

The Ceresco Messenger

May 2024

What Does the Bible Say About Christian Mothers?

Being a mother is a very important role that the Lord chooses to give to many women. A Christian mother is told to love her children ([Titus 2:4-5](#)), in part so that she does not bring reproach on the Lord and on the Savior whose name she bears.

Children are a gift from the Lord ([Psalm 127:3-5](#)). In [Titus 2:4](#), the Greek word *philoteknos* appears in reference to mothers loving their children. This word represents a special kind of “mother love.” The idea that flows out of this word is that of caring for our children, nurturing them, affectionately embracing them, meeting their needs, and tenderly befriending each one as a unique gift from the hand of God.

Several things are commanded of Christian mothers in God’s Word:

Availability - morning, noon, and night ([Deuteronomy 6:6-7](#))

Involvement - interacting, discussing, thinking, and processing life together ([Ephesians 6:4](#))

Teaching - the Scriptures and a biblical worldview ([Psalm 78:5-6](#); [Deuteronomy 4:10](#); [Ephesians 6:4](#))

Training - helping a child to develop skills and discover his/her strengths ([Proverbs 22:6](#)) and spiritual gifts ([Romans 12:3-8](#) and [1 Corinthians 12](#))

Discipline - teaching the fear of the Lord, drawing the line consistently, lovingly, firmly ([Ephesians 6:4](#); [Hebrews 12:5-11](#); [Proverbs 13:24](#); [19:18](#); [22:15](#); [23:13-14](#); [29:15-17](#))

Nurture - providing an environment of constant verbal support, freedom to fail, acceptance, affection, unconditional love ([Titus 2:4](#); [2 Timothy 1:7](#); [Ephesians 4:29-32](#); [5:1-2](#); [Galatians 5:22](#); [1 Peter 3:8-9](#))

Modeling with Integrity - living what you say, being a model from which a child can learn by “catching” the essence of godly living ([Deuteronomy 4:9](#), [15](#), [23](#); [Proverbs 10:9](#); [11:3](#); [Psalm 37:18](#), [37](#)).

The Bible never states that every woman should be a mother. However, it does say that those whom the Lord blesses to be mothers should take the responsibility seriously. Mothers have a unique and crucial role in the lives of their children. Motherhood is not a chore or unpleasant task. Just as a mother bears a child during pregnancy, and just as a mother feeds and cares for a child during infancy, so mothers also play an ongoing role in the lives of their children, whether they are adolescents, teenagers, young adults, or even adults with children of their own. While the role of motherhood must change and develop, the love, care, nurture, and encouragement a mother gives should never cease.

MARTHA CIRCLE MINUTES, March 13, 2024 -Hostess Dawn Frey

Present: Dawn Frey, Sharon Hadley, Sarah Collins, Joy Sommers, Marcy Bonney, Linda Chisolm, Joanne Henley, Darlene Anthony, Veronica Anthony, Pastor Mary.

Devotions: Given by Dawn: Taken from a book "Victorious Living". Perfumes Perfect Gift. 2Cor.2:14. It speaks of the Apostle Paul spreading the word of God and it is as a fine perfume. Christ is our fragrant leader and our perfect gift and we are the "aroma" as we spread the gospel.

Collections: Devotions \$15.65. Love Gift \$16.65

Secretary Report: Given by Sharon: Our last time of being together was at our December meeting when we had our Christmas party and it was a super great time.

Treasurer Report: Given by Joy: Ending balance for November \$2,261.73. A four slice toaster has been purchased for the Men's Breakfast at \$22.93. A check for \$125 was received to pay for four craft show spaces. Christmas Shoe Boxes: 24 were filled and paid for by the Martha Circle. Bake Sale: Jan.\$54 Feb. \$77.

Sunshine Girl: Given by Sarah: Will send "thinking of you" card to Joyce Cary.

Missions: Given by Marcy: Amanda and Jon Good are beginning a new ministry location and will meet with Italian Baptists in June. Samaritan's Purse: 11 million Operation Child Shoebox gifts sent around the world. Many recipients will be enrolling in "The Greatest Journey" (discipleship classes designed for children receiving shoebox gifts). 36 million New Testaments awarded to graduates in 91 languages in 98 countries. 14 ambulances and 1,000 advanced trauma life support kits delivered to Israeli communities.

