

November 2011

THE SPICE

A taste of what's happening for women.

Giving Thanks for Everything We Need

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." Psalm 23:1 (KJV)

Can you imagine telling 2-year-olds they "shall not want"? They *do* want! They want candy bars in the checkout line, their little sister's toys, and doughnuts for dinner. A child *wants* a lot of things, but a parent can say "no" if it's something they don't *need*.

As grown women, we have "wants" too, and sometimes our wants are not so different. (Bring on the chocolate!) Thankfully, we still have a parent, our Heavenly Father, who can say "no." So we don't always get what we *want*, but 2 Peter 1:3 says he gives us everything we *need*.

God shepherds us with love and knows that our deepest wants *are* our needs. Life is exhausting—we need rest. Life is chaotic—we need peace. Life is lonely—we need love. Life is difficult—we need help! God answers our wants by promising us exactly what we need:

Psalm 23 (NLT):

I want help. *The Lord is my shepherd; I have everything I need.*

I want rest. *He lets me rest in green meadows.*

I want peace. *He leads me beside peaceful streams.*

I want strength. *He renews my strength.*

I want guidance. *He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name.*

I want courage. *Even when I walk through the dark valley of death, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me.*

I want to feel safe. *Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.*

I want to overcome adversity. *You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies.*

I want to feel valued. *You welcome me as a guest, anointing my head with oil.*

I want to feel blessed. *My cup overflows with blessings.*

I want to be loved. *Surely, your goodness and love will pursue me all the days of my life.*

I want a home. *And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

Let's give thanks to God this month for giving us everything we *need*!

Girlfriends
at Central
a ministry for women

Changing Hearts. Changing Lives. One Girlfriend at a Time.

THE WORD

"By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence."

2 Peter 1:3 (NLT)

THINK ABOUT IT

- **What are your deepest *wants* today?**
- **How can you receive from God exactly what you *need*?**



What a great retreat at the Streater Baptist Camp! There were around 50 women in attendance with lots of laughter, sharing, and worshipping God!



*Our service project- bracelets!
Reaching out to other women in need!*

OPERATION OAKLAND PARK

Operation Oakland.Park (Operation O.P.) is a Christmas-gift outreach for families at Oakland Park Elementary School and is organized by the "Girlfriends" Women's Ministry Team at Central Church of Christ. This is CCC's second year of initiating Operation O.P. Our first year, 2009, was very successful, with 88 families being sponsored by our church.

If you are not familiar with this ministry, Oakland Park Elementary is a local school in our community where a majority of families have great financial needs. As a church, Operation O.P. is a means for our church to give clothing, food and gifts to children who will probably receive very little, if anything at Christmas-time this year. Look for more information regarding this ministry in your mailbox. Upcoming information will also be available via the Torch Church Newsletter and various announcements.

On Saturday, December 17th we will be offering a brunch and Christmas program to these Oakland Park families and distributing their gifts. We are in need of people to help with this breakfast and Christmas program. If you would like to help in some way on December 17th for the brunch or in other ways regarding Operation O.P. there will be sign-up sheets at the Operation O.P. table beginning November 20th.

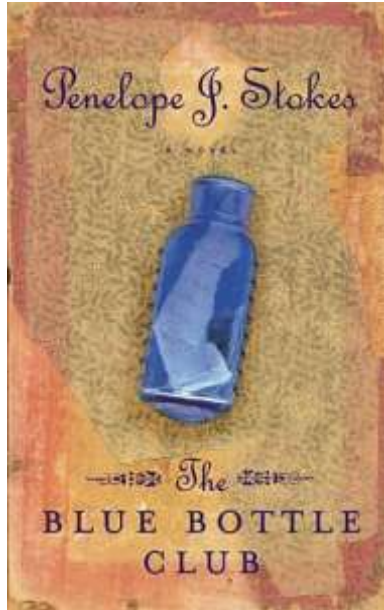
Reaching out to families in the community of Streater



Media Morsels



Book Review



The Blue Bottle Club

Author: Penelope J. Stokes

Publisher: Thomas Nelson (January 11, 2000)

“Every one of these women—despite the disappointments and pain of their lives...acknowledged that even in the darkness, when they were unaware of it, God had somehow been at work in their lives.”

On Christmas day 1929, four friends gathered in a dusty attic to share their heartfelt dreams for the future. Sixty-five years later, a news reporter discovers a mysterious blue bottle that holds their life wishes written on tiny slips of paper. Struggling to understand her own faith and dreams, she sets out to discover if the young girls’ hopes for love, fame, and success came true.

Have your childhood dreams come true? Gather a few friends to read the book together and find out why *The Blue Bottle Club* is a favorite for book club discussions about friendship, faith, and discovering God’s plan for your life.

Movie Review

Five Family-Friendly Films

Spending time with extended family this month? Here are five great family-friendly movies everyone can enjoy together (including one to sing along with)!

Akeelah and the Bee—Overcoming all odds, a young girl tries to make it to the National Spelling Bee. Rating: PG for some language

The Sound of Music—An aspiring nun becomes a governess to seven children and teaches them to sing their way to love and freedom in early World War II Austria. Rating: G

Babe—A pig raised by sheepdogs makes friends with his fellow farm animals and learns to herd sheep, with amazing results. Rating: G

Fly Away Home—A 13-year-old girl becomes a “mama goose” to a flock of abandoned hatchlings and attempts to help them fly south for the winter. Rating: PG for an accident scene and some language

The Secret Garden—A young girl discovers a garden that has been locked up and neglected and determines to bring it back to life. Rating: G



November

A Taste of What's Happening for Women

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		Women's Bible Study 9 a.m. <i>Upper Room Ministry Center</i>	Mom's Play Group 10 am 			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Women's Bible Study 9 a.m. <i>Upper Room Ministry Center</i> Ministry Team Mtg. 7 PM				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		Women's Bible Study 9 a.m. <i>Upper Room Ministry Center</i>	Mom's Play Group 10 am 			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Operation Oakland Park Registration Begins!		Women's Bible Study 9 a.m. <i>Upper Room Ministry Center</i>				
27	28	29	30			
		Women's Bible Study 9 a.m. <i>Upper Room Ministry Center</i>				

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