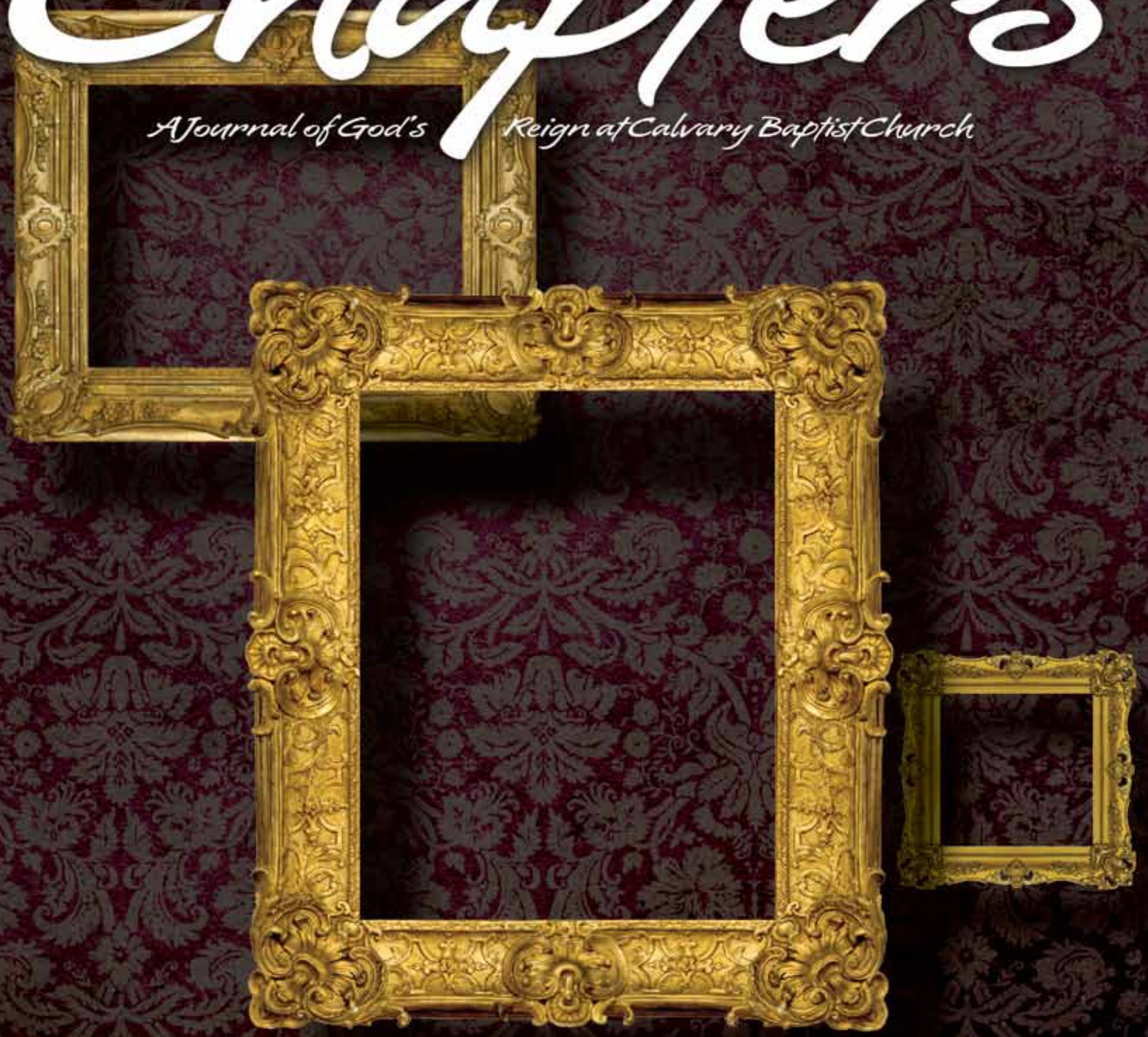


Chapters

A Journal of God's Reign at Calvary Baptist Church



INVESTING
IN PEOPLE

CLUBHOUSE: MAKING CBC AND GOD'S STORY INVITING TO ALL CHILDREN

by Melissa Austin & Sara Sisco



Melissa & Kyle enjoying The Clubhouse

One student wears headphones through the entire class, but answers questions in a way that shows he's actually listening very closely. Another cuddles her Curious George stuffed animal, whispers in his ear, and holds him up to "join in" when it's time to sing. Still another raises her arms in praise, able to stand for worship with the support of a worker's arms around her. All of the adults and kids around these young people interact, move around, and participate with them in the Sunday morning activities without missing a beat. Only adults new to the CBC Children's Ministry do a double-take; for everyone else, this scene is normal, thanks to the Clubhouse.

