

The PickWIC Papers

Westminster Presbyterian Church PCA

Looking forward to Summer



By Jackie Wright

For nine months out of the year, I try to balance being a working wife and mother. It is difficult to juggle all three serious vocations. There is never enough time to do my work and just get everything done. I will confess, as I grow older it has become easier to prioritize. Maybe I have grown in humility. Not everything has to be done at the highest level. What peace that way of thinking brings.

In the summer I can focus on people more than constant activity. This is nice. I especially like settling into a slower rhythm, one that includes being much less clock dependent. My husband still works and it feels good to be more focused on helping him. Just being able to see him out the door, as stress free as possible, is a huge blessing. I can cover the shopping, cooking, clean up and laundry too. I would love it if someone did that for me while I am working, so I am sure he must enjoy it too.

I also get to spend much more quality time with my son Gatlin. He is only 12 so my daily choices affect him very much. I must ask for God's constant guidance as his dad and I still have the greatest influence on his life. I try to remember to say thank you for the gift of time I have to spend with him. Gatlin is usually active in baseball and often football. I love to attend the games and cheer him on! It's most fun to plan meals together and outings. I like to make a list of priorities for the summer.

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What scripture passage have you been focusing on?

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." Romans 15:13 ESV

Katy Schmid

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God." 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Lani Jones

Summer, Cont'd from page 1

My oldest son Alec lives up near Chicago and works full time as an electrician. He is always very busy. During the school year I don't see him as often as I'd like. During the summer I can drive to visit him much more easily. My daughter Macie moves home from college too. She and I are able to bond and it's so nice to watch how she has grown and developed while living away from me. I love that so much.

Most who know me know my sister Holly is important to me. She has developmental disabilities and lives in Effingham. It is so sweet having her stay with me for several days, a few different times during the summer. I cherish my time with her during her visits. Just doing simple things with her reminds me that I don't need sophisticated entertainment to have a really good time. I think it helps that I just love being in her presence. She never, ever complains- what a refreshment!

Holly is also so healthy and full of life even though the doctors have always said she wouldn't live long. God had other plans. She will turn 39 this summer and if you see her you will be invited to the party. She invites everyone she talks too, all year long. Her birthday party is always a major highlight of my summer.

I just can't say enough about summer and feel so grateful that I have this precious gift of time to spend with God, others and the outdoors. We sometimes take a vacation out of state for a couple of weeks at a time and there was a time when I really couldn't do without that. Now it is more about the day to day enjoyments and pleasures. I get to start

the morning off by a mostly unlimited time with the Lord. Just getting really focused on Him. It is easier to remember His presence when I am not rushing around and checking the clock to gauge how much time until the next thing. I get to be outside for hours every single day. Being in nature reminds me of my Creator. What spiritual refreshment. I am so excited that I am on this side of summer vacation. The only regret is that it passes too quickly!

**Sisters, Sisters!**

Sisters Dusty Cannon and Annie Jones share the joys of their relationship

Annie, What is Dusty's hidden talent?

Dusty is very humble and not one to brag about her accomplishments. However, I can! For longer than I've been alive, she has been an excellent fiddle player. I remember her bringing her fiddle out on special occasions such as my 9th birthday and playing bluegrass songs. Whenever she plays she exhibits concentration and expertise of her instrument that only one who truly loved playing would show. I hope she will play more often in the future!

Do you have a favorite memory of her from your childhood?

When I was younger and Dusty and I still lived with our parents, we would go out together every so often. One of these times, we went to

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see Charlotte's Web and we took pictures in the Photo Booth that used to be at the movie theater (I still have the photo strip somewhere). Whenever we would go out together she always made me feel special and important, like I was on the same level as her adult friends. I would always look forward to the next time we got to go out.

Do you have a favorite memory with Dusty since you've become an adult?

I think this was my 18th birthday, but I could be wrong. On perhaps my 18th birthday, Dusty surprised me with a trip to Chicago with my mom and Kami. We rode the train, ate at a fun restaurant, and went shopping all day together. It was a very fun time together, and I smile and remember that day whenever the pictures pop up on my phone.

How has she made the most significant impact on you?

I can be quick to judge or make rash assumptions about things, but Dusty always wants to hear both sides of a story or sticks up for people in need. She is gracious and kind, as well as very fair. After she speaks up in a discussion, I am likely to reflect on my feelings about the matter and be more open to hearing other opinions and perspectives.

What is her greatest strength?