Old Business: Dawn gave a thank you to all who helped fill the shoeboxes and to those who donated money and clothing to help fill the boxes.

New Business: ABW Conference in Dewitt June 7-9.

Event Dates: May 4th Craft/Vendor show 9-3. \$25 per 12x12 space and this does not include table. They will be \$5 extra and they are limited. May 18-Mother and Daughter luncheon. Plants and Flowers possible theme. Will discuss in more detail at next meeting. August 17th - Treasure Sale.

October 11, Friday- Spaghetti Dinner 5-7. We will be collecting for shoe boxes in November and filling Nov. 13.

Election of officers: President-Dawn Frey Vice President: Darlene Anthony; Secretary-Sharon Hadley, Treasurer-Joy Sommers; Missions-Marcy Bonny; Sunshine Girl-Sarah Collins

Hostess for 2024; April 10th-Marcy; May 8th-Sarah; June 12th- Picnic; July 10th-Open; August 14th-Veronica; September 11th- Darlene; October 9th-Sharon; November 13th-Joy; December-Christmas party

Pastor Mary dismissed us with a prayer and refreshments and conversation followed.

Next meeting: April 10th-Hostess is Marcy

Submitted by Sharon Hadley: Secretary

MARTHA CIRCLE MINUTES: April 10-24 Hostess: Marcy Bonney

PRESENT:Dawn Frey, Sharon Hadley, Joy Sommers, Pastor Mary, Linda Chisholm, Darlene Anthony, Veronica Anthony

Devotions: Given by Marcy- Romans 12:10. We seem to be too busy in or Dailey lives to look around and recognize our blessings. We miss opportunities to share the Gospel with others and we need to realize that we may be the only Bible some people see. It would do well to put prayer on our "to do" list.

Collections: Devotions \$13.00. Love gift \$14.85

Secretary Report: Given by Sharon - Just a brief summary of last month's meeting.

Treasurer Report: Given by Joy- March balance-\$2,258.56. Dawn turned in \$175 for craft show spaces. To Isaiah House, we have \$275 to be sent in from the donations of the Sep., Oct., Nov., Jan., and Feb. bake sales.

Missions: Given by Marcy - From the IM report. Hungary:-Has seen many wars and the celebration of hope is exercised at Easter time. Mexico:-Deborah's House is a refuge for women and children escaping domestic abuse. Honduras and Cuba-Rainwater system projects. Western Nepal- White Cross projects continue. Message to all from IM-It takes a team for God to fulfill the Great Commission given to us in Matthew 28:18-20.

Old Business: Discussed May 4 craft show. At this time we have (11) inside and (4) outside. We will offer a luncheon of hot dogs, chips, and a drink for \$5. The guys, Dave and Rick, will grill the hot dogs. Set up will be Friday 4:00 to 6:00. Dawn will prepare article for B.C. Shopper and Marshall Advisor. Sharon will get signs to be posted at corners. Mother and Daughter luncheon will be Saturday, May 18. Further details will be discussed at May meeting.

Meeting adjourned and time for snacks.

Next meeting: May 8 - Hostess: Sarah Collins

One Great HOUR OF SHARING

We are collecting for our annual One Great Hour of Sharing Offering during May & June. We do a Mother's Day and Father's Day bulletin insert honoring/ remembering our mothers/grandmothers and fathers/ grandfathers. For those that want to have people listed on the inserts, we ask that you make a donation to this offering. There are special envelopes available at the church during May & June.

We will be celebrating the **Class of 2024** on June 9th. If you have a graduate for us to celebrate, please send their information to Joy Sommers at cerescobaptist@gmail.com by May 15th. Thank you!

Our **Annual Mother/Daughter Potluck** is scheduled for Saturday, May 18th. More details will be available in the church bulletins leading up to it. Meeting at 11:30 am, eat at noon.
Men will do the kitchen clean-up for us.

May Family Night Potluck is May 15th. We would like to have people bring a graduation picture (or photo from that time-frame) to have others guess as to who it is. Wear pastel and/or bright colors. Bring a passing dish and your own table service.

