



# WINGS

## WOMEN IN GODS SERVICE

Summer 2016

### Looking Ahead . . .

June 25<sup>th</sup>

**Car Show &  
Crafts Show & Sale**  
Church Parking Lot &  
Fellowship Hall

July 31st

**Fifth Sunday**  
Church-wide Potluck after  
morning service

September 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>

**ABA Women's Retreat**  
Benton Event Center

Date TBD

**Library Open House**

Hello, Spring Creek Ladies,

The Injoy Class would like to introduce the first edition of "WINGS", a seasonal newsletter especially written for all the Ladies at Spring Creek!

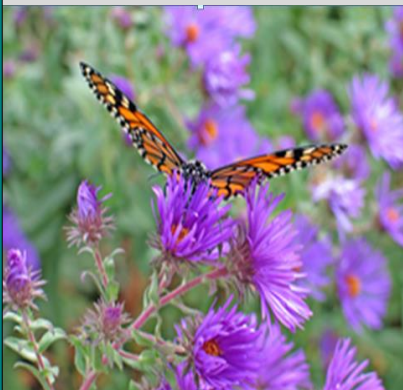
Do you ever feel as though you should get to know more of the ladies in the church? Our desire is to use this newsletter as a way to help all of us become more acquainted and stay informed! We will 'Spotlight' current members, 'Introduce' new ladies, and 'Highlight' community involvement opportunities.

We welcome and encourage content ideas or suggestions to keep the newsletter interesting and relevant for all.

Also, within each edition we hope to have a "Guest Author". We would like any of you who are interested in sharing something from your heart, such as a short devotional or story, to participate as a 'guest author' in the upcoming editions.

You do not need to wait for us to come to you ... please feel free to contact us by email at [Wings@Springcreek.org](mailto:Wings@Springcreek.org) or place a note in the [Wings Suggestion Box](#) located in the foyer if you wish to provide input or serve as a guest author in the future. Hope you all have a great summer!

Email: [Wings@Springcreek.org](mailto:Wings@Springcreek.org)



*If anyone is in Christ, he  
is a new creation.  
2 Cor 5:17*

# THEN & NOW

## Remembering our Sisters of the Bible

Because of the trickery of her father, this woman, beautiful in both face and figure, had to become the second wife of a well-known patriarch rather than his first wife. At the end of the seven years that he had served to pay off the bride-price for her, he thought he was marrying her, but did not realize until it was too late that her father had substituted her sister in place of her.

Who was she?

## Getting to know our Church Sisters

This lovely lady has one son and her favorite hobbies are painting and cooking! She dislikes phone solicitors, and she is definitely not alone there! Her birthday is in August and as of this past April, she has been a member at Spring Creek for 57 years!!

Who is she?

LOOK FOR THE ANSWERS IN NEXT SUNDAY'S BULLETIN



Check out the last page and look for 15 ladies' names. . . Is your name one of them?

## Church Facts

We recently celebrated our Church's 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The church was organized on April 2, 1836. The service was held at the home of a couple who were charter members.

Do you know who this couple was and where on their property the first service was held?

Look for answer in next Sunday's bulletin!

## Miss Pat's Book Nook



Pat Coston

Coming in our next edition . . .

**Miss Pat's Book Nook**

Stay tuned for book reviews and recommendations!



**The library is being reorganized. More info to come on the Open House!**

## OUR COMMUNITY



We would like to introduce The CALL to those who are not familiar with the organization. Below is some information taken from their website. To find out more about them, please visit [thecallinarkansas.org](http://thecallinarkansas.org).

**Children of Arkansas Loved for a Lifetime!**

The CALL is a 501(c)(3) faith-based non-profit organization with local county affiliates statewide. Their model for ministry provides a framework for recruiting, training, and supporting foster and adoptive families and engaging volunteers. The CALL is a tool for the church to serve the modern day orphan in foster care in Arkansas.

The CALL's Mission is to educate, equip, and encourage the Christian community to provide a future and a hope for children in foster care in Arkansas! The CALL is working toward having Christian families waiting to provide a home for every child in foster care in Arkansas so there will be no waiting children!