Dusty has a lot of greatest strengths, so as I pick one I can't say it's the ultimate greatest strength. However, one of her greatest strengths is that she is a wonderful hostess. Whenever she has parties, whether they are birthday parties or hen parties or any other

such occasion, she goes above and beyond to make sure everyone's needs are taken care of. The menu is altered to include any dietary restrictions (she has never once forgotten that my boyfriend can't have almonds and makes sure the ingredients reflect that), she picks up special drinks for her guests (Kami and I usually like coffee in the afternoons), and at the parties she is constantly attentive to everyone's needs and wants. Every party at the Cannon's is always a great event!

What quality do you admire about her?

Dusty is a very good listener and is always willing to talk to me about whatever problems I might be having. She always offers her opinion and gives reasoning for why she feels the way she does, as well as a biblical view of the issue at hand. She is very understanding and open to hearing whatever is going on in my life.

See Dusty's interview on page 7



Our Easter Tradition

By Katy Schmid

We love to make an Easter Garden and resurrection rolls each year! We enjoy taking the time to read the verses that walk through the resurrection story and remember Jesus's victory over death and that he is reigning today!



Betty Ruth Rasmus

Tells Her Story...

Life gets complicated. It is not always as we plan, and it's not a smooth road. We make right decisions, and we make very wrong decisions that we regret and then ask for God's forgiveness. We find grace in His word, and He assures us of His presence, compassion, and forgiveness. Jeremiah 32:17 was in the April 2nd Table Talk devotion. "Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you!" I have been reading in Psalms every night, and I find new meaning in them. Psalm 76, 77, and 78 echoed the verse from Jeremiah. I have been very blessed going through the Psalms. They keep reminding us of our need for Him.

I had a good childhood even though I grew up in the depression years. I was born August 12, 1925, and the Great Depression began on October 29, 1929. Mom and Dad maintained

as good a home as they could. Dad did not always get paid in money for his work as a plumber. The barter system was often used. I was active and preferred to be outdoors up in our pear tree or in the tomato patch making playhouses for my dolls. We didn't have a lot of toys because there was no money to buy things like that. The kids in the neighborhood would get together and go alley hunting. We would go through the trash barrels to get old toasters or other broken things to use to play house in our chicken pens. There was also an old car parked in part of our barn. We'd get in and pretend to drive to California! My sister Catherine was 6 years older than me. She was quiet and liked to read and sew doll clothes and play with her dolls. My dad was a plumber in Paxton, and I think I was four years old when mom started dressing me in overalls and a dress and sending me out to work with dad. She took in laundry and had to pin lace curtains to a board to stretch them out. Doing this and other odd jobs helped with expenses, so maybe she needed me out of the house.

Dad was also a volunteer fireman. There were a lot of fires in those days with the wooden shingles on the houses and coal furnaces. Dad told us a lot of stories about Pat the horse and Cheffy the fire dog. There was an old wagon that Pat would pull until he was retired. After that when Pat heard the fire bell he would kick out the barn door to try to get to the fire. I was about ten years old when Dad had a heart attack, and the firemen came to visit him. One of the men made a back rest and lap table for him to use in bed. Mom came in one day and saw a spider on the ceiling. Dad

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told her to leave the spider alone. He'd been watching it.

When I was in third grade, I started piano lessons on our reconditioned piano.

A lesson cost a quarter for an hour or a pint of cream from Bessie, our cow. Dad would take her to an empty lot in the morning, and I had to go get Bessie from there after school and bring her back home. There were myriads of cats around. We had a fox terrier named Penny.



Catherine, my older sister, was concerned that I would know Jesus. She brought Pioneer Girls to Paxton. Lizetta Williams, the pastor's wife at Westminster Bible Church, was the leader and I assisted her. The motto was "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." The girls earned badges by memorizing Bible verses. We met in various places. We sang fun songs and hymns, had a Bible study, and did crafts. We were going to the Lutheran church until I started high school, then we joined Westminster Bible Church as a family. There were Young People's Meetings at Westminster in the fellowship room. We'd go to Youth for Christ meetings in Gibson City or Champaign. Once they came to Paxton. Catherine worked for a year at Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul to earn enough money to go to Moody Bible Institute in Chicago.

I was still in high school at this time. One day, the high school principal gathered all the students in the auditorium to listen to the radio broadcast of President Franklin D. Roosevelt requesting that Congress declare war against



Japan. It was December 8, 1941, the day after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The students were so quiet. A lot of the 17- and 18-year-old boys left school to fight. Catherine got married in May of 1943 to Daniel Moore who had been a student at Wheaton College but had joined the navy after war was declared. During that time Kitty (Dan's nickname for her) got a job and lived with her sister-in-law whose husband was also in the navy. I would go on a train to meet her and go to Youth for Christ meetings. When the war ended, Dan went back to Wheaton and got his coaching degree.

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Women need women- to think Biblically, live covenantally, and pass on the legacy to the next generation.



Artwork by Annie Jones, as mentioned on page 7 as Sisters, Sisters continues...