Plans are underway for our
170th Church Anniversary Celebration.
Be sure to 'save the dates' - August 3-4, 2024



HAPPY Anniversary

May 3 Valerie Kibby
 May 3 Stephen Phelps
 May 5 Jayme Biljum
 May 5 Alex Finch
 May 6 Jared Babcock
 May 15 Marcy Bonney
 May 15 Chrissy Wilkens
 May 17 Kalab Gary
 May 19 Heather Casey
 May 24 Patricia "Trish" Ivey
 May 25 Diane Biljum
 May 25 Melissa Boysen
 May 26 Shawn Skinner
 May 27 Oak D Wasielewski

Jun 1 Ronald D Stewart
 Jun 2 Santiago Johnston
 Jun 3 Reginald Matthews Jr
 Jun 4 Linda Chisholm
 June 7 Garrett Gary
 Jun 9 Ed Kirkland
 Jun 9 Christoph Johnston
 Jun 10 Bud Halder
 Jun 12 Joshua Ivey
 Jun 15 Krista Lopshire
 Jun 17 Kyle Gary
 Jun 17 Sally Beltz
 Jun 17 Barbara Gary
 Jun 18 Sally Slayton
 Jun 21 Angela Sommers
 Jun 22 Gannon Gary
 Jun 25 Dan Johnston
 Jun 26 James Anthony
 Jun 28 Hailey Shepherd

May 2 Scott & Melissa Boysen
 May 6 Craig & Nicole Thomas
 May 6 Alex & Olivia Farmer
 May 7 Brad & Charity Gary
 May 21 Jason & Emily Ivey

Jun 22 Ed & Pam Kirkland
 Jun 26 Justin & Heather Casey

Children's Time Sign-Up

5/5/24 - OPEN

5/12/24 - Sommers

5/19/24 - OPEN

5/26/24 - Sommers

Flower Sign-Up

5/5/24 - Sommers

5/12/24 - OPEN

5/19/24 - OPEN

5/26/24 - Sommers



Are You Spiritually Malnourished?

Love Worth Finding Daily Heartbeat

“Teach me, O Lord, the way of Your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it.” (Psalm 119:33-35)

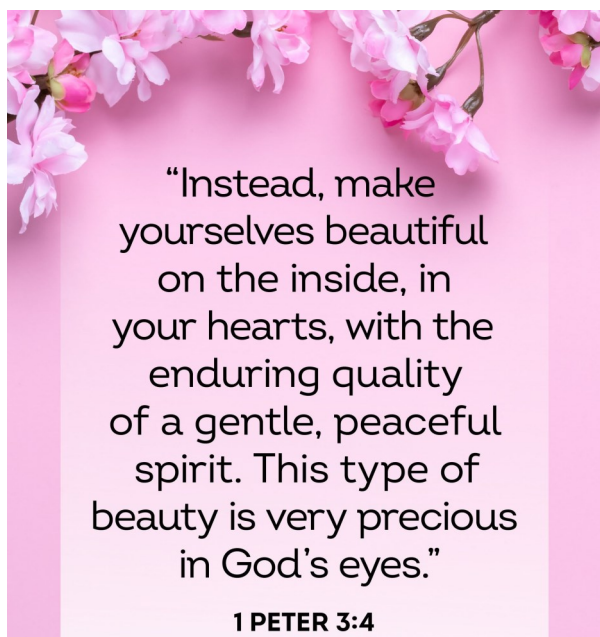
PONDER THIS Growth requires nourishment. You need to feed on the Word of God. First Peter 2:2 says, “As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby” (KJV). Do you desire God’s Word this way? This is something I don’t want you to miss. There is no way under God’s sun that you can grow without taking nourishment, and your nourishment is the Word of God.

I don’t want to hurt your feelings, but I’ve been in the church long enough to know that most Christians are spiritually out of shape. They have no strength. They have no muscles. They have no vitality because they have no exercise. They come on Sunday morning and sit and soak and think that by being at church they’re serving God. They call this the service, but it’s not the service. The service begins when you walk out those doors. And when you begin to serve God, you’re going to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Don’t worry about what you can’t do. Find out what you can do and begin to do it, and you will grow. Take the first step today to get nourishment from the Word of God.

