good all summer by packing your favorite Scripture verses with you in bite-sized pieces to nibble on throughout the day.

Sunglasses—Focus. Keep your eyes on Jesus and you won't be blinded by temptations that distract you from following your faith.

Camera—Be a picture of love! Capture the memories of the special times you share with friends and family, and be a picture of God's love wherever you go!

Beach mat—Rest. Take a break from stress this summer. Don't become weary in doing good; let someone else carry the load for awhile...and find your rest in Jesus.

Swimsuit—Courage. If you're going to burn bright for Jesus this summer, you'll need to be willing to shine your light. Remember, it's not about exposing yourself; it's about exposing others to Jesus!

Central Church of Christ
Women's
Ministry

girlfriends
unlimited



THE WORD

"In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."

—Matthew 5:16 (NLT)

SCRIPTURE SNACKS

"Taste and see that the Lord is good."
(Psalm 34:8)

"Your word is a lamp to guide my feet
and a light for my path."
(Psalm 119:105)

"For in him we live and move and exist."
(Acts 17:28)

"For I can do everything through Christ,
who gives me strength."
(Philippians 4:13)

Brighten Your Neighborhood

You don't have to be a secret millionaire on TV to make a big difference in your neighborhood this summer. By volunteering for even a few hours a month, you can help brighten someone's life or freshen up the area where you live. Gather family and friends and commit to blessing your community by pitching in to meet the needs of others. Plant a flower, give a ride, make a sandwich. Need more ideas? Find the perfect match for your volunteer skills through the website volunteermatch.org. Just type in your ZIP code and check out hundreds of listed opportunities in your area. You're sure to say "I found a match!"



Be a Pearl

What is a pearl? A pearl starts out as a simple grain of sand. When that grain of sand enters into an oyster, it causes irritation that makes the oyster react by coating the grains with a substance called *nacre*. Over time, the layers of nacre build up and become a pearl.

A woman who decides to *be* a Pearl allows God to refine and mold her through the irritations she encounters in life into something of beauty that

reflects God's love to the world. As she shines that love, she becomes a mentor to another girl or woman—a Pearl in a strand of Pearls that represent all the women who have encouraged, loved, and believed in her. Who are the Pearls in your life and on your strand that have blessed you? Who will you be a Pearl for this summer?



"Girlfriends" Women's Ministry Mission Statement:

Our Goal is to help women
build friendships,
encourage women in
spiritual growth, and
reach out to women and
their families in our
community with the love
of Jesus



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New at Central—Mom's Group

Calling all infants, toddlers, and pre-schoolers... we would love to have you and your moms (or caregivers) join us for playgroup! Playgroup includes a bible story, snack, themed activities (geared for ages 0-5), and some social time for moms. We meet in the toddler room on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 10:00—11:30 AM. This group is designed to encourage mom-to-mom interaction in a fun, playful environment for kids. Invite your friends—everyone is welcome! If you have questions, call Kristina Gorsch (815 830-0090) or Meghan Ross (815 673-2721).



- June 1—Meet at CCC “Noah’s Ark”
- June 15—Meet at Sherman Park for Free Play and Snack
(In case of rain, meet at the church for "gym" activities!)
- July 6—Meet at Meghan’s House for Water Activities
(123 W. 10th Street)
- July 20—NO PLAYGROUP (VBS)
- July 27—“Book Club” Meeting (We will have babysitters for the kids.)
- August 3—Meet at CCC “David & Goliath”
- August 17—TBD

Movie Review



Soul Surfer

Rating: PG for an intense accident sequence and some thematic material
Release Date: 2011
Genre: Action/Drama
Runtime: 106 minutes

Soul Surfer is based on the true story of Bethany Hamilton, a courageous 13-year-old from Hawaii, whose dream of competitive surfing was interrupted by a tragic shark attack. Miraculously, she survived despite losing an arm and sixty percent of her blood. Even more miraculous was her determination to overcome her injury, as she returned to surfing just three weeks later.

Bethany’s ability to turn tragedy into triumph shines the spotlight in this movie on her faith and perseverance in the face of obstacles. Still ranked as one of the top surfers in the world, Bethany’s story is sure to inspire hope and encourage viewers to continue to fight for their dreams.

Talk about it:

- If you had experienced a tragic accident like Bethany’s, how do you think you would have responded? What gave her the courage to persevere?
- How would you answer this question: “Why does God allow bad things to happen to good people?” How would you have explained the answer to Bethany?
- How did Bethany’s perspective of life change throughout the movie? What event in your life has influenced your perspective and how you deal with difficult circumstances?

June

A Taste of What's Happening
for Women



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			Mom's Group 10 am @CCC's Noah's Ark			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Women's Bible Study 9 a.m. Upper Room Ministry Center				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		Women's Bible Study 9 a.m. Upper Room Ministry Center	Mom's Group 10 am @ Sherman Park			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		Women's Bible Study 9 a.m. Upper Room Ministry Center				
26	27	28	29	30		
		Women's Bible Study 9 a.m. Upper Room Ministry Center				

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