Before high school I made money babysitting in the evenings and had a summer job helping a woman clean her house and take care of her little boy. When I was 14 got my Social Security card and worked at Kunkel's Five and Dime only on Saturdays during the school year, and still helped the woman occasionally. I worked more days at Kunkel's during the summer. That was a good place to work, and I learned a lot from the owner. My senior year of high school I got a better paying job at Eastside Grocery Store. Because I had done well in secretarial courses when I graduated, I was recommended by the school



to J. H. Benjamin, an attorney in Paxton who had asked for someone who could type and take shorthand well. He hired me, and I worked for him from age 17 to 35. I did take a summer off to work at a Christian camp called Honey Rock that Dan and Kitty and another couple had started. They always had an interest in Christian camps or mission-type work. Later I quit working for the attorney when Mom and I moved to Michigan for 7 or 8 months to help Kitty. Dad had died when I was 20. In Michigan Dan had found an office job for me, but it was not close to where Kitty and Dan lived in the country, so I had to catch a ride to work every day. It cost me \$5 a week and that was a lot out of my paycheck. When Kitty and Dan decided to move into town, Mom and I moved back to our home in Paxton. Mom owned the house, and it was furnished. I got my job back with the attorney, and I could walk to work again! Life was better. Mom and I continued going to Westminster. One evening I had been at a meeting at church and when I was dropped off at home,

a man greeted me by name, and we talked for a while. I decided to invite him in to meet Mom. I was 34 years old, and we learned that the man, Bob Rasmus, was 29 years old and a farmer. He often drove past our home and if I was mowing, he would take over for me. We'd visit a while, and then he'd go back to working on the farm. Bob and I got married on Thanksgiving Day at Westminster Bible Church. Kitty and Dan stood up with us, but we didn't invite others. Pastor Marshall Williams performed the ceremony. Bob was then 30 years old. I transferred my membership to Covenant Church after we were married since Bob's parents went there and Bob was a member. I taught Sunday School and was involved in the women's activities. Bob was on the board. We raised Beth and Bobby in Paxton on the farm. They loved it, especially the cattle! We stayed at Covenant Church several years.



After the kids were grown and on their own, Bob wanted to try Westminster Presbyterian Church where Steve Jones was pastor. We attended the membership class and decided to join the church. I was able to be the organist for several years until my vision made it too difficult. I enjoy the worship service and fellowship times. Bible reading has become more meaningful to me. I use the Table Talk devotion in the mornings and read the Psalms in the evenings. My life verse is Romans 8:28, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose."

Sisters, Sisters

We continue our interview by asking...

Dusty, what's Annie's hidden talent? Annie is a lovely painter! She makes beautiful art and I have one of her canvases at home. She gets this talent honestly in the Draper line and she puts it to good work in her spare time. Maybe some day she will sell some in a whimsical art gallery!

What is your favorite memory with her as a child? Since I was almost 18 when Annie was born, she was my sweet senior year gift. I loved coming home for lunch each day, leaving school for just a short time, and rocking her to sleep! I took her with me to run errands while mom homeschooled the other kiddos. When she began sleeping in our (mine and Kami's) bedroom, she had to hold my hand to fall asleep. And, as she grew a bit older, we'd go on dates! One I remember was to Burger King ball pit and to see Charlotte's Web in theaters! She used to come and stay with Will and I when we were first married for a week in the summer- many fun meals, outings, and evening games.

What is your favorite memory with Annie since she has become an adult? As an adult, I remember she and I meeting at the movies to see Beauty and the Beast. It was a fun, grown up date and we loved just being together.

What quality do you admire about her? Annie is compassionate. At her current job, she is working with dogs constantly. She cares for these rambunctious animals whether they are harsh toward her or love her. And even though they can't communicate as we can, she gives extra time when others are

unavailable to make sure the dogs are looked after.

What do you see as her greatest strength?

As I have seen so many times toward those she loves, Annie is a thoughtful daughter, sister, and aunt. For many years, she has taken my kiddos out for their birthdays on special dates. Each one got to choose their lunch restaurant and get a special shopping time just with 'Zuzo'. Annie loves shopping for mom (and others!) for special occasions. I love seeing what she picks out that's personal and loved by each recipient.

How has she made the most significant impact on you? Not many people get to have a baby sister when they are nearly grown themselves. That has been such an enormous blessing for me throughout the years. Looking back, those were some of the sweetest times of my twenties. As we have both aged, it has continued to be a special relationship! Will didn't have any sisters. Meeting Annie at 8 years old was a fun experience where he got to be a playful brother early on to Annie, especially since her own brothers lived so far away. It is precious watching her grow and enter into new adventures. Having her in my life at such a time as God gave her to our family has been huge in my life! I'm so thankful for her!

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