The CALL believes that God has called Christians from every denomination and church to minister to children in foster care in James 1:27: "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

## OUR INVOLVEMENT WITH THE CALL

- The Saline County CALL will be meeting with the churches this summer. **Courtney Elrod** will be representing our church at the meeting to learn more about their needs and how we may become involved.
- The Young Adult Class will be collecting money to purchase Bibles to Donate to The Call for the foster care children. More info to come! If You have questions about this effort, please contact **Courtney Elrod** at [Courtney.elrod22@yahoo.com](mailto:Courtney.elrod22@yahoo.com) or 501-317-9211.
- Check out our Spotlight on the next page to find out how one of our ladies is already involved.
- Hear from a current Foster Mom on page 5 as a member's friend shares her experience.



**Courtney, Jimmy  
& Kale Elrod**



**Debra Martinez** is the mother of two sons and two daughters and the grandmother of little 6 year old Antonio! She has been a member of Spring Creek since 2014 and is a member of the Injoy Sunday School Class.

If you have not met Debra, please take a minute to introduce yourself and get to know her. With our focus on The CALL this edition, we wanted you to hear some of Debra's story . . .

### Debra's Story

#### From Foster Child . . .

I was born in 1958 to a single mother, because my father walked away from his family responsibility. My mother tried to raise my older brother and I as well as she was capable but she already struggled with difficulties of her own. As early as I can remember my brother and I would travel back and forth between homes of family members, friends and my mother.

Early in the sixties we were separated from our mother when we were sent to our first foster home. My brother and I were kept together until I was ten years old and he was sent to a separate home. In total, I went into twelve different homes, carrying my belongings in boxes and garbage bags until they were all but gone. My brother and I lost touch with one another for 30 years but were reunited in 2006. I had many experiences, good and bad, but the Lord used these to mold me into who I was to become. The Lord has helped me to be resilient through **Psalm 27:10. When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up.** And **John 14:10 I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you.**

#### Statistics from the Child Welfare League:

-In 1962 there were 272,000 children annually going into the foster care system.

-Between 1996 and 2005, the number going into foster care soared to over 500,000.

-More recently, by 9/30/14 there were 415,129 going into foster care.

#### To Social Worker . . .

I have worked as a mental health therapist since 2000, and became a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) in 2008. I currently work at Community Counseling Services, Inc.

#### To Volunteering For The CALL

The Call relies on volunteers to complete state required assessments and interviewing. God answered my prayer one Saturday in April, 2014 when I met the Director of The Call for Saline County, Julia DesCarpentrie at the Arkansas Annual Heritage celebration. We were in line waiting to taste test the pimento cheese samples from several vendors. I happened to mention various experiences with foods while growing up in foster homes. Before I knew what was happening God was at work placing me into the path to become a volunteer. I had to wait several months before I could complete the next training. I discovered the best way I could help The Call, as an LCSW, is to complete home studies. These evaluations assess a family's ability to foster or adopt a child. The home studies require four separate interviews, while specific assessment forms are completed. The final report is 23 pages long which highlight the family's structure and capacity to care for prospective children to be placed in the home by The Arkansas Department of Human Services, Children and Family Division.



*I've watched Amanda and Jody open their home to foster children through the last couple of years. They have seen many ups and downs, but have continuously sought God's plan for their lives and the lives of the little ones they touch. Amanda was gracious enough to share part of her foster parent journey with us. Ronda Shelman*

### ***A Foster Mother's Story . . .***

**"Do you really think now is the best time for you to take this on?"** We heard this question from just about everyone when we shared our intentions to become a foster family. Our son had just turned one year old. He had special needs and his first year had been incredibly hard for us as we fought for correct diagnoses and treatments. I was forced to quit my job to better care for his needs. Our home was small. We certainly had plenty of reasons to postpone our plans, but God's plans are not to be ignored and we knew we'd been called and we were obedient.

