

Learning to communicate is something we strive for through the many changes in life. Especially as women, we create conversations to communicate with others. It's a heart need for women to relate to others. Our focus for this newsletter is on friendships from a variety of ages of the heart. We are blessed to have the Boyd sisters share from their heart about little things that make up who we are. I think you will find yourself comparing your answers as Lula Mae and Janie Belle give us a look into the younger hearts.

Barb Cassilly shares a letter to her daughter. It creates a beautiful walk-through of life, in response to the miracle of birth and the heart of a mother. Barb crafts a letter that takes a look at the life of love, what it looks like to love, and the promise of a parent not just to love on earth but to look forward to heaven.

Life has been a challenge these past couple of years and we have all discovered how Covid refocused our hearts on being intentional with our relationships but also how loneliness is real. Margaret Buttrey shares what we all knew, but in a beautiful way to remind us that we can be the "Jesus" to someone who needs love and meet two needs at one time: their heart and ours.

Proverbs 27:9 reminds us that "a sweet friendship refreshes the soul". (The Message) Read the beautiful words written by OSHC gals and let it remind you to reach out to be a friend, refresh another soul and you will be blessed in return.



- Manette

THE Harbor Lights ALMANAC

June 2022



SAVE THE DATE!

SEPTEMBER 30TH -
OCTOBER 1ST 2022

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH THE BOYD GIRLS

Janie Belle is 10 years old and Lula Mae is 7. Enjoy getting to know the hearts of these two precious girls!



Q: What is the best thing an older person can do for a young girl like yourself?

A: (Janie Belle) Be loving, encouraging and interact with me.

Q: What does Jesus mean to you?

A: (Janie Belle). He is a gracious, faithful and loving God.

Q: What Bible story teaches you about being kind?

A: (Lula Mae) The story of Mary & Joseph...the innkeeper showed them kindness to give them his stable to use.

Q: What is one book you have read that you loved and how are you like the main character?

A: (Janie Belle) "The Princess in Black" by Shannon & Dean Hale The Princess in black is sneaky but she does it to help others. I like to be sneaky in helping others!

Q: What is your favorite food and why?

A: (Lula Mae) Tacos! I put sour cream on them and I like the hot & cold temperatures at the same time.

Q: When you look at older women, like your grandmas age, what do you see in their actions of love (hugs, smiles, etc)?

A: (Janie Belle) Their actions of love show kindness and thoughtfulness.

Q: What is one thing you do when you are feeling sad?

A: (Lula Mae) I call out for Mom or Dad or both.

Q: What makes a good friend?

A: (Janie Belle) A good friend is joyful, loving, forgiving and adventurous.

Q: If you could write a poem about happiness which 5 words would make your poem?

A: (Janie Belle) Happy, glad, excited, joyful, outstanding.

Q: What makes you happy when you know you get to do something special?

A: (Lula Mae) I like getting prepared for the special event or upcoming adventure.



LETTER TO MY DAUGHTER...

BARB CASSILLY

My beautiful child,

The day I found out you were growing inside me was the happiest day of my life. I had dreamed about you for many years. I cried, laughed, and rejoiced that my dream was finally coming true. I felt such happiness at the thought of holding my very own daughter. But I also felt more fear than I had ever felt before. Fear that somehow, I would not be able to “do it right”. Then and there, as I placed my hand on my stomach, I promised you that I would be here for you...always.. The day you were born was the second happiest day of my life. You were so tiny. The perfect shade of pink. Your little hand held my finger and I knew then, that as much as you needed me, I needed you more. I looked into your eyes and felt a love like no other. God had chosen me to be your mommy and I was overwhelmed with thankfulness. I promised Him that I would always be there to take good care of you.

Sweetheart, I want you to know that life will be hard sometimes. There will be days when you will want to crawl under the covers and hide. I know I have. You can do that. I have done that. But don't stay under there. Every experience, every circumstance, every tough situation we find ourselves in, we can learn from. Cry, hide, pray, and move on. And if you find yourself needing someone who's been there, call me. I'm here.

But baby, there will also be good times. Days filled with wonder, joy, and love. The day you graduate kindergarten, high school, and college. The day you come to know Jesus...really know Jesus. The day you get your doctorate, your promotion, your perfect job. You will find a cute puppy, a great apartment, your first house, and the special one you want to spend the rest of your life with. You will celebrate the Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. You will have a child that you will feel more love for and more fear about than you have ever known. Rejoice, laugh, pray, and keep moving on. And through it all, I will be here to share that joy with you.

Throughout life, we will celebrate, cry, laugh, worry, and share adventures. But we will always do it together. Because even when you move out and start a life of your own, I will always be just around the corner in case you need me. I promise. And I know that this life is temporary and that someday, I won't physically be here for you. That's okay. Because even if I am not “here” for you I will be “there” for you. Just like Jesus promised His disciples before He left the earth, “I am with you always; even to the end of the age.”

I love you.
Forever and Always,

- Mommy

Because of the past two years, we have walked through in our world with Covid and how it brought to light the need for us to be relational, I did some research on the subject of loneliness/social isolation and its harmful impact on the health of people, especially the elderly in our communities. We, as the hands and feet of Jesus, cannot turn our heads away from this stark reality. Scientific research published by the NIH and CDC clearly presents the challenge before us as Christians. Having moved a lot during our 53-year marriage, my husband and I have been blessed to have had loving individuals take us under their wings in places like Miami, Washington DC, and Memphis and make sure we did not fall into the trap of loneliness and isolation. We learned from them to be Aware, Alert, and Active (AAA) in seeking out the newcomer or perhaps a familiar face that needs some special attention and making sure they felt special and loved. It is our way of “paying it forward” for all the love shown to us. Churches, especially, can become “clicky” unless they are intentional about avoiding that trap. Developing this skill/habit takes practice like most other tasks worth doing. You will likely discover that you receive more than you give. So, what does it mean to be intentional? To me, it means to ask for The Father's direction and to take personal action to become an impact in someone else's personal life, not waiting for someone to ask for help/companionship. It may be someone new at church, a neighbor, an elderly person, an ill person, someone who just lost a good friend or family member or is losing their sight. You will not have to look very hard to find someone who needs a friend. To have a friend you have to be a friend even if it pushes you out of your comfort zone. You might have to become impervious to weather or interruptions to your normal routine. It is an uncomfortable truth that as we become more connected with technology we tend to become more socially isolated. The Covid pandemic has vividly/painfully taught us humans and businesses a lot of important lessons about the importance of face-to-face interaction. We are hard-wired by The Father to love Him and love each other up close and personal.



- Margaret

WOULD YOU LIKE
TO BE AN
ALMANAC
CONTRIBUTOR?



If so, we'd **LOVE** to
hear from you!
Please connect with
Marette via e-mail
marettejorgenson@gmail.com

- **CONNECT WITH US** -

 oursafeharbor.com

EMAIL:

 info@oursafeharbor.com

SEND PRAYER REQUESTS:

 prayer@oursafeharbor.com

How can we help you? Being alone, or the feeling of being alone keeps us from doing things in life that bring us joy and keep us from loving others. Please let us know how we can pray for you, befriend you and help you in your faith walk. Join Marette for a Zoom Bible study every other week. Be a part of worship on Sunday along with the ministry of teaching on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Our Safe Harbor is here to serve you. Let us know how we can help. -The Harbor Lights

