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Women's Devotional eNewsletter | March 2019

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## Daffodils

Spring is coming, ladies! Have you noticed the sprouting buds on trees and the longer daylight hours? Arkansas weather is unpredictable, to say the least, but the signs of change are all around us this time of year.

The sweetest reminder of changing seasons for me is the daffodil or jonquil as my Grandmother called them. If you are not familiar, daffodils are bulbs planted in the fall that bloom into cheerful yellow flowers in the spring. Slender green stems begin to poke through the cold winter soil in late January and February and fully bloom in March. During the bleakest part of the year, they begin sprouting when the ground around them looks dead.



For me, they serve as little reminders that growth happens during times that seem bleak and desolate. During seasons that feel like there is no redeeming purpose, growth is happening beneath the surface. They help me remember that God's timing is perfect, and He can bring forth new growth in my life. [Second Corinthians 4:16-17](#) reads, *"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all."* I have clung to this promise as I have watched my mother battle Alzheimer's. God is faithful in all things. Hard seasons that seem to go on forever do eventually change, often not in ways that I would have it, but always according to God's plan and purposes.

The other characteristic of daffodils is that they are perennials, meaning they come back year after year. My parents' backyard is full of daffodils planted by my great-grandmother. When they bloom in the spring it is a reminder that seeds planted years before can still have an impact fifty and even seventy-five years later. I am certain that she was not thinking of how the bulbs would delight future generations, or that her great-great-grandchildren would pick the flowers she so carefully planted.

*"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."* [Isaiah 55:10-11](#)

God can use us in a similar way as we share the Gospel with others. The Truth of God's

Word that we speak into the lives of our friends and family will not return void. We may not be around to see the results, but we can trust that God will be at work according to His will. This is a personal reminder for me to continue telling my kids about Jesus even when they don't seem to be paying attention.

### ***Reflect and Respond:***

As you are outside more this spring and are aware of the changing seasons, here are some challenges:

- Pray specifically for someone you know who is going through a particularly long and difficult season.
- Think about ways you can intentionally bring up Jesus in everyday conversations to plant seeds of God's Truth.
- Recall ways that you have seen God be faithful and unchanging in your own life and express your gratitude to Him.



### ***Daffodils was written by Mary Beth Simpson -***

Mary Beth serves in Fellowship Fayetteville's Women's Ministry as the Tuesday Morning Bible Study Coordinator. She desires to equip women to know and understand the Bible and be able to apply it to their current stage of life.

She met her husband Jesse at the University of Arkansas where she was majoring in marketing. They have been married for 17 years and are now busy parents raising a teenage daughter and two elementary-age sons.

Raised in a small farming town in Eastern Arkansas, Mary Beth has made Northwest Arkansas her home for almost 22 years. She enjoys all water sports and is longing for the warm days of summer so she can enjoy the trail system around Fayetteville and spend time at the lake. Most days you can find her listening to talk radio or theology podcasts while driving her kids to activities.

*Past issues: Fayetteville Women's Devotional  
eNewsletter*

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## Servant's Heart

### Tuesday Worship Teams

We want to take a moment for a couple of shout-outs and publicly say *Thank You!* to the ladies serving on our Tuesday morning worship team, and *Welcome!* to our first-ever Tuesday evening worship team. Your dedication to faithfully serving each week, leading us into God's presence, and setting the tone for study time is truly a blessing to those who attend the Tuesday Bible studies. Thank you for sharing your gifts with us!

**Tuesday Morning Worship Team (picture #1)** : Rachel Whitley, Kelly Parks, Taylor Shirley, Melanie Albritton, and Ann Difani (not pictured)

**Tuesday Evening Worship Team (picture #2)** : Leslie Corbell, Rachel Whitley, and Stephanie Ceola



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## Building Community



### **Thinking Outside the Box With Your Small Group**

*by Community Group Leader Jaye T. Marshall*

Do your small group ladies need to get away for bonding and relaxation? My small group needed both, so last fall we picked out a weekend that would work for everyone and started planning for February. Our main goal for our time away was to “be present” without the distractions of mom life, and to connect with each other on a new level. We stayed two nights in a cabin in Branson. We ate meals together, talked late into the night, went to the outlet mall for some shopping, ate a nice dinner at a local restaurant, played the saran wrap ball game, and then talked some more. One of our favorite memories was taking turns rocking and walking baby Elyse and calling ourselves the #octomoms. Lol! We all enjoyed how relaxed and laid back our group was. It seemed like a WIN relationally as everyone wanted a repeat twice a year!

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## Getting Married?

### **MERGE Premarital Workshops**

**MERGE** is an 8-week, premarital experience offered each year in the Spring, Summer, and Fall, only on the Fellowship Fayetteville campus. It is designed to provide engaged and seriously dating couples a unique opportunity to learn, seek wisdom, and receive counsel on marriage from a Biblical perspective. Cost is \$85 per couple.

**Summer Session: July 7 - August 25, 2019**

**Fall Session: September 29 - November 17, 2019**

Signup now, and be sure to fill out and submit the online survey.

Register [HERE](#) and search by entering the keyword **MERGE**.

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# Resources



## Discipleship for Women | [Learn more & enroll](#)

As a Christ follower today, we strive to incorporate discipleship into our everyday relationships. It is not just evangelizing, but mentoring: a spiritually older woman in Christ (discipler) teaches and models how to live a godly faith-filled life to a spiritually younger woman (disciplee). Formats may vary with each relationship, but Christ and the Bible remain at the center with spiritual maturity and reproduction the goal.

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## Service Opportunities

### Weekday Front Office Help

If you have administrative skills and enjoy being around people, we would love to put your talents to use as a member of our front office team at Fellowship Fayetteville. We are currently seeking front office volunteers to rotate serving in four hour shifts on Wednesdays and Fridays. Contact: [Ray Wagoner](#), 479-878-2999.

### Serve One

At Fellowship we encourage our members to Worship One/Serve One, meaning attend a corporate celebration service and then volunteer to serve during another service so others may worship. Many team positions are currently available on Sunday mornings. Current urgent needs include Door Greeters (Connections) and Hospitality Team (Worship). Or choose from additional areas to serve including media, worship choir, prayer, FayetteKids, One2One, and prayer. Visit [serve.fellowshipfayetteville.org](http://serve.fellowshipfayetteville.org) to find your fit.

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## Women's Ministry Team



**MARGO BODISHBAUGH**  
Shepherding Leader



**MELODY COUCH**  
Discipleship Leader



**LORIE McMILLEN**  
Tuesday Evening Studies



**MARY BETH SIMPSON**  
Tuesday Morning Studies

Want to learn more about Fayetteville Women's Ministry?  
Reach out to one of our team members to learn how you can get plugged in!  
[fayettevillewomen@fellowshipnwa.org](mailto:fayettevillewomen@fellowshipnwa.org)  
479-659-3684

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