

The Harvester

Creating life-giving experiences for relational growth with God and others



“Reviving the Church”

How can one person make a difference?

What do you do when you realize that pieces are missing from the puzzle you are working on? The ladies at the Women’s American Baptist Convention were ready with answers after trying to complete just such a puzzle. My next question, “What are the consequences of missing pieces in a puzzle?” brought answers like, “It is purposeless, demotivating, you can’t see the full picture, and it is harder to find out where the pieces you do have belong.” They quickly agreed that this is the state of the church today. People are missing from the church. “Are you looking for them? What are the consequences for the rest of us? Who is going to find them?” was my challenge to the group as I spoke on Titus II. A game of “Hot potato” launched a discussion about how to invite women into the Body and build into them. These women, representing a dozen different churches, were the committed 20% who do 80% of the work. I urged them to stop doing it all and to just focus on reproducing. “It is good to knit socks for prisoners, but how much better if you were teaching a younger woman to knit socks for prisoners?” Please pray as they take these ideas back to the church that God will use them to “train up younger women in the way they should go.”

The Body of Christ: Better Together

I recently had our homeschool co-op high schoolers each write out a list of personal talents, gifts and positive personality traits. Then we broke into three groups and each group shared their lists and drew a super person who possessed all of the groups’ attributes. Next, we put all three pictures on the floor and talked about how incredible a person with ALL those skills would be. The kids’ eyes lit up as they looked around the room, realizing that together we actually do represent all these traits. Wow!



Litchfield Family Update

This goes out to our moms (who mostly ask for this section.)

April wrapped up our last classes at our homeschool co-op, which has given us more time to finish schoolwork at home, though we miss our friends! Also in April, Dan and I each took Caleb and Emma away for a “Passport to Identity” weekend put on by FamilyLife. It was great to get away and talk about becoming a man/woman of God, since these oldest two are rapidly becoming adults! They both have summer jobs, which is new for us.

On May Day we celebrated Micah’s 12th birthday, and he ate Prime Rib for the first time in his life. Now, he thinks it should be a weekly entrée! (It is not.) As for Aliza, this Saturday is her gymnastics performance. She is also celebrating having finished science for the year. ☺ Dan has been trying to complete one small house project a day. Today he put up the shower door in our bathroom. Yay! He is still slogging through turning Thrive into a non-profit, so we appreciate prayers for that. The snow left our house in mid-April, at last! Isn’t spring glorious?!



Micah and Aliza practice a duet.

Four weeks of Prayer

Please pray with us through the month of June. Your prayers make a difference!

- June 1-8** Please pray for our “Reverse the Curse” marriage adventure (June 7-9) and those attending! We are excited to use outdoor adventure to strengthen marriages and to practically apply the Bible to the relational challenges of the fall.
- June 9-15** Please pray that we would be courageous and faithful as we share the Gospel to local groups. Pray for opportunities to develop lasting friendships with year round and seasonal islanders to whom we could be witnesses of God’s love.
- June 16-22** Pray that God will deepen our team connections and further develop our skills. Please ask the Lord to raise up others to join our teams in Maine, in Asheville, NC, and beyond. Pray for wisdom as we train volunteers.
- June 23-30** Pray for the evangelistic rafting trip we are taking with the United Baptist Church in Old Town. Pray that church members would be bold in inviting friends and community, and that many would come to Christ through this trip and through the conversations and relationships to follow.