

— Women's Socials on a Shoestring —

Sweet Monday



Vol. Three

Tied to a generous God[®]

by Kim Bowman Newlen ☀

Sweet Monday

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Remember..
We don't do anything by ourselves!



This Volume 3

**Sweet Monday, Women's Socials on a Shoestring...
Tied to a Generous God**

is
dedicated to  and to



Because not only have you requested another Volume, but you have quickly made it your own. Many of you have started your own Sweet Monday. To date we have heard from every state and every continent but Antarctica and Asia! ☀️ You have truly "spurred me on to love and good deeds." Hebrews 10:24 NIV

Thank you, sweet sisters in Christ.

"But only God, who makes things grow."

1 Corinthians 3:7b



Sweet Monday is Simple as ABC

Abide in Christ...and you bear much fruit. (John 15) (Remember, fruit is sweet. ☺)

Bring anyone you want without asking permission.

Candy to match the theme in foyer to take home & share!

Dessert to match theme and decaf coffee/tea.

Eternity always in mind.

Fun and Faithfulness can go together!!!!!!!!!!!!

God's Word doesn't return void!

Hospitality is modeled as you hold out the Good News in your home.

Introduce women to Jesus Christ in a non-threatening way. Interests of women Inspire sweet themes.

Jesus is always there! He is the best part and does all the hard work. Heart-changing is His department.

Kee a *First Timer's* sign-in book.

Lots of laughter. *A joyful heart is good medicine.* Proverbs 17:22

Monthly because women have busy lives.

No RSVPs and invite all your Neighbors.

Open your home or church.

Prompt closing.

Quick cleanup because you've kept it simple.

Reaching out to women one sweet invitation at a time for Christ.

Simple, Sweet and Salty & Sow broadly.

Truth of God's Word is always shared.

Used by God as salt. Women will thirst to know Who we know as we make ourselves totally available to Him!!!

Value each volunteer who offers help.

Women of all ages and stages in life!

X-tra sweet leftovers go to neighbors, church, a child's lunchbox, etc.

You can easily make *Sweet Monday* your own in your neighborhood, church or community.


Zesty. *We are the salt of the earth.* Matthew 5:13a NIV

Our Sweet Monday Schedule

7:30 Women arrive after spotting cupcake sign at the end of my street!

First-timers sign in guestbook with address and phone number.

Everyone makes her own nametag and heads to the kitchen for dessert!

8:00 Sharp! (I ring a bell or "holler".) 
We gather (usually smushed) in one room.

Welcome and Announcements - Next Sweet Monday

5-10 minute inspirational message from the Bible. God speaks from His Word every **Sweet Monday** because He promises His word will never return void.

Short program and lots of laughter, sharing, questions and comments from women attending!!

9:00 Sharp! Women are tired! As tired as we all are, we are glad we came!


Sweet Dreams...



CONTENTS

Volume Three

January	MUG & MUFFIN II.....	1
February	DECENT PROPOSALS.....	3
March	AN EASTER SURPRISE.....	5
April	HOW DO YOU SPELL SIMPLIFY?.....	7
	Or Annual Clutter Auction	
May	ALL MUST GO...HUSBAND SAYS SO When it comes to YARD SALES.....	9
	Or Annual Tea Party	
June	SUITED TO A T.....	11
July	COOL VACATIONS.....	13
August	SEW WHAT?.....	15
September	BIRTHDAY BASHES.....	17
October	SWAP 'TIL YOU DROP.....	19
November	MAN-I-CURED THOSE NAILS.....	21
December	WHITE ELEPHANT II.....	23

Sweet Monday Staples

Annual CLUTTER AUCTION

Annual A PROPER ENGLISH TEA PARTY

Appendix





— Women's Socials on a Shoestring • Tied to a

JANUARY

THEME

MUG & MUFFIN II

We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves.

2 Corinthians 10:12a NIV

Reading Eric Carle's delightful picture book The Mixed Up Chameleon to my daughter reminds me of our tendency as women to compare ourselves to each other. In The Mixed Up Chameleon the chameleon tries on the trunk of an elephant, adds the beautiful bushy tail of a fox, then dons the long legs of a flamingo, and on and on the additions go until the chameleon is so weighed down with his creative new look that he can no longer catch a fly with his tongue.

How many times have I yearned for Diane's professionalism, Brenda's typing skills, Shawn's sense of style, Pam's beauty, Mama's, Daphne's, Grandma Hazel's cooking skills, Faye's wisdom, Sherry's skin, Aunt Ruth's haircut, my mama's legs, my daughter's memory...ugh! If this comparing commentary continues, pretty soon, I'm the Mixed Up Mama and ineffective because, like the chameleon, I become weighed down and ugly. This renders me immobile to God's purposes for me.