The Clubhouse is a ministry to special needs children. The goal is to

involve the special needs children in the Children's Ministry program in an environment that meets their individual learning needs. Clubhouse workers serve students within their age-level groups as much as possible, while also providing space and "down time" when the kids need it. Begun by Melissa Austin and Pastor Bennett over six years ago, this ministry currently serves seven CBC young people, with needs such as Autism, sensory integration, ADHD and cerebral palsy.

"In 2003, there were three children with Autism in the children's ministry," recalls Austin. "They were just in regular classes with no additional help, and not doing well. I had a student in my classroom at school who was in the process of being diagnosed with

Aspergers. I called the mother of one of the children at CBC for advice for how to help the parents as they worked through their son's diagnosis. When I asked how her son was doing at church, she said he was struggling. I contacted Pastor Bennett, and together we started dreaming about what a ministry to these kiddos could look like. We started by just putting an adult one-on-one with the children in their age-level classroom. Soon, we realized that we needed to have a place for these children to go when they needed a break. The Clubhouse grew from there." Rachel Heagle and Mara Harmon joined the team early on, working with students one-on-one. In the last few years, they have joined the leadership of the Clubhouse to be more involved in the programming and coordinating of staff.

If there were no Clubhouse, the special needs children would be in their age-level classes today, still without support. They would have difficulty participating and learning, and their parents would struggle to worship and fellowship as well. Austin explains, "With the Clubhouse Ministry, church is a place that the students look forward to going. They LOVE the music time, and are growing to know and love God more. Parents are able to attend the worship service and their ABF knowing their child is in a safe place, learning about God's story."

So, what does life in the Clubhouse look like? "Well, it's different for each child," Austin responds. "A high priority is placed on including them in their age-level groups as much as possible. We have two different levels of support for the special needs children. With one-on-one, an adult ac-

companies one or two students to their class and helps them participate. Classroom Support students are involved in their class, and the Clubhouse staff helps equip the classroom teacher to work with them. The Clubhouse Classroom is used when students need breaks from regular programming."

There are currently ten volunteers involved in Clubhouse ministry, and the team needs at least four more. "The biggest challenge is having enough staff to meet the needs of all the kiddos. There are so many factors that feed into how a child is doing on any particular day. Managing this and helping the child be successful at church can be challenging at times," Austin explains. Clubhouse staff members make a commitment to work either first hour or second hour, in a month-on/month-off rotation. As staff spend Sunday morning with the students, it is often the workers who receive the bigger blessing. Austin asserts, "To worship with these kids is awesome! They LOVE music and it shows in their faces and actions. To watch these kiddos grow and develop and learn about God is priceless."

The Clubhouse ministry continues to expand, both inside and outside CBC's walls. As fifth graders anticipate entering middle school, very specific plans are set in place. The planning for the transition of a Clubhouse student to Middle School begins in the winter before they move up in June. The Middle School team has had some training on special needs. The first student who moved up to middle school two years ago was on classroom support, and is active in Middle School. This year the first student moved to Middle School who needed one-on-one support, and a middle school leader was identified to partner with him. The special needs ministry to Middle/High School student is really just in its beginning phase, but two more students

will be moving into the middle school program this spring, offering yet further ministry opportunities.

Outside CBC's walls, the opportunities are endless. At least three other churches in the area have looked at the model we use with the Clubhouse and are reproducing it at their church. Austin's dreams continue to grow. She would like to see CBC providing more formal "real life" support for parents and siblings. Small groups, respite care, and educational help are just a few



The goal is to involve the special needs children in the Children's Ministry program in an environment that meets their individual learning needs.

areas that have huge potential. "Being the parent of a special needs child is demanding," Austin says. "One of their biggest desires is for their child to be accepted for who they are - celebrating

their growth, development and involvement in church, school, relationships, and life. Not looked down upon when they are having a hard day."

