## "WELCOME JESUS INTO YOUR HEART AND HOME" BY APRIL RODGERS

April 2024

Volume 16, Issue 4



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Don't you just love a good dinner party? After a warm invitation is extended and accepted, it's time to pick out the menu and straighten up the house-fluff the pillows, sweep the floor, and set the table. It doesn't matter whether the meal is homemade or catered, because the most important part of the evening is simply when friends gather around the table and allow the conversation and laughter to flow as the night progresses. Eventually, goodbyes are said with promises to do it again soon. And even though we are left with a kitchen full of dirty dishes, we typically find that after opening our homes to others, our hearts are just as full as our stomachs.

Martha must have felt the same way when the time came for her to bid farewell to her cherished guests. As

the head of the house that she shared with Mary and Lazarus, her sister and brother, Martha was certainly known for her hospitality in the village of Bethany. She was very much in charge and was willing to receive guests into her home, even if her guest of honor came traveling with a clan of 12 other men.

The gospel of Luke records that Martha welcomed Jesus into her home. She didn't begrudgingly open the door for Him and His disciples. No. She wanted His presence to fill her home, and thus she swung the door wide open to host Him. As Jesus placed one holy foot and then another onto her property, did Martha feel the atmosphere shift? Could she feel the peace that only He provides permeate her home?

Can you imagine what it must have felt like to welcome the Son of God into your home for a dinner party? I bet she never wanted to say goodbye to this special guest.

Perhaps the first time Martha opened her door to Jesus, she was curious to see if He truly was the Son of God, and perhaps you are wondering the same thing today.



In Revelation 3:20 (NLT), Jesus said, "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear My voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a

meal together as friends." Jesus gives each one of us the same invitation. He stands at the door of our hearts and knocks, but it's up to us whether we open the door and welcome Him into our lives.

He will not force Himself through the door, but oh, how He wants to have dinner with us! He, too, loves a good dinner party and wants to bring His peace and salvation as He comes to reside and rest in our hearts. But the question: Will we let Him in? It's only when we wholeheartedly welcome Him into our day-to-day routines that we will truly find rest.

## CONTINUING PRAYER LIST – APRIL 2024



Joy and Gene, Effie, Fay Heern, Milton and Leon McDaniel, Sue Combs, Carol and Richard Dickson, Marcia and Richard Bittle, David and Nancy Fligor, Bob Hughey, Stan Harpole, Terry Gholson and her brother Joe and her sisters Jennifer and Nancy, Heather Smith, those recently bereaved, our church, missionaries, military, and government officials throughout the world.

REMEMBER, THE SPRING MISSIONS GROUP YARD SALE WILL BE HELD MAY 2<sup>ND</sup> - 4<sup>TH</sup> & MAY 9<sup>TH</sup> - 11<sup>TH</sup> FROM 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM DAILY

<u>COME OUT AND SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!</u>

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH: BANANA CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> cup butter, softened
<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup sugar
1 egg
<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup mashed ripe banana
<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> tsp. vanilla extract
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking powder
<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> tsp. salt
<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> tsp. baking soda

1 cup (6 oz.) semisweet chocolate chips

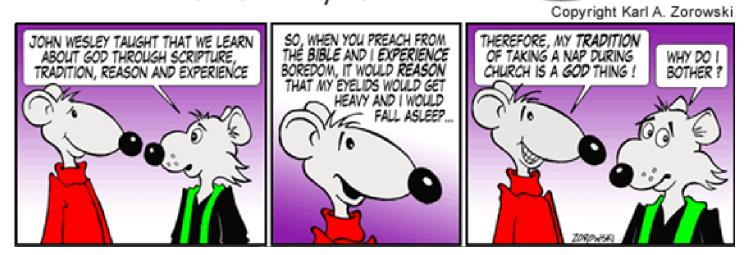
In a small bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the egg, banana, and vanilla. Combine the flour, baking powder, salt, and baking soda; gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well. Stir in chocolate chips. Drop by tablespoonfuls 2 inches apart onto baking sheets coated with cooking spray. Bake at 350° for 9 - 11 minutes or until

edges are lightly browned. Remove to wire racks to cool. Makes 3 dozen.



April 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	Friday	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Solar Eclipse	9 Jane Evans' Birthday	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Stephen Combs' Birthday	20
21	22 Marcy Part's Birthday Earth Day	23	24	25	26 Joy Sanders' Birthday Arbor Day	27
28	29	30				





3518 Boskydell Road 3518 Boskydell Road

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