

# The PickWIC Papers

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## No Silverware

by Dusty Cannon

**No silverware?! What? I have to eat with my hands? Yes! It's like a picnic, right? And I love picnics!**

**When you think about hospitality, what comes to your mind? Some think of a perfectly set table, candles lit and soft music; others may think of the fellowship and conversations. Hospitality is in Scripture as a fundamental part of our witness for Christ. We open our homes, or even meet others where they are (shut-ins, for example) with open arms and the hands and feet of Jesus.**

**I enjoy hostessing a Hen Party every summer for some like-minded friends. I begin thinking of it in the winter when it's cold and dark. What will my menu be? Who will the speaker be? And will we eat inside or outside? One question that's already answered is there won't be silverware-only finger foods served.**

**This is just a silly example of a fun event to host in offering hospitality, friendship, and yourself to others. It's a spark to get our brains thinking of ways we can be hospitable to others- whether Christian or non-Christian, likeminded or different from us.**

**God is faithful! Even when we feel our efforts have failed (a messy house and graham crackers for snack) He can turn that around and bless everything about our visit!**

**Let us be encouraged, friends! God can use us in more ways than we can even imagine! Open your home! Visit those who can't come to you! Let us be the hands and feet of Jesus, uplifting those we meet with our hospitality.**

## White Texas Sheet Cake with Cookie Dough Frosting

By Tanya Fehr

“I really like this recipe because it's a very easy way to make cake, and you can never have too much cookie dough! Enjoy!!”

Ingredients for the Cake

1 cup of butter  
1 cup of water  
2 cups of all-purpose flour  
2 cups of sugar  
2 eggs  
1 teaspoon of vanilla  
½ teaspoon of salt

Directions for cake:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In a large saucepan bring butter and water to a boil. Remove saucepan from heat and add the rest of the ingredients to saucepan. Stir until smooth. Pour into greased 10 by 15 inch baking pan. Bake for 20-22 minutes or until golden brown. Cool for 20 minutes.

Cookie Dough Frosting

1 ½ cups of flour  
1 ½ sticks of butter  
2 teaspoons of vanilla  
¾ teaspoon of salt  
6 Tablespoons of milk  
¾ cup of chocolate chips  
¾ cup and 2 tablespoons of brown sugar

Melt butter and brown sugar together in microwave until fully melted. After they are melted, add the rest of the ingredients, not including chocolate chips. Stir until smooth. Add chocolate chips and stir.

Spread the frosting over the cooled cake and serve.

*LINCS*

*Ladies Intent on Nurturing,  
Connecting, and Serving*

## **“Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.” 1 Peter 4:9**

**By Amber Frank**

When Annie asked me to write an article for *The PickWIC Papers* about hospitality, I figured it would be no problem. When Annie reminded me that she needed the paper on hospitality in a few days, I may have begun to grumble. Webster’s defines hospitality: “generous and friendly treatment of visitors and guests.” I think many of us would add also, providing for those in need. If you had asked me about hospitality a few years ago my response would have been a lot different than it is today. Just a few short years ago I was a stay at home mom. I loved to take care of my home, bake, cook, and have people over. I held bible studies, and often invited people to lunch, or dinner. I looked forward to having people over to visit. In 2016 I had to go to work full time, often working more than 40 hours a week, leaving no time for company, or cleaning, and especially not cooking. My heart for hospitality seemed to run empty, thinking about having people over, or cooking for someone often causes me stress and anxiety. I am still trying to re-think my idea of hospitality. I know hospitality without grumbling is a biblical mandate, so how should it look in my life now? My house is often not tidy, to say the least. I cook a lot less than I did when I was home. I almost never bake. In the modern world where many of us have to work outside the home, how can we show hospitality with the love of Christ? I believe it will look a little different for everyone. Our homes should be open to provide a safe haven for those in the church who have need. It does not matter that the floor is covered in dog hair and all you might have in the fridge is Greek yogurt and cheese sticks, or in the cabinet Kraft Macaroni and Cheese (in the blue box of course). Can we still provide warmth and shelter? A shoulder to cry on, a listening ear, the Word of God shared? Perfection isn’t a part of the equation; when we are speaking about hospitality- love and care are all that are required. In the household of faith, we should all have an abundance of those. In whatever season of life we are in, we all have something that we can give. With the help of Christ, we can look beyond ourselves and our own strength and give it.

## **Vacation Bible School, July 14-18th**

**By Annie Jones**

Our theme of hospitality even goes as far as VBS this year! This VBS was a little different than it has been in the past, and it involved every member of the church. Each and every person in our church was assigned to a team. The team members all had responsibilities and your help was needed to make sure your team did great! Even if you couldn’t physically be at VBS this year, you could call your team members to check on them, pray for them, write them an encouraging card, or maybe even see if you could make snacks or drinks. Maybe there was someone on your team you didn’t know very well. This was a great time to get to know them! Don’t think of hospitality just as welcoming someone into your home; showing love to your church family, welcoming them, and being involved in your church home are all very important kinds of hospitality.