Praying faithfully for special needs students, siblings and parents is a huge first step that all CBC members can take. First, pray they will be able to worship without hindrance. That the student feel accepted and loved in the Children's Ministry, so other family members can also enjoy and be fed in their worship and class times without interruptions. Second, pray for an abundance of fellowship and support for each family member. The demands are far too great to carry alone. Finally, pray for wisdom and success as the families make numerous decisions about the child's education, behavior, and future plans.

Clubhouse fits perfectly into the mission and values of CBC. Not only is this an important part of being a community of believers, but it's an opportunity to serve some of God's most amazing kids and families, showing that we value God, His people, and His story. Austin says, "We are working with the parents of special needs children to help their child learn about God and His story in an environment that meets their needs."

If this ministry is calling your name, please contact Rachel Heagle or Mara Harmon (since I am transitioning to an advisory role). You won't be sorry! "I think everyone that has worked in the Clubhouse can testify not only to the growth of the children but also the growth we have experienced in working with them," beams Harmon. "I love these kids, they have taught me so much. I think sometimes people are intimidated by 'different' and they forget we can all learn from each other."

Through God's power and love, "different" has become CBC's "normal." To Him be the glory!



LIFT Leadership Team: (Back row) Pastor VanNorman, Linda Cypher (Front row) Jennifer Comegys, Elizabeth Howe

L.I.F.T. MINISTRY OPENS A NEW OFFICE

by Larry Strawn

What is LIFT?

LIFT is the CBC ministry that equips the Body to care for those who are hurting. LIFT is an acronym for Leading Individuals Through Fearful Times. Caregivers walk through difficult and stressful health-related situations with those entrusted to their care. Some situations are short-lived but they can also last for much longer periods. Caregivers demonstrate the love of God and His faithfulness to people in need by being involved for whatever length of time is involved.

This month, the LIFT ministry opened an office at CBC. Its purpose is to support caregivers with resources to help them with care-giving issues including referrals to community resources that can help with specific areas of need. The LIFT office is located in the Volunteer Center and will be open from 9:30am – 3pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The

office will be staffed by Jenny Comegys from the LIFT team.

The new CBC office is the latest effort of the LIFT volunteers to promote and encourage compassionate care at CBC. In fact, the ministry has had a long history, dating back to 1997. While working for Baptists for Life, Pastor Mark Blocher developed a theory/ethic for end-of-life care in the church. Jim Jeffrey, CBC's senior pastor at the time, suggested that Mark contact Jenny Comegys. He knew that she had a passion for training people to care for one another within the local church. Her passion grew out of involvement with the Nurses Christian Fellowship where she helped teach their "Love That Heals" course.

During that year, a group of interested people met and formed a team to develop a

*LIFT Ministries:
Compassionate care
for individuals with
chronic conditions
or terminal illnesses.*

concept for end-of-life caring at CBC. At that time, LIFT stood for "Loving Individuals in Final Transition". That team included Donna and Chester Harris, Jon Rohrer, Pastor VanNorman, Mark Blocher and Jenny Comegys. Jenny Comegys began the task of developing a teaching manual. The ministry grew and expanded under the ministry of Pastor Van Norman.

In time, the team realized that concentrating only on end-of-life care was not meeting the full need of the congregation. Terminal illnesses are often preceded by chronic illnesses. Adult children were sensing the need to be involved in the care needs of their parents and other elderly loved ones. As a result,

the team decided to expand the scope of the training to match the need, and ministry already taking place.

Baptists for Life asked that CBC pilot a compassionate program for them. The first class began in the spring of 1999. Over the years there have been approximately 75 –100 individuals who have taken the basic LIFT training. Volunteers continue to be caregivers for a number of the Body at CBC, and within their own sphere of influence including parents or other family members.

The LIFT Ministry Today

Classes and ministry initially focused on the elderly and their families. Over time, its focus has broadened to encompass the entire church body. Most recently, class materials have been re-arranged into chapters, making it easier to teach selected topics and to minister to inter-generational groups while requiring only a limited amount of adaptation. The classes include topics such as communication (especially listening skills), spiritual needs (using God's word with understanding in hurting situations), stress, suffering, crisis, chronic mental and physical illness, aging, advanced care planning, death, and grieving (children and adults). Caregivers who have been through the LIFT training have the opportunity to meet each month for support at Pastor and Jo Van Norman's house. They meet to pray for those receiving care as well as each other.