PRAYER

Lord, You knit me together in my mother's womb and I am fearfully and wonderfully made. I am "put together" whether I feel like it or not. Thank You. In obedience to You I don't want to compare myself to others but live each day in gratefulness for my uniqueness. Thank You that You use me "JUST AS I AM."



— Women's Socials on a Shoestring • Tied to a



JANUARY

THEME MUG & MUFFIN II (just like the movie sequels) ☀️

DESSERT Muffins, hot chocolate, spiced tea, decaf teas & coffee (You may have received some hot drink mixes for Christmas! Use them!)

CANDY Individually-wrapped Lifesaver® assortment to celebrate individual differences. So many new flavors...wild berry, wild cherry, fancy fruits or five flavor

The mug and muffin is a **Sweet Monday** staple because it is perfect every January and women attending, again, can carry your program. During December you don't want to even think about planning January's **Sweet Monday**! Women are ready to venture out, and this laid-back time lends itself to women getting to know each other better. Why, my last Mug and Muffin was so lively with lots of women who didn't know each other that I completely forgot I had on my white slippers! I also forgot to have women share about the mug they brought, and I didn't even serve muffins! (Frozen Pepperidge Farm® Peach Dumplings, fresh out of the oven, were a HUGE HIT!) See how versatile a Mug and Muffin can be and how **Sweet Monday** mistakes just melt away when the women arrive!

- BYOM (Bring Your Own Mug) ☀️
- Ask women to pair up with someone they don't know. Provide paper and markers. Set a timer for 5 minutes. They must draw each other (head shots only please ☀️) and sign the back with their name. (You may either hold up and have women guess or let women introduce their own sketches.) What a great time of laughter and modeling good sportsmanship. God did not give all of us artistic ability!
- Provide exaggerated gift mug filled with **Sweet Monday** Candy for First Timer Prize. And the winner is... the First Timer who has had her mug the longest ☀️
- Keep sketches to decorate your front door for next month's **Sweet Monday**. (No names on front please!) ☀️ They look nice backed by black construction paper.
- Supply a variety of questions that women could draw out of a mug and answer.
For example: 1. Describe what you would do alone on a totally free day or evening.
2. What is your favorite room in your house and why?
Two great resources are Fuzzy Red Bathrobe by Carol Lynn Pearson and Emily Pearson and The Book of Questions by Gregory Stock, Ph.D. (Some questions in The Book of Questions will not be appropriate for **Sweet Monday**). As they draw a question and hold it out they may briefly tell the significance of their mug.
- Depending on the number of women and time, the mug could go around again.
- Announce next Sweet Monday.





— Women's Socials on a Shoestring • Tied to a

FEBRUARY

THEME

DECENT PROPOSALS

But those who marry will face many troubles in this life...

1 Corinthians 7:28 b NIV

This verse is highlighted in my Bible. I couldn't believe it when I first saw it. This is one of the most encouraging verses in scripture to me! God said that in marriage we would have many troubles, so I'm normal. I shouldn't be surprised when I have troubles. The biggest trouble I have is SIN, wanting my own way and missing God's standard of perfection. Jesus Christ took care of that when He paid for my sin on the cross and made me perfect in God's eyes.

Oh, when you read a description of my DECENT PROPOSAL (See **Appendix**), you'll wonder, like I did, who could ever have troubles with a literal knight in shining armor who was so sweet to propose at a real castle? I did, I do, I will... But guess what? He did, he does, and he will have troubles with me! That's because I'M A SINNER AND HE'S A SINNER, but God's grace is greater than all of our sin, and in our troubles we're pushed toward God.

PRAYER

Dear God, many times I've wished I hadn't read so many Christian books on marriage right before I walked down the aisle because my expectations were close to perfection for my husband. Thank you for the troubles you've allowed because they've taught me where to go... You!



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FEBRUARY

THEME

DECENT PROPOSALS

DESSERT

Red velvet cake or wax lips each piece individually wrapped,
Oriental Trading Company 1-800-875-8480

CANDY

Sweet Tarts®

This **Sweet Monday** carries itself. It is fun in February around Valentine's Day and is a wonderful light-hearted topic to pick so that no one is put on the spot to share. As all married people know, even the best of marriages has troubles. These aren't the focus. **Sweet Monday** is one way that women can make connections in this isolated world. What a simple way to get to know each other better and laugh, laugh, laugh, sharing DECENT PROPOSALS.