**A special note of thanks to Annie, our guest Editor for this edition of The PickWIC Papers!**

*Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality  
Romans 12:13*

## **Scotcheroos By Sally Fehr**

### **Ingredients**

1 cup of brown sugar  
1 1/4 cup of Karo syrup  
1 1/2 cups of peanut butter  
1 teaspoon of vanilla  
7-8 cups of corn flakes  
2 cups of semi-sweet chocolate chips  
1/3 cup of butterscotch chips

### **Directions**

Microwave brown sugar and Karo syrup for 2-3 minutes. Add peanut butter and vanilla to the mixture. Stir until smooth. Add in your corn flakes to the mixture. Put mixture into a sprayed 9 by 13 inch pan, press down into the pan. Melt your chocolate chips, and pour them on top of the bars. Chill in the fridge

## Brick Street Chocolate Cake

By Olivia Frank

### Ingredients

#### Cake:

2 cups sugar  
1 cup butter, softened  
1 ½ teaspoons vanilla extract  
3 large eggs  
2 ½ cups baking flour  
1 cup baking cocoa, sifted  
2 teaspoons baking soda  
½ teaspoon salt  
½ cup instant chocolate pudding mix, small box  
2 ¼ cups buttermilk  
1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips

#### Chocolate Icing:

½ cup water  
½ cup butter  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1 cup baking cocoa, sifted  
3 ½ cups powdered sugar  
3 tablespoons heavy cream

### Instructions:

#### Cake:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Beat sugar, butter, and vanilla in a large bowl, beat in eggs. Mix in cake flour, cocoa, soda, salt, pudding mix, and buttermilk. Stir in chocolate chips. Pour into greased tube pan. Bake at 350 degree for 60-70 mins., or until cake tester comes out clean. Cool cake completely before icing.

#### Chocolate Icing:

Heat water, butter, and vanilla together in sauce pan on stovetop until melted. Remove from heat. Stir in one cup cocoa. Stir in powdered sugar, sifted. Stir in heavy cream, up to 3 tablespoons until you get the desired consistency. Ice cake by filling the hole in the middle of the cake first, then spread icing over the cake and pour down the sides. Icing will harden as it cools.



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

## God is Our Refuge and Strength

By Jane Goodwin

God is our refuge and strength

**God** is our refuge and strength

God **is** our refuge and strength

God **is our** refuge and strength

God is our **refuge and strength**

God is our **refuge** and strength

God is our refuge **and** strength

God is our refuge and **strength**

**God is our refuge and strength**

Nurturing community life in a congregation is much like developing family life in a home. We must spend time together. We must get to know one another. We must share a common life. There are endless ways that a women ministry can breathe community life into a church. It begins by educating the women to have a covenant consciousness.

*From 'Womens Ministry in the Local Church'*

## ***The Lifegiving Home, A Book Review***

**By Kami Belmont**

Outside the Bible, the non-fiction book you will find me most often re-reading is Sally and Sarah Clarkson's mother-daughter collaboration, The Lifegiving Home. While I could give many reasons for reading it again and again, the most obvious is the book's structure, which lends itself to being re-read on a yearly basis. After four introductory chapters on the theology and truths behind a Christian understanding of "home," the remaining twelve chapters are titled after the months of the year. Sally and her daughter, Sarah, take turns reminding us of the importance of the rhythms that occur within our own four walls every day, year-in and year-out — rhythms of love, beauty, grace, legacies of faith, celebration, family culture, and blessing. In honor of this edition of The PickWIC Papers, the theme that I will trace through these chapters is that of **hospitality**.

While the words "planned and structured" may not seem to have very home-like qualities at first glance, you will hear these words echoing throughout the chapters of this book, as they are central to the Clarksons' understanding of hospitality and home. Hospitality does not happen by accident, nor does a godly home environment happen by chance. These endeavors take purpose and godly intentionality. The opening chapter of The Lifegiving Home begins with a memory of the Clarksons' trip to visit George Washington Vanderbilt II's home, the famous "Biltmore" in North Carolina. As they toured the house and learned its history, it became apparent that every nook and cranny of its expansive 178,926 square feet was planned and purposed. Questions like, "How will I provide a haven for those who enter here?" led to the construction of 35 bedrooms. Additional thoughtful planning led to the grouping of chairs and tables in such a way that conversation was encouraged. Reflective musing led to the development of an exquisite library housing Vanderbilt's personal collection of 22,000 volumes. While the facts and figures of this house can at first glance seem overwhelming, the beauty of the Biltmore is that it was meant to feel like **home** to those who entered — not to impress, not to astound, not to humble.

Sally and Sarah Clarkson ask their readers the question, "How can we do this in our own spheres of influence?" A home need not be large to be intentional. The re-arranging of chairs to inspire conversation, the ever-present dining room table where meals are shared, the comforting scent of candles, thoughtful artwork, books that spark the interest of guests young and old — these touches can help make our homes welcoming for all who enter. While none of us likely have a reproduction china pattern commissioned in honor of our family (as the Biltmore does), Jesus reminds us of the importance of even offering a cup of cold water to another because we are His followers (Matt. 10:42). Jesus's focus is not on outward fancy details — not on crystal glasses, or silver platters, or sparkling Perrier® — but on our hearts as we offer hospitality intentionally to others in service to Him. How might you offer hospitality and welcome to someone this week — or this very day? How might you use the gifts that God has given you, as well as the welcoming shelter of your home, to show another their God-given value as an image bearer? How might you even arrange a chair or a desk in such a way that conversation is promoted, hearts are welcomed, and God's love is made evident through the time that you share together?

I encourage you to read the Clarksons' The Lifegiving Home — maybe even with a friend as you spur one another on toward the gift of hospitality month by month. (A companion workbook is also available with thoughtful questions, which makes an excellent discussion guide.)

Brew a cup of tea, light a candle, and enjoy planning ways to make your home a place of belonging — a place where Christ is honored and His character is shown through your words and welcome.