How have you been growing in your faith recently?

What challenges do you face in growing in your faith?

PRACTICE THIS Talk to a mentor in the faith. Commit to specific steps toward growth and ask that person to help you be accountable.



May 2024

Sunday	Mon.		Tue.		Wed.		Thu.		Fri.		Saturday	
					1		2		3		4	Annual Craft Show 9am-3pm
5	6		7		8		9		10		11	
Communion Sunday	Boy Scouts 7 pm		Relay for Life Planning Meeting 6:30 pm		Bible Study 10 am WMT 5 pm Martha Circle 6 pm		Zoom Bible Study, 6 pm					
12	13		14		15		16		17		18	
Mother's Day	Boy Scouts 7 pm				Bible Study 10 am Family Night Potluck 6 pm		Zoom Bible Study, 6 pm					
19	20		21		22		23		24		25	
Pentecost Sunday, Rev. Owens, Pulpit Supply	Boy Scouts 7 pm		Relay for Life Planning Meeting 6:30 pm		Bible Study 10 am		Zoom Bible Study, 6 pm					
26	27		28		29		30		31		1	
Fellowship Sunday & Bake Sale	Memorial Day				Bible Study 10 am Information for June Messenger due at Noon		Zoom Bible Study, 6 pm				Men's Breakfast 8:00 am	

The Images of Mother

4 YEARS OF AGE - My Mommy can do anything!

8 YEARS OF AGE - My Mom knows a lot! A whole lot!

12 YEARS OF AGE - My Mother doesn't really know quite everything.

14 YEARS OF AGE - Naturally, Mother doesn't know that, either.

16 YEARS OF AGE - Mother? She's hopelessly old-fashioned.

18 YEARS OF AGE - That old woman? She's way out of date!

25 YEARS OF AGE - Well, she might know a little bit about it.

35 YEARS OF AGE - Before we decide, let's get Mom's opinion.

45 YEARS OF AGE - Wonder what Mom would have thought about it?

65 YEARS OF AGE - Wish I could talk it over with Mom.



The beauty of a woman is not in the clothes she wears, the figure that she carries, or the way she combs her hair. The beauty of a woman must be seen from in her eyes, because that is the doorway to her heart, the place where love resides. The beauty of a woman is not in a facial mole, but true beauty in a woman is reflected in her soul. It is the caring that she lovingly gives, the passion that she shows, and the beauty of a woman with passing years only grows!

Mothers Day

A Mother loves right from the start. She holds her baby close to her heart.
The bond that grows will never falter. Her love is so strong it will never alter.
A Mother gives never ending Love. She never feels that she has given enough.
For you she will always do her best. Constantly working, there's no time to rest.
A Mother is there when things go wrong. A hug and a kiss to help us along.
Always there when we need her near. Gently wipes our eyes when we shed a tear.
So on this day shower your Mother with Love. Gifts and presents are nice but that is not enough.
Give your Mother a day to have some peace of mind. Be gentle, be good, be helpful, be kind.
Happy Mothers Day.

~ **Carol Matthews**

A Mother...

When you're a child she walks before you, To set an example.
When you're a teenager she walks behind you
To be there should you need her.
When you're an adult she walks beside you
So that as two friends you can enjoy life together..

Author Unknown

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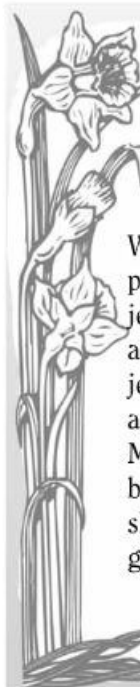
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Craft / Vendor Show

**May 4th, 9am-3pm at
Ceresco Baptist Church**
230 Marshall St., Ceresco

Woodworking, bird feeders, hand painted wood & metal tins, permanent jewelry, machine embroidered items and purses, cards, book pillows, jewelry, rice packs, kitchen towels, aprons, key chains, shadow boxes, Michigan themed items, local author's books, hops pain cream, all natural skin & body products, fairy gardens, gnomes, hand made rugs, knitted dish cloths, hand made soap.



Mother / Daughter Potluck

Saturday, May 18, 2024
Meet at 11:30 am
Luncheon at Noon