**Summary of LIFT Ministries:
Classes**
Compassionate care training

classes are offered on Wednesday evenings.

Classes taught in ABF's:

- Caring for your Aging Loved ones includes 3-4 weeks of teaching and provides resources for ongoing support in individual situations.
- Intentional caring includes three weeks of teaching and opportunity to put the material into practice.
- Grief and loss at the holiday season includes 2-3 weeks of teaching.

Special workshops:

- Advanced Care Planning — advanced directives, power of attorney, patient advocate, and end of life choices for care.
- Crisis – understanding the process and learning how to cope and minister.

The LIFT library

The library is available to support caregivers with information and encouragement. It is located on a cart within the Worldview Center.

Medical equipment

A limited supply of medical equipment including walkers, commodes, shower chairs and wheel chairs is available.

Personal support

LIFT also gives support to individuals helping them locate community resources to provide care (physical and emotional) for their loved ones. In addition they give encouragement and ideas for caring for elderly parents and connecting them with individuals within our church body who can help support them.

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Calvary Baptist Church
exists to represent the
reign of God as:
Community
Servant
Messenger

January 2010

WALKING WITH A FRIEND

by Elizabeth Howe

It was a road with twists and turns, light and shadow, highs and lows.

Doug and I met Rick and Patsy Kwast when we joined the Image Bearers ABF August 2005. Patsy's quiet strength drew me to her. We learned as weeks and months went by of Patsy's continuing courageous struggle with ovarian cancer. But we also saw a joy, and a peace and stability – based on their faith in the Lord Jesus.

What are the building blocks of a good friendship? Our youngest kids at Cedarville, our older kids married/engaged and grandkids – along with common interests like butterflies and flowers (Meijer Gardens), travel and table games. As time went on we found ourselves assuming we were going out to eat together on Saturday evenings and then play games: Skip Bo or Mexican Train (complete with a noisy whistle).

As we played, we talked about what was happening in our lives, what was challenging/upsetting – we all had things to share. We learned to care, to share Scripture with each other, to hurt with each other.

In January 2009, Patsy had a procedure done at Butterworth that left her with heart damage and a

stroke. The twin sons came with their wives from Ohio. Rick and their kids, Ruth and I and two of our pastors slipped into a hospital room to pray. What was God saying to us now?

Patsy came home from the hospital. Family stayed as long as they could. Rick, it was decided, should go back to work. Patsy would have physical therapy at home. What was needed? What had I learned from LIFT classes? Okay, someone needed to be a 'point person'. That could be me... Patsy could not be alone for the 12 hours Rick was gone each day. How was that going to work? And meals...

Rick suggested names of family and friends – I didn't know them – but I could phone them. And our ABF – they would help! Friends and family started calling me (the 'point person') and a schedule developed for a woman to be with Patsy for 12 hours per day, 5 days per week for 3 weeks. I could not believe it. God worked out those schedules. I prayed, phoned, wrote notes about availability and God provided.

It was not easy for those who went to sit with Patsy. Two of the ladies were taking the LIFT class at the time. I reminded myself and these ladies that we were giving Patsy the gift of

our presence. We were going to listen to Patsy. Just be there. We all counted the cost as we did not know what each day would hold. Some of those who went expressed how difficult it was. We prayed for each other and encouraged each other. The Lord stretched us and grew us in Him!



Others brought meals to eat and to fill the freezer. The list of women involved reads like the Hebrews 13 faithful: Jean, Judi, Melody, Betty, Sue, Faye, Marge, Marsha, Paula, Rita, Kari, Becky, Susan, Jenny, Linda, Ida, Mary, Diana, Elaine, Janice, Ruth, Karen, Colleen, Ann and others.

Over the weeks Patsy gained strength and we rejoiced to have Patsy and Rick back in our ABF on Sundays and Doug and I were back enjoying Saturday evening fun and fellowship with them. Our ABF prayer group continued

to pray for them weekly. Through his friendship with Rick, Doug tried to be a good listener and encourager.

As spring came Patsy wanted to go for a walk in Seidman Park. Ann, Ruth and I joined her. Patsy was always full of determination and she led the way through the muddy trails. But in the weeks to come, Patsy's increasing fatigue and weakness became apparent. After seven years of a valiant fight, Patsy was losing her battle with cancer.

One Sunday afternoon Rick and Patsy along with Doug and I talked about hospice care. Was it time? Did we need their help? Was this the next step of the journey God was taking us on?