We chose to go through The C.A.L.L. rather than the traditional DCFS training program. The C.A.L.L. works alongside DCFS to recruit, train, and support foster families. Christian teachers who are or have been foster parents teach the training classes and it is condensed into two weekends instead of several weeks if you take the DCFS training. We are so thankful we chose to join The C.A.L.L.! Without the support of fellow members, I can assure you we would no longer be an open foster home due to the challenges we experienced.

Beyond a shadow of a doubt, foster care is the hardest journey we've ever gone through, including our son's fight for his life. The children who come into care are broken children with unique challenges and behaviors. I was very naïve to think that because of my extensive experience as a teacher that I'd be able to take on whatever came our way. I was wrong. So very wrong. We found ourselves resentful of the challenges and how they affected the dynamic of our home. We struggled with whether or not we should wave the white flag and close our home. One particularly difficult day I called a friend whom I'd grown close to as a result of being fellow C.A.L.L. members. I sobbed and told her I thought I'd made a mistake, that I wasn't cut out to be a foster mother, that I wasn't able to love this child the way she needed me to and it wasn't fair to her. Her words were, "I hope you're up for company because I'm on my way over." This is the kind of support that families just don't receive from traditional training through DCFS. Since that day, I realized I needed to rely on C.A.L.L. support far more often. Fostering just isn't a solo journey. You have to have community if you're going to be successful and community is exactly what The C.A.L.L. offers. Now that we have more experience under our belt, the challenges are easier and we find ourselves returning the favor and supporting new C.A.L.L. families as they face this foreign mission field.

God's Word calls for all of us to serve the widowed and orphaned of our community. The most common comment I receive when discussing foster care is, "I could never foster. I'd get too attached. It would be too hard to let go." Please hear me when I say this is exactly what these children need! They need to experience love they've never before received due to the broken environments from which they come. As Christians we have received unconditional love from our Savior, despite how hard and painful it was for Him. He sacrificed sitting at the right hand of God to die a painful death on the cross so we could experience healing and freedom. If Christ can endure all He did for us, surely we can endure the challenges of foster care for these precious children who don't deserve the life in which they've found themselves. Through Christ's love for us, we can help these children find healing and freedom from their pasts. We can be the hands and feet of God!

There are many different ways to serve the foster community outside of actively fostering in your home. I encourage you to investigate The C.A.L.L. program and attend an informational meeting and commit to answering God's command for service. Foster care is not for the faint of heart. But as Christians, none of us are faint of heart because we have the Holy Spirit

## Spring Creek Ladies

First, can you find the 15 ladies' names? Second, do you know them? If you do, please make a special effort to say hello to them! If you don't know them, please introduce yourself. (Names will be revealed in next Sunday's Bulletin!)

S	T	H	C	L	E	W	E	I	N	A	J	R	W	H	A	Y	V	O	D
D	W	J	Y	S	O	T	D	E	M	K	F	R	A	K	E	Y	L	R	I
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K	E	E	S	L	U	R	O	I	A	V	U	N	T	K	K	N	G	M	J
Z	I	B	I	X	M	A	N	P	B	B	R	A	T	L	C	O	A	I	O
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J	M	L	O	V	Q	N	R	E	L	C	R	E	C	G	A	N	A	S	E
T	U	L	Z	A	Y	N	M	K	T	Y	D	N	H	D	D	H	D	Y	S
J	C	H	Q	N	F	A	A	M	T	X	N	H	A	Q	N	O	N	B	I
C	Z	J	G	N	I	R	R	V	A	H	A	A	P	H	I	J	I	I	B
Z	E	A	E	A	N	X	I	B	U	I	S	M	M	Q	L	N	L	S	O
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C	S	H	I	R	L	E	Y	L	A	I	S	U	R	E	O	S	G	B	P
T	P	E	X	Y	H	E	H	G	M	R	P	X	X	C	K	E	D	N	O



### SHE QUOTES:

**God doesn't call the qualified.  
He qualifies the called!**

**(Sandra Cloud 2016 Potato Brunch)**