



THE *Spiceland Friend*

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The “Mirepoix” of Faith

The week after Christmas I wasn't feeling very well – actually, I felt pretty awful, so I decided to fix different soups for our meals each day. Actually, Tom likes cutting up veggies, so he did all the hard work of food prep, and I put it all together in the pan and cooked and seasoned everything. I think we make a pretty good cooking team.

On Dec. 27, Tom cut up carrots, celery, and onion – and I fixed split pea soup.

On Dec. 28, Tom cut up carrots, celery, and onion – and potatoes – and I fixed cream of potato soup.

On Dec. 29, Tom cut up carrots, celery, and onion – and I fixed ham and beans and cornbread.

On Jan. 6, Tom cut up carrots, celery, and onion – and I added other vegetables and made veggie soup.

You get the idea. Carrots, celery, and onion – often referred to as “mirepoix” – or the mix of vegetables that serve as the base/foundation of different soups and dishes. They add a lot of flavor and texture – and nutrition!

It got me thinking – if “mirepoix” – a mixture of diced carrots, celery, and onion – make a good base for soups and other food dishes, then

what is the correlation – the “mirepoix” to my spiritual life? I know that sounds a little odd, but after making different soups multiple days in a row, it was on my mind!

Anyway, for me, I would have to say that a healthy “mirepoix” for my spiritual life involves reading the Bible, spending time in prayer talking to and listening to God, and being part of a community of faith and worshipping God together regularly.

All of these things add depth to my life – the Bible, talking with and listening to God, and through our time of worship, book studies, and through Christian friends, I find myself to be inspired and challenged to make changes in my life, which I hope (and pray) will help me to be more like Christ. It is through this “mirepoix” of faith that God reveals the places where I have failed and need to seek forgiveness, and the way in which I am also challenged to serve God in fresh, new ways. If I am struggling with a problem, I can find strength and encouragement from my “mirepoix” of faith, too.

I don't do all of this perfectly – especially when life gets a little crazy, but I know it's the healthiest way for me to live my life as a child of God. And not only do I want to be healthier physically as we enter a new year, I am also seeking to live healthier spiritually as well.

Cathy Harris

Grief Support Group Starts January 18

A new GriefShare grief support group will be starting on Thursday mornings beginning January 18. The class will offer support and encouragement after the death of a family member or friend.

The class will provide a warm, caring environment, and includes three parts – encouraging, information-packed videos, group discussion about the video content, and a reference book for your personal use that includes additional information on each week's theme, as well as scripture readings, and questions to reflect on. Some of the topics included are as follows: Is this normal? The challenges of Grief. The Journey of Grief. Grief and your relationships. Why? Guilt and anger. Complicating Factors. What do I Live for Now?

You are welcome to begin attending our GriefShare group at any point. Each session is "self-contained," and you can pick up missed sessions later. The class is led by **Janet Putnam** and **Cathy Harris**, and meets 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the Mary M Room. The class is free and open to anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one. Contact Cathy or Janet if you'd like more information.

Many Thanks for a Job Well Done! 😊

Thanks to **Linda Van Osdol** for her many years of service as our custodian. She very faithfully cleaned the church each week and would often come to spruce up the church before/after a funeral, extra church events, and building rentals. Thanks for a great job, Linda! Linda & Mike will still be very active in our church. Linda is also leaving her teaching assistant job at the school and will be babysitting for all the grandchildren, which will be a wonderful blessing to all of their family.

The Trustees will be meeting soon to begin working to either hire a new custodian or to hire the cleaning service we used when Linda was unable to be here to clean. **If you're interested in the part-time position or want more information, please contact Cathy Harris (765-465-0994 or by email) or Tom Harris (317-407-2964).** In the interim, the cleaning service will be cleaning weekly on Thursday evenings.

Sermon Topics for January and February

David Brock will be preaching in January and February except February 18 when **Cathy Harris** will be preaching.

January 14

Sermon – "Clean and Unclean"
Scripture – Genesis 7:1-10, 17-23; Mark 3:7-19

January 21

Sermon – "Unexpected Generosity"
Scripture – Genesis 13:2-18; Mark 7:31-37

January 28

Sermon – "Gospel Freedom"
Scripture – Galatians 5:13-25; Mark 8:22-30

February 4

Sermon – "Moving Away from Chatter"
Scripture – Mark 10:13-22; 2 Timothy 2:14-21

February 11

Sermon – "It's Possible"
Scripture – Mark 10:23-31; 1 Timothy 3:14-4:10

February 18

Cathy Harris is preaching

February 25

Sermon – "A New You"
Scripture – John 5:19-24; Psalm 2

Christmas Eve at Spiceland Friends

There were 227 in attendance at the 62nd Christmas Eve Service at Spiceland Friends. The theme of the service was "Noel! Noel" – The Story of Amazing Love." The choir, directed by **Cathy Harris**, sang several selections, and the congregation joined in on familiar Christmas carols. **Virginia Cripps** of the Spiceland United Methodist Church was pianist. As always, the candle lighting was the highlight of the service.