The last days are the most difficult to relate. Immediate family arrived to stay. Friends and family came to say their last good-byes. But what a precious time it was for all as 'the kids' had not seen some of these people for years. There were two precious grandsons watching with an elderly mother witnessing the passing of her only child.

I had the privilege of teaching Rick and their daughters-in-law how to meet Patsy's personal needs. Then to watch how they tenderly and lovingly cared for her in her own home. Jenny brought LIFT resources (*Gone from My Sight* and a book on heaven), that were helpful to the family.



Ruth became the person coordinating meals. Many hugs were given and tears flowed as meals were delivered.

One day Rick said to me 'This changes everything. There won't be anymore Saturday nights out and table games for the four of us.'

Patsy died June 10, 2009, in her own home, with Rick and family at her side. There is finality in death. But Rick and Patsy are meeting at a specific location just outside the City gates.

And those of us who jumped in to intentionally care saw a faithful God supply what was needed to us and through us. It took a team. It took each one of us with our unique gifts and personalities. We were a blessing to Patsy and Rick and their family. But God grew us. We had the privilege to be His vessels. And looking back, Jesus guided us down each twist and turn in the road! I praise the Lord for the strength and grace He gave.

A Note From Rick Kwast

One additional help from Lift and Hospice was that I [we] could spend the majority of eight days almost continually with or around Patsy. When the time came for Patsy to leave us, I was holding her very close while Erica was tending to some hygienic matters. I could feel Patsy's breathing becoming much weaker and called for the kids to come into the bedroom. They came, Erica finished her work and then I gently rolled Patsy on her back. She took one or two shallow breaths and then she was Home. At that moment I missed part of the significance of what had just happened but the next day I remembered it. Almost 35 years earlier, the man in Patsy's life handed his girl to me to love, protect and share life with. The night before, I handed my "girl" off to her Heavenly Father to share Eternal Life with and I'll join them when it is my turn. I am so grateful for the gift of being there when it was time. "Lift" was part of enabling me to be there.

Thank you!
Rick Kwast



THE LEGACY OF DONNA HARRIS

by Chester Harris

Many people expend much time and effort building legacies to leave to others. Quite often it is a monetary bequest that is passed on to someone after the grantor's death. In the last two decades, it seems many politicians focus on what their "legacies" will be when they leave office, giving more attention on making a name for themselves and being remembered than to governing well. Everyone is currently constructing something that will be left behind. What people remember about you after your death is your legacy. Just as it is true in forensics, very much can be determined about a person by the "tracks" he or she leaves behind.

My purpose in this article is to attempt to reduce the extensive impact, the many "footprints," the legacy of my late wife, Donna Harris, into several paragraphs. It is a daunting task for she left a huge impact here when the Lord called her to His home. Literally, to her last hours, she was building a wonderful and unique heritage for those of us who knew and loved her. Further, my purpose is not to lionize her but to give God the glory for what He did in and through His child.

The Lord gave me the distinct privilege to love and be loved by this woman for more than 37 years. We had the honor of not only being husband and wife for more than 35 years, but also being partners in ministry. The legacy she left in my life could fill this article. I have been forever transformed by our relationship. Our two children (Jacob and Alicia), their spouses (Lachelle and Mike), and our grandchildren could add pages to the story. However, I decided to summarize Donna's legacy by giving you a glimpse into the "returns" on her greatest "investment:" people. I contacted a sample of the hundreds of people the Lord used her to touch in some way. I



cannot include all of what they communicated, but I have condensed their comments into several themes.

Relationship with God

Donna loved her Lord. She loved to read Scripture and was faithful student of it. She delighted in discussing, teaching, even debating biblical truth and using it to encourage others. She had an insatiable appetite for it, spending significant time in it each day. As Deb Grandmason recalls, "I worked for Donna when she was the director of a small non-profit organization. I saw her studying her Bible and praying on 'company time'. At first it bothered me that she didn't do her studying at home. After a while, I realized she studied and prayed at home too...study and prayer were simply a part of all facets of her life. I used to tease her about being the only person I knew who actually studied Habakkuk! She modeled for me how to study and pray with a purpose, how to

seek answers in Scripture when it seems no answer is there, and how to pray and listen when you feel too empty to do so."

