

# Canyon Creek Touchpoints

February 2019

## *Just a hint*

By Liz Rasley

On a recent trip to visit family up north, I experienced well water for the first time. A thrilling subject I know, *water*. But my people are from the south and well water is as foreign to me as these other things they have in the north that I like to call subterranean luxury suites, otherwise known as “basements.”

But back to the action about well water. While I vaguely know about well water, which is reminiscent of the Jack and Jill rhyme, I’ve never had experience with it. So imagine the strange surprise the first time I turned on the facet.

I’d like to say I shook it off and figured out what it was, but no. I had to ask my husband why the water was so “weird.” He gave me the familiar look again that said there were many graces bestowed on me for him marrying me; as in a look that said, “Really, lady?”

This water was colder than anything I’d experienced, but not freezing. Heavier, but still as intangible as water. Personally (if it’s not already obvious) confusing to me. Water, but not water.

What was it? I’ll admit, I stood there for a moment trying to

figure it out. Water. Trying to figure out water, coming out from a sink faucet, like some sort of strange alien that had landed on earth.

But there was something more to it. I let my hands run through it for a while, and then washed my face with it. I felt a strong need to drink it, even though I wasn’t thirsty. I had to fight the urge to bathe in it, even though I was at a small bathroom sink. I’m happy to report that I restrained myself. But just barely.

I don’t know if anyone else has these strange things that remind them of God, but I do. Well water is just one of them.

To me, it’s nearly literal as it reminds me of the story of the Samaritan woman at the well encountering Jesus for the first time. And her imperfect human grasp of trying to understand just exactly what this “living water” is that Jesus is talking about. She ends up understanding it, in as much as we can understand the vastness of Jesus’s love and mercy and grace. Which is to say: just a hint.

The other time I experienced a small tangible glimpse of God’s love with this same sort of overwhelming awe, love and confusion was at the birth of my two children. If that’s anything like God’s love, whoa. It’s powerful. It’s strong. It’s something that

can change the world. And again, I have the feeling, that’s only just a hint. Just a small portion of what God’s love truly is like. And just a small taste of what He feels for us.

If that sort of overpowering love is only just a hint, can you even imagine? I know I my mind can’t quite wrap around how deep and wide His love must be.

At Canyon Creek, we try to share that sort of love daily. Or, perhaps that’s a biased opinion, but I think that’s what we do best here—try to love and be there for people the best we know how. Which is to say: full of mistakes and errors in judgement mixed in with small miracles.

So, essentially, the best human love we can manage. But we do it best when we remember that we are God’s people, but not meant to be perfect. And then proceed to love our best anyways and be that in the world: just a hint of God’s love. Just a small flash. And though we are capable of only so much, it’s still a call that can change the community, and by that, the world.

Let us remember this as we embark upon a new era at Canyon Creek. That we are all small but strong winks of God’s grace and love to everyone. Even despite of (or be-

cause of?) our human tendencies and weirdness. Like wanting to bathe in well water.

Not, of course, that I would know anything about that.



CANYON CREEK TOUCHPOINTS

January at CCPC—

Canyon Creek  
Presbyterian  
Church



“Above all, love  
each other deeply,  
as love covers  
a multitude of sins.”

1 Peter 4:8

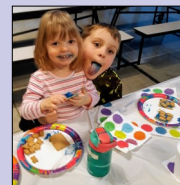
Touchpoints is  
brought to you by the  
Connections Ministry  
of Canyon Creek  
Presbyterian Church.



CCPC Youth went ice skating and worked hard to prepare for Youth Sunday on February 17.



CCPC Children made Baptism of Jesus snacks.

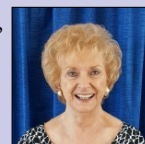


Young Adult Small Group mission project



Secret Angels - ESL Teachers

Bev Brown, now in her fourth year teaching English as a Second Language at CCPC, says, “This ‘job’ and my students are the joy of my life.” Bev teaches 9 to noon Monday and Wednesday with the help of Lynn Morrison. Their students are three Vietnamese women and one Mexican woman. The program was initiated by Pastor Lil Smith and Ellen Boehmer, and Bev was delighted to volunteer when she realized that no teaching experience was required. They use certified ESL curriculum for proficiency in basic English, but as Bev points out, “Our students want to learn what will enable them to participate more fully in their community, so we spend a lot of time in pure conversation— all English.”



Bev Brown



Lynn Morrison with ESL students

Bev credits Lynn’s energy with keeping the class fun and engaging. She adds, “What could be more gratifying than seeing our students gain in confidence and ability? They are fast learners and committed to improving.”

**If you know of others in the community who could benefit from CPCC’s ESL program, be sure to let Bev know at [bevbrown1@att.net](mailto:bevbrown1@att.net).**