Resolve to "be there"

Let our New Year's resolution be this: We will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word.

Please Remember in Prayer

Church Family

Rex Brooks – hospice care
Chris Garner – back surgery
Don Rutledge – knee replacement surgery
Vickie Richardson & Nancy Wadman – missions trip
Greg Armstrong – knee surgery
Pam Pyle – medical testing
Lonnie Murray – chemo & radiation treatments
Phil Alexander – dialysis, breathing problems
Irene & Monte Goodwin – health problems
Unspoken prayer requests

Extended Family and Friends

Aunt of Darlene Darling – passed away
Friend of Pam Pyle – cancer
Gary Neal – hip replacement surgery
Son-in-law of Debbie Denny – surgery
Aunt Patty (Josh Griggs) – recovering from blood clot surgery
Carolyn Lantz (Teresa Batt) – stage 3 cancer
Natalie Young (Cathy Harris) – severe headaches, tremors
Jackie Jones – chemo treatments
Jan Hurst (Judy Stevens) – advancing Parkinson's disease
Peace and stability in North & South Korea
Our country and servicemen and women
Kenya – political upheaval

Attention All Committees!



Just a reminder that you will need to meet soon and select a clerk of your committee for 2018. Please let the office know who the clerk(s) will be right away as we need the information to include in the new church directory. Have fun as you begin praying about and making plans for our congregation for 2018 – and thanks for this important ministry.

Directory Information Needed



We are in the process of preparing and printing the 2018 Church Directory. If you have changes or additions, please turn them in to the church office so that the directory will be accurate and up to date. We also need address information for college students.

With Sympathy

Ruby Katherine Barker, long-time member of Spiceland Friends Church, passed away peacefully at home on November 30. She was 95 years old and will be missed by many.

Come and Join the Walkers!

Now that the holidays are behind us, you are invited to add some exercise to your weekly routine. The group meets each Monday and Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Family Center. Everyone is welcome! Walk at your own pace, and for the length of time that works best for you. It's an opportunity to not only get some exercise, but to visit with one another over a cup of coffee. Feel free to park under the awning if the weather is bad.



Renewal Time for Quaker Life Magazine

Quaker Life magazine is up for renewal on February 1. In order to get the group rate of \$30 per subscriber per year, we need to have four subscriptions. We are now down to three subscribers. If you would like to receive our denominational magazine, please let **Carol Fox** or **Cathy Harris** know right away.

Notes of Thanks

“Thanks to everyone involved in the Community Cheer gifts. I appreciate the gift and being remembered again this year. Thanks!”

– **Amie Thornburg**

“We want to thank you for all the wonderful Christmas cards and gifts we received. We appreciate your thoughtfulness, kindness, and are so blessed to be a part of our wonderful, supportive, loving – and fun! – church family.”

– **Tom & Cathy Harris**

“Thank you all for the Christmas gifts, the Christmas cards and notes, and all the encouragement! This is a wonderful congregation, and we are blessed to be a part of it!”

– **David & Linda Brock**

“Thank you for the monetary gift given to me at Christmas and for the Darden gift card for my birthday. I appreciate your thoughtfulness, and we will think of you when we use the restaurant gift card.”

– **Carol Fox**

“To the Spiceland Church Family of **Ruby Katherine Barker**, I want to say thank you for your prayers and love during her illness. Thanks to David and Cathy for your kind words at her service. Also, the flowers and the nice meal afterwards. You will always have a special place in our hearts.”

– **David Barker and Family**

“From all of us at Quaker Haven, thank you for making this ministry a priority! Your gift of \$2000 makes so much possible as we minister to youth and families.”

“Thank you for your support.”

– **Titan Children’s Fund**

“Thank you for your generous gift of \$1,700.00. We are grateful for you in helping us make this Christmas and New Year memorable for those in our care. Thanks again for your support!”

– **Dee Gibson, White’s**

Note of Thanks *(Continued)*

“Your financial and prayerful contributions are much appreciated. We know there are several causes that one can give to and we are thankful that you have considered this ministry as one of your giving priorities.”

– **Henry County Pregnancy Care Center**

Congratulations on the Baby Boy!



Congratulations and best wishes to **Scott & Jessica Noteboom** on the birth of a son on Tuesday, November 28. **Alister Michael** weighed 7 lb. 11 oz. and was 19.75” long. Congratulations also to the proud grandparents, **Mike & Linda Van Osdol**.

Worship Assistants for January and February

Scripture Readers

January 7 – Pat Bogue
January 14 – Priscilla James
January 21 – Nancy Wadman
January 28 – Steve Stevens
February 4 – Beth Carr
February 11 – Lisa Knotts
February 18 – Randy Coffman
February 25 – Susan Waymire

Junior Church

January 14 – Linda Brock
January 21 – Cathy Harris
January 28 – Amanda Huss
February 4 – Cathy Harris
February 11 – Linda Brock
February 18 – Cathy Harris
February 25 – Amanda Huss

Hosts for January – Charlie & Marcia Byrket

Hosts for February – Joe & Priscilla James

Children’s Messages – Charlene Williams