Reflecting on Donna's legacy since her death, Gary Wells made this observation: "I think what strikes me about Donna's life is Truth. Donna was always able to bring you back to the Truth. She may counsel you, laugh with you, but in the end she would speak the Truth. Those of us that had the pleasure of knowing Donna will remember her for her warmth, genuine spirit, and the Truth she stood for." Coworker, Sharon Langjeans, remembers: "She didn't let me off the hook when I was wrong. With a gentle hand she would help me to look at the whole picture, generally from the other person's perspective. We used to joke about how impatient I am and that 'if God has to teach me patience before I die...I am going to be a very old woman.' Well, she would be pleased to know in this last illness I have learned patience,

Continued on page 9



faith, and perseverance. As she would tell me, ‘Let go and let GOD,’ and I have.”

Thinking about her mother’s impact Alicia wrote: “What she shared with me throughout my entire life is what I think of most when I think of what her legacy is to me. [It] was her unwavering devotion to God. This devotion is what is weaved through every memory I have of her and is what still lives on in me today. She taught me so much about trusting God during the good, bad, and ugly times of life. She was human and she struggled with the curves that God put along her journey, but through it all she would realize she didn’t have to understand why God was choosing this path, but would believe that His plan was far greater and would simply trust Him. I have realized the importance of this lesson in many ways in my adult life and especially over the last two years since she passed away. Her legacy lives on through me as my devotion to God strengthens and I trust Him through the curves that God is putting along my journey. The greatest way I could honor her and her legacy is to strive, with God’s help, to be a fully devoted follower of Him, and to pass this devotion on to my son, Logan. I’m so grateful to God for giving me a mom who followed Him with her whole heart and passed on that love to me.”

Devotion to Ministry

Donna’s relationship with her Lord was the basis for her love for people and devotion to using her spiritual gifts of pastor-teacher and exhortation to their fullest. In her final weeks of life when my tendency was to protect her strength and give her rest, she admonished me by saying “Don’t you keep people away from coming!” So, we set up a schedule that allowed people to come for brief visits, even on the day she died. This “other-mindedness” was a theme I saw and many people mentioned.

Our son, Jacob, observed: “Mom had an ability to make people feel accepted and wanted. There are very few people (my wife is one) that can make people feel accepted by just simply talking with them or spending time with them. This came from deep inside her. I don’t think she ever felt like she was good enough. But instead of letting that be an excuse, she used it to make sure others didn’t feel that way.”

A niece, Sue Beckett, wrote about her influence in the Squires family: “Aunt Donna’s faith never seemed to waver even when she was diagnosed with cancer. She made sure that everyone in her family knew that she loved them and she was praying for them. She had an incredible gift of encouragement, love and support to give to others, especially her family. Her faith and her dedication to God were evident until the

end. When she was the one who needed prayers, I remember her saying ‘I’m praying for you.’”

Donna often used stories to communicate truth and exhort life change. She was an expert storyteller and possessed a God-given ability to “bait the hook” so her hearers would “bite,” thereby getting the point of the tale. John Vanden Toorn recounts one of her stories: “There are some sermons you never forget. Something that has changed the way you live your life, the way you now see and do things differently. I was given a gift more precious than all that I have. Donna gave me new insight to where my Father wanted me. She told a story of how God used each animal in a particular way that enhanced His Creation. We as humans are no different; we must realize God can only use us when we follow Him. We are not all ministers, missionaries, evangelists, etc. (I wanted to be a traditional missionary). God needed someone that would do the dirty jobs. Now I am a missionary. I am doing what He intended with my life. Donna said, ‘Squirrels climb trees, ducks swim in the lake, and birds fly’ and with her beautiful eyes she asked me without saying a word, ‘John, God is asking you what will your inheritance be, what is the legacy you will leave?’ That night my life changed forever.”

In Jillian Boukma, Donna found a kindred spirit. Jillian remembers the relationship this way: “I loved her zest for life and energy, she could fill up the room. I didn’t even know she was ill for the longest time because she never made that her focus. She taught me how to love our Lord and Savior like no one has ever before. I loved to hear her stories and teaching. She always made me feel so loved. Her love for our Lord was so big and true! Many times after being with her I would go home feeling encouraged and ready to strengthen my relationship with my Lord. I was a hungry person and needed godly women to mentor me and I said to her ‘I want you.’ With the kind of grace common to her, she accepted. I was so happy to have the time she so graciously set aside to teach me! I think back at how incredibly selfless a person she really was. Even in our last talk, her main focus was to encourage me! I treasure

her memory and speak of her often to my children. I hope that what she has taught me I can teach them.”