- Entertain with a skit if you have some real hams in your group. Have them prepare a skit or several short ones (in advance) Title? DECENT PROPOSALS. You could even have:

DECENT PROPOSALS Take 1
 DECENT PROPOSALS Take 2
 DECENT PROPOSALS Take 3

- Ask group at large who would begin by sharing her WEDDING PROPOSAL. If there is silence, (I've yet to see), ask if someone would share any proposal she has been given in her life and how her decision has impacted her. For example: Has anyone received a new job proposal out of the blue? ☀️
- As **Sweet Monday** wants all women to feel included, you just may have a lot of sweet, swingin' single gals. Have them share a dream proposal or focus your whole evening on any job proposal and how it has impacted your life. You go first. ☀️
- Announce next Sweet Monday.

P.S. I couldn't resist sharing my DECENT PROPOSAL. See **Appendix**.





MARCH

THEME

AN EASTER SURPRISE

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

Mark 16:1-8 NIV

Surprises are in my Life's Top Ten list, and Easter is a wonderful time for surprises. Can you imagine the sheer surprise of seeing Jesus out of the tomb? Not to mention the fears and doubts of the women that he met. I surprised myself one Easter when I decided after a dozen years of marriage to give yeast one more try. In the early years of marriage my only bread-making experience ended up with ~~no~~ bread and dough and flour all over my kitchen and me. You see, I got so exasperated, I ended up throwing all the dough away! And I've thrown many packets of fast-acting yeast away since then!

God has a way of maturing us though, and when our daughter was five, I decided yeast rolls would be a wonderful way of teaching her about Jesus rising from the dead. My good friend, Daphne, who is a kitchen mentor (along with my neighbor, Grandma Hazel, and of course, my mama), actually showed me how to make an easy yeast roll. It was a very hands-on experience. ☺ Daphne assured me I wouldn't fail on these yeast rolls, and sure enough, on Easter morning, before church I woke up my family up singing, "THEY AROSE! THEY AROSE! JUST LIKE JESUS, THEY AROSE!" Needless to say, it was an Easter our family will never forget.

PRAYER

Jesus, thank you that you didn't stay in the tomb, but did exactly what you said you were going to do. After three days you rose from the dead. Thank you, too, that you continue to surprise me with your goodness and grace in spite of me. Lord, help me to keep this Easter enthusiasm in my heart every day. You Arose! Arise in me!





MARCH

THEME	AN EASTER SURPRISE
DESSERT	Daphne's potato yeast rolls & jellies
CANDY	Whoppers®

Oh, boy, do these no knead rolls really rise! Real whoppers! Dough for 24 rolls lasts 5 days in the refrigerator, and my husband and daughter think I hung the moon when I serve these!

- Practice making these no-fail rolls so you can serve them. Watch a cooking demonstration on TV if you need a little pep talk. Recruit a baker friend if you're too "yeast shy" to do it!
- Wear your apron, don a baker's hat, and actually put dough together in front of the women. Roll it out in a circle and cut in eighths like a pizza with scissors. Use a pastry cloth and cotton roller cover for ease. These also make a great prize items for a First Timer whose birthday is closest. Roll into crescents. (I had to see my friend do it before I got the nerve!)
- Ask a local hotel if they will donate some shower caps to **Sweet Monday**. They make a delightful favor for each woman to take home. My friend, Mary Anne, uses them all the time to cover her bowls in the refrigerator. They work great over your dough bowl, too!
- Pass out recipes and take questions!
- Be so excited you can make a beautiful homemade roll with ease!
- Announce next Sweet Monday.

See **Appendix** for recipe.





APRIL

THEME

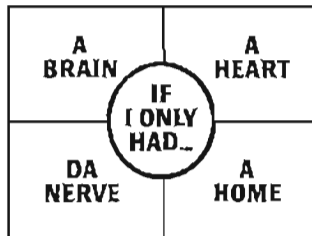
HOW DO YOU SPELL SIMPLIFY?

I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

Philippians 4:11 NIV

Simple lives breathe contentment. Only recently did I notice that God tells us in His Word that contentment is learned. None of us are born content. One way to spell S-I-M-P-L-I-F-Y and contentment is by not spending our seconds thinking, "If I only had..."

Our church met in a school building for five years. In the chorus room, where Sunday School often took place, was a poster entitled "If I only had..." The Wizard of Oz is at the center of the poster. The four quadrants around it feature the scarecrow (if I only had a brain), the tin man (if I only had a heart), the lion (if I only had "da nerve") [I would have said c c c courage 🦁] and of course, Dorothy (if I only had a home).



Every time I see that poster, I want to change it. If I only have... Jesus! Because if I have Jesus, I have a brain which is the mind of Christ, I have a heart, a new heart, I have courage in Christ, and I have a home, an eternal home in heaven. Oh, "There's no place like HOME!"

