January 24, 2012  Week 1 – Sisterhood

1. What does sisterhood mean to you?

2. Why build bonds of sisterhood?

3. What makes it hard to grow relationships with other sisters in Christ?

4. What do you hope to gain from our Sisterhood class this semester?

Scripture Memory:

1. Proverbs 17:17 – A friend loves at all times, and a [sister] is born for adversity.

2. 1 Corinthians 12:25-27 – There should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Book Review: Transforming for a Purpose by Anita Carman
January 24, 2012  Week 1 – Sisterhood

John 4:1-42  The Woman at the Well

1. What is the significance of the sixth hour?

2. Why was it so shocking that Jesus would ask the Samaritan woman for a drink of water?

3. What was Jesus’ purpose in saying, “Go, call your husband and come back.”

4. What feelings might this question and Jesus’ response to her answer have stirred in her?

5. What did she do?

6. What would you have done?

7. How do verses 28-30 show the significance of an encounter with Jesus?

8. What was the result of this encounter as detailed in verses 39-42?

9. What impact can an encounter with Jesus have on our lives today?

10. How can we have an encounter with Jesus?

11. How does the story of the woman at the well relate to sisterhood?
January 24, 2012  Week 1 – Sisterhood

PRAYER REQUESTS:
GPS WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY
THE BONDS OF SISTERHOOD
Real Relationships for Real Life

January 24, 2012  Week 1 – Sisterhood

Homework:

1. 1 Corinthians 12:14-27  The Body of Christ
   a. Read the Scripture once through
   b. Read the Scripture a second time and focus on the significance of each person to
      the body of Christ. What thoughts come to mind as you read it?
   c. What do mutual respect and humble service to one another do for the body of
      Christ?
   d. Why might people not want to be a part of the body of Christ?

2. Our Daily Bread “Extending Grace” from 1/20/12 (handout or www.odb.org)
   a. Read Text: Matthew 9:9-13
   b. Read devotional
   c. Jesus quoting from Hosea 6:6
   d. How can we (like Bill Flanagan) extend God’s grace to people in need without
      condoning choices that may be contrary to what we think God wants?
   e. What does it mean when God says, “I desire mercy and not sacrifice”?
   f. What is more important: holiness or helping others? Why? Doesn’t God want
      both? Could it be that true holiness is demonstrated through helping others?
   g. If you were told that the first step to meaningful and lasting sisterhood bonds is to
      be the friend you want to have (ie be that friend to someone else), would you take
      that first step and reach out to someone in your life? Who would you reach out to
      and why?
   h. Spend some time in prayer today talking to God about being the friend, the sister
      in Christ, that you want to have. What does being that sister to someone else look
      like? What do you want a sister in Christ to do or be for you?
John 4:1-42

Jesus Talks With a Samaritan Woman

1 Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John—although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

4 Now he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

9 The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

10 Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

11 “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?”

13 Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

15 The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

16 He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”

17 “I have no husband,” she replied.

Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

19 “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

21 “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

25 The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”
Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

The Disciples Rejoin Jesus

Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?”

Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.”

But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”

Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?”

“My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.”

Many Samaritans Believe

Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. And because of his words many more became believers.

They said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”
1 Corinthians 12:14-27

14 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

15 Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.
In the mid-1970s, divorce filings and final decrees appeared in the Public Records section of our local newspaper. Rev. Bill Flanagan, a pastor at our church, read those names week after week and began to picture people, not statistics. So he created a Divorce Recovery Workshop to offer help and healing in Christ to hurting people during a difficult time. When concerned church members told Bill he was condoning divorce, he softly replied that he was simply extending God’s grace to folks in need.

When Jesus invited Matthew the tax collector to follow Him, he accepted. Matthew then invited Jesus to dinner at his house. After the religious leaders criticized Him for eating with tax collectors and sinners, Jesus said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance” (Matt. 9:12-13). Jesus, the Great Physician, wants to meet each of us at our point of need, offering forgiveness, healing, and hope. What we don’t deserve, He freely gives.

By reaching out to people in need, we can extend to others this grace of God in Christ—guiding them to His healing touch.

David McCasland

There’s advantage in our weakness,
There is blessing in our pain;
It is when we’re feeling helpless
That God’s grace and strength sustain. —Fitzhugh

When you know God’s grace,
you’ll want to show God’s grace.

Today’s Bible Reading — Matthew 9:9-13

9 As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, “Follow Me.” So he arose and followed Him.
10 Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples.
11 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, “Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”
12 When Jesus heard that, He said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

INSIGHT

Some people will avoid going to see a doctor at all costs. They delay setting up an annual checkup and rationalize any symptoms as not worthy of medical attention. In today’s reading, we see this attitude can also apply to those who feel they are not spiritually sick. They think they don’t need the diagnosis and treatment of the Great Physician of the soul. This was the response of the Pharisees to Jesus. They did not believe they were sinners and so did not need salvation. To them Christ said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick” (Matt. 9:12). Unless individuals admit they are sinners, they will feel no need for a Savior.