Ministry partner Jen Comegys recalls that Donna “was a personal encourager in the growing pains of the LIFT ministry. She was able to help us on the leadership team think objectively and not be afraid to try new things. She always encouraged deeper study in the Word. She was faithful as a friend and a ministry leader. She was willing to say things clearly and to the point, but was sensitive to how the message was received.”

Thinking of her practical application of truth, Gary Wells put it this way: “Donna was able to break down [biblical truth] and ‘write it in chalk on the sidewalk.’” Deb Grandmason said Donna had an “uncanny ability to ‘cut to the chase’ when I chatted with her about different situations. When I tried to stonewall she had a way of looking at me, not saying a word, and knowing I was avoiding the issue.”

Ministry in Her Workplace

Donna loved her profession, cardiac sonography, because she enjoyed the medical field and, most importantly, because it gave her many opportunities to interact with two more groups of people: her colleagues and patients. Coworker, Anne Stratton, forwarded these memories: “Donna taught me about strength and courage, but also at



Proverbs 31 describes a rare and valuable wife and mother. This woman is characterized by diligence, hard work, entrepreneurial skills, and integrity. Donna exemplified the qualities.

the same time taught me how to have a sense of humor during those tough periods. Her faith was amazing to me. I remember Donna showing up at the hospital at 5 a.m. on a snowy March morning just to sit and pray with me before I went in for a major surgery after battling a major illness for months. [Her visit] touched me so much.”

Her manager, Joe Lehman, made these observations: “I worked with Donna for many years. First as someone who shared a passion for sonography and children, and later as her work supervisor. Donna and I had many, many conversations about why we were on this earth and our common answer: To serve our fellow travelers, which meant serving the Lord. There is a plaque on the wall near my office which has a picture of Donna and the names of the two recipients of the annual ‘Donna Harris Employee Excellence’ award. The award is given annually to the staff member, selected by their peers, that exhibits the core values of Spectrum Health AND the additional DONNA HARRIS values of friendship to all, a loving and generous heart, humor, professional dedication, generosity, perseverance, uplifting attitude and leading by example. While there are many awards in this world that are given out because someone looks good, plays politics well, or outright buys votes, this particular award has been free of those qualities and has been given to those staff members who quietly and with dedication serve our patients. To me, that is the legacy of Donna. Doing what you can, when you can, without fanfare. Doing it because one cares and one knows that an act of kindness is an extension of the hand of God.”

Proverbs 31 Woman

Proverbs 31 describes a rare and valuable wife and mother. This woman is

characterized by diligence, hard work, entrepreneurial skills, and integrity. Donna exemplified the qualities. The words my family and I placed on her grave marker come from verse 29, “Many have done nobly, but she surpassed them all.” I believe her most important legacy is the one she left in our children.

Jacob began his comments with these words: “How do you write about the legacy of someone you know just as Mom? As a child growing up, anything Mom did was just that, something Mom did. It didn’t strike me as odd or different. It was just simply, Mom. I wasn’t aware that other moms didn’t do the things that mine did. Nor did I see the sacrifices she made for our family on a daily basis. I guess that is one of the things that made Mom special or different. She never tried to make a big deal about what she was doing. She would see a need and do her best to fill it without worrying about who got the credit. I don’t believe she even wanted the credit. A sincere ‘thanks’ or genuine gratitude from those she helped was good enough for her, but was never the reason she did it.”

In a similar vein, Alicia began by saying, “To me, my Mom’s legacy isn’t in the organizations she helped start, or in the ministries in which she served, her legacy to me is just being my Mom. She was my prayer warrior and my greatest cheerleader. She was my confidant and my best friend. She challenged and encouraged me. She shared herself sacrificially to me in so many ways.”

Donna was one who “left footprints of love forever” in the lives of all the people she interacted with in life. The inheritance she left behind is far more valuable than a great sum of money. Her legacy was reflecting her Lord to others. As I mentioned earlier, she loved stories with a “hook.” Here it is. Every one of us is building some form of heritage. We are all leaving “tracks” in the lives of others. What kind of legacy are you leaving in your family, your church, your workplace, your community? Hopefully, reading Donna’s story will encourage you to carefully examine your life and make necessary changes.

CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW RESOURCE CENTER

by Chris Brewer

It was around four years ago that Jim Emery asked the Foundations class if we knew of anyone who might be interested in working in the library. Rachel and I had just moved back from a one-year internship in Perkasio, PA, and as I was unemployed and eager to get involved at Calvary, I volunteered.

After a few conversations with then interim Worldview Ministries Director Mark Blocher, and with the help of Linda Cypher and a team of dedicated volunteers, we began the task of revamping the Library into a Resource Center.

What's the difference between a Library and a Resource Center? Well, for starters we don't use the Dewey Decimal System, no one will tell you to "shush" and we don't charge late fees (though we do hope that you'll bring the resources back in a timely manner). Besides that, we envision the Resource Center being more than a lending library. It's more like a library-bookstore-gallery-café, or at least that's what we hope it will be – a place where the body comes to buy or borrow resources, engage art that tells the Story, and have a cup of coffee while chatting with other members so we might be taught and equipped.

Here is what you need to know to use the Resource Center most effectively:

- As previously mentioned, we don't use the Dewey Decimal System. Instead, the books are organized like they would be in a Christian bookstore, with sections on Theology, Christian Living and so on. Within these sections, the books are organized alphabetically by author's last name, with the exception of the commentaries which follow the Biblical order.
- Because we value God and His Word, we have various translations of the Bible, as well as things like concordances, dictionaries, and at least one commentary on every book of the Bible so we might be taught and equipped. If you've never used tools like these, you might want to check out Duvall and Hays, *Grasping God's Word: A Hands-On Approach to Reading, Interpreting and Applying the Bible* – available in the

Resource Center. If you already have a grasp on the basics of Bible study then you'll want to know about a few resources that are available for you to use:

- o *The Bible in 90 Days* (Zondervan, 2005).
- o *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*, six vol. edited by David Noel Freedman (Doubleday, 1992).
- o *The Holy Land Satellite Atlas*, two vol. (Rohr Productions, 1999).
- o *Tyndale Old and New Testament Commentaries*
- In addition, we have a Worldview Formation section that has books to help us better understand the Story, and apply it to things like work, education, etc.
 - o *Total Truth* by Nancy Pearcey
 - o *Real Sex* by Lauren F. Winner
 - o *Heaven is a Place on Earth* by Michael E. Wittmer
- The Fiction section is suggestive as opposed to exhaustive. What does that mean? First, we have books that you would never find at a Christian bookstore. Why? Because we do not recognize the sacred/secular split inherent in much Christian publishing and bookselling, and there are many books well worth reading – many by Christian authors – that you would never find in a Christian bookstore. We want to suggest these books to you. Second, it goes without saying that we have neither the space nor the funding to purchase every book, and so with regard to series, we've made the decision to have only the first three books. If you like the series, you can either buy the remaining books or borrow them from your local library – a great way to connect in your local community. Again, our aim is to suggest the sorts of books that you might read – books like these:
 - o *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens – in memory of Louise Schurman
 - o *Hood* by Stephen R. Lawhead (Thomas Nelson, 2008)
 - o *Where Love Is, There God is*



The Resource Center exists to make available resources that will teach and equip the body to develop a proper view of the world and a proper view for the world through embracing the fullness of God's Story which will lead to rightly engaging His world.

Also – three short stories by Leo Tolstoy (Revell, 2001)

- You will also find sections for Children and Youth as well as Audio Books and DVDs, all with the aim of teaching and equipping.
 - o *The Big Picture Story Bible* by David Helm with illustrations by Gail Schoonmaker (Crossway, 2004)

Art That Tells the Story

Besides having resources for the building up of the body, we wanted to include visual art as another means of telling the Story, and so we began looking for four pieces that would tell the Story of Creation, Fall, Redemption and Consummation. The first piece we purchased was *Hell* by Scott Laumann. Next came *Simeon's Song* and *Anna's Song* by Peter Gordon, and then a print by Wayne Forte. It didn't take long for me to figure out that it was going to be hard to tell the Story with four pieces, and I began to see that art could be a powerful way of rehearsing the Story and sharing the Gospel. The collection now includes eighteen or so pieces, and we intend for it to continue to grow so we might affirm the goodness of God's creation through art, encourage the artists among us, and speak a redemptive word to the Grand Rapids community and beyond... through art.