

“THE BELL”



BANGOR LIBERTY FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

"The Bell"

Newsletter of Bangor Liberty Friends—February 2019

The Sisters

Recently, it was my turn to provide devotions for the monthly meeting of the Ministry & Counsel. I chose to use the text from Luke 10, verse 38-43, as the inspiration. This is the familiar story of the sisters, Mary and Martha. A few days after presenting this devotion to the M&C I realized that I hadn't really gone far enough and had failed to tell the story of Mary and Martha completely. I hope that I can do that here.

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

So, what do we learn from this little episode? Well, we see that Martha is the one who opened her home to Jesus. But after bringing Jesus into

the home she becomes preoccupied with other things and neglects to spend time with Jesus. Her sister, Mary, however, seats herself at the feet of Christ and ignores everything else. Typically, sermons end or focus on this point. Mary sat at His feet and Martha was caught up in other things. The question is always, "Which one are you, Mary or Martha?" It's a valid question if you leave the story there.

Unfortunately, it's question that comes from only partial knowledge and a partial understanding of the full story of Mary and Martha.

Mary and Martha together represent the church and the relationship of people within the church to each other. The church cannot be made up nothing but people like Mary. Likewise, the church needs people like Martha. There is a time for all of us to be Mary and a time for us all to be Martha. Mary represents the believer who sits at the feet of Jesus soaking up all the knowledge, wisdom and peace that flows from a relationship with their Savior.

Martha represents the people in the church who prepare pot luck meals, who cut the grass and shovel the snow. She is the one working at the church to make it more comfortable and meaningful for those around her.

It isn't that you we have to choose between being Martha or Mary.

between being Martha or Mary. Instead, the point is that we are all Martha and Mary. Each of us have seasons in our lives where we are serving and learning. If we do nothing but sit at Jesus feet and spend our days learning, studying theology, it eventually puffs us up with pride that we know and understand the scriptures better than those around us. That is the perfect environment for legalism and a cold, loveless faith that benefits no one, including ourselves. It is only when we put that knowledge to work, when we internalize all that we learn and express it through service to others and the church that we fully realize and represent the image of our Savior.

What we really learn from Luke 10:38-43 isn't to be more like Mary and less like Martha. It's that neither Mary or Martha had it figured out at that time. It was early in their faith journey. They had just met Jesus and their knowledge was only partial of who and what he was, is and would become. It's not until you read the eleventh chapter of the Gospel of John that you really see Mary and Martha as fully committed and devoted believers.

In John 11, Lazarus has died, Mary and Martha send for Jesus and he comes to them. Martha knowing that He is coming is waiting for him. No longer is she focused on dishes and other things. Now she waits on the Lord. In verse 27 she tells Jesus, "I know that you are the Christ, the Son of God who is coming into the world." Chronologically this would

have been even before Peter makes the same claim in Matthew 16. Martha the one who had been too busy to sit with Jesus, the one who demanded that Mary be forced to help her, the same Martha who loaded herself up with duties and chores has now come to a full understanding of Jesus.

The full story of Mary and Martha is one of spiritual growth and maturity, as well as one of the relationships within the Body of Christ. You and I are each empowered and gifted by our creator differently and uniquely to accomplish His will. We each have parts to play in the church. At various times these gifts may carry us to widely different and unique positions and duties within the Body. It is necessary for us to recognize when we are being too much Martha, or too much Mary. It is only in seeking the proper balance between the two sides that we find peace and fulfillment in doing His will within the church.

Library Ledge—

We have two new books by Billy Graham: *Where I Am: Heaven, Eternity, and Our Life Beyond* and *Hear My Heart: What I Would Say to You*. A book by Franklin Graham about Billy Graham: *Through My Father's Eyes*.

Also *Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story*, *Unbroken: Path to Redemption*, and a DVD *I Can Only Imagine*. Also on our shelves: Tim Tebow's *Shaken, Let's Roll!* by Lisa Beamer, Mike Singletary *One-on-One* and so many more!

Upcoming Events—

Feb 9	Deeper in the Spirit Oskaloosa, IA
Feb 10	Christian Ed Mtg
Feb 17	Pot-Luck Meal
Feb 21	Liberty USFW Hostess: Sharon J
Feb 23	QM Winter Banquet
Mar 8-9	Bloom and Become Women's Conf.
Mar 8-9	Blizzard Blast
Mar 15-16	Ignite Conf. @ DSM For youth workers
March 23	Spring Body of Reps.
April 27	USFW Spring Fling
July 24-27	IAYM Ministry Conf.
Sept 13-15	Family Camp
Sept 20-21	USFW Fall Retreat
Oct 18-22	Fall Pastor's Conf.
Nov 1-2	All-Boards Retreat

Birthdays—

Anniversaries—

Mesquakie Friends Church

Friendly Kidz & Youth:

On Wednesday nights you will find Mac & Berny picking up 30-60 Children for 2 hours of fun, food and Jesus.

This evening is at the core of the ministry of Mesquakie friends. One visit and you will find that your heart has been stolen and you will begin planning your next chance to come back. All are welcome!

Deeper in the Spirit

College Avenue Friends

If you were not able to attend the spring workshops, you may still register for the fall workshops. Contact Charlotte at Stangeland-char@gmail.com

The final Deeper in the Spirit workshop for the spring will take place on February 9th at College Avenue Friends in Oskaloosa, IA beginning at 9:30am. The first session is "Marketplace Ministry" and will run until 12:00. After lunch, the afternoon session will be "Equipping & Leadership Gifts".

To view the Fall workshop information please go to [www. IAYM.org](http://www.IAYM.org).

Blizzard Blast!! BRAVE

5th—8th Grade Lock-In
Marshalltown YMCA
March 8th—9th

March 8

6:00pm - Registration

(at Marshalltown Friends Church)

7:00pm - Worship

8:30pm - Supper

9:30pm - Head to the YMCA

10:00pm - Swimming / Free Time

12:00am - Games / Tournaments

5:30am - Clean up

6:00am - Head home

(pick up at Marshalltown YMCA)

Cost (until February 25): \$25

Cost (after February 25): \$30

Bring...athletic clothes, swimsuit and towel, and a friend. We will have food and snacks available, but there is vending on site, if you wish to bring change for that. We will take care of the rest.

REGISTRATION FORM

*Bloom
and
Become*

FAIRFIELD FRIENDS CHURCH
1209 S, 6th Street,
Fairfield IA
Phone: 641-472-2623
Email: ffcwomens@gmail.com

WOMENS
CONFERENCE
March 8-9, 2019

CREATED TO FLOURISH

WINTER FAMILY BANQUET

Saturday, February 23, 2019



Speaker: Casey Church
Director of Wiconi International

Free Early Bird Session
@ 10:00 AM

featuring
Mac & Berny
McDonald
sharing
about Mesquakie Friends

with Casey Church



Banquet @ 11:30 AM
Auction to follow with Pies & More!
Music provided by Members of Mesquakie Friends

\$17 if registered by February 11.
\$20 if registered after February 11.

WILLIAM PENN
UNIVERSITY
Oskaloosa, Iowa Campus

Location: Wm. Penn
University

201 Trueblood Ave.

Musco Technology
Center Atrium
(Building 1 on map)
Oskaloosa, Iowa



Register by email rcnichols4210@gmail.com OR Call 641-673-9717 to register

Friends Response Team Meeting @ 9:15 AM