PRAYER

Thank You, Lord, that I always have a place to go when I have You. I don't need to live my days thinking, "If I only had..." because I have YOU, and the simple fact is that you satisfy every need, not every want, but every need. Thank YOU.



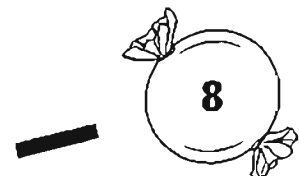


APRIL

THEME	HOW DO YOU SPELL SIMPLIFY?
DESSERT	Vanilla ice cream, pure & simple!
CANDY	A simple pure chocolate Hershey® bar

When was the last time you were served simple vanilla ice cream all by itself without any sprinkles, hot fudge, or whipped topping? Who knows? Maybe we'll taste the ice cream this time! ☺-

- Go to the LIBRARY and check out as many books as you can carry with "simple" or "simplify" in the title. Show the women visually how many books have been written on the subject.
- Write your own book at tonight's **Sweet Monday**. Give each woman at least one index card (3X5) and have her jot down one thing she does to simplify her life.
- Read the cards aloud and let women guess who wrote what OR have each woman share her own.
- Tell women that they may jot down any others before they leave as you are going to compile a small booklet or handout to distribute next month!
- Announce next Sweet Monday.





MAY

THEME ALL MUST GO... HUSBAND SAYS SO!... When It Comes to YARD SALES ☀

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:19 - 21 NIV

My yard sale advertisement sign, "All Must Go... Husband Says So!" means I want all the "junk" out of my yard before the Yard Sale is over! Yard sales are just one practical way to "unstore" my treasures and help me loosen up on my attachment to things. Moths are another! Sometimes we have to laugh to keep from crying! One of my friends left me a "mothy" prayer request on the answering machine. When she got to the part about them "flying everywhere," I burst out laughing. I recorded the message word for word as I save things that make me laugh.

"Please continue to pray about my moths. Oh, evidently there are still some around here in the house and I can't find them. I came back from my two week trip and both of my traps were loaded. So it is all in God's hands. I have torn this house apart and He is the only one who can lead me to the source. So it has me torn up because they are flying everywhere. I think they were flying when you were here! So if you would specifically pray in that manner, that he would lead me in the right way."

God did lead her in the right way and some man told her that all the traps she had bought were actually attracting the moths! Can you believe that? As soon as she got rid of those powerful traps, the moths left!

Now, there is a lesson to all of us in that. My friend is a very uncluttered person and loves God with all her heart. She "doesn't even do yard sales!" so I am not finding fault here with her at all. God tells us to pray about everything and I count it a privilege to share a part of her burden. I did confess to her that I had to laugh part of the way through her message. ☀ When I read this scripture, I thought of her. The reality of life is that moths will destroy and all our material possessions will not last through eternity, but our souls will! We need to loosen our grip on things by the power God gives us through His Spirit and spend our time investing in things that will last—God, His word, and people. It is as simple as that! God will show us each specifically how we can do that as we yield to Him. (It is okay not to do YARD SALES!) ☀

PRAYER

Lord, I confess that I spend far too much time on things that won't count for anything in light of eternity. Set my heart on You so my priorities will be straight. It is easy to get mixed up.





MAY

THEME	ALL MUST GO... HUSBAND SAYS SO!... When It Comes to YARD SALES
DESSERT	Lemonade, coffee and donuts (an added touch to any YARD SALE)
CANDY	Suckers (Just in case you are a "sucker" for Yard Sales!)

Why In the world I love to have a YARD SALE when I don't even go to them, and my husband tells me I make less than 25¢ an hour for all the work, and I lose lots of sleep the night before due to excitement and last minute pricing, I'll never know!!! It could be the fun I have with my neighbor and just the anticipation of people going home with my "TRASH" as their "TREASURE." Anyway, having a YARD SALE makes me SMILE ☺- and when I put this advertisement in the paper All Must Go... Husband Says So! (it appears early in the yard sale Column because it starts with an A,) ☺- and a big sign on our street, many people come to the YARD SALE just to see the husband! ☺-

Many women want to try a Yard Sale and need spurring on. This **Sweet Monday** women carry the program introduction. Women have successful yard sale tips. See below:

- Watch your spring women's magazines for YARD SALE tips! Maybe a starter for your **Sweet Monday**.
- Have a mini yard sale or have your friend who is a YARD SALE queen plan it. Price items you want to give away as you would at a yard sale. (About 1/4 cost for furniture and good electronics, etc. See Appendix for more info.) and give out play \$. Let women shop, and sit back and enjoy cleaning up some clutter in your home. Collect items from women ahead of time.
- Put out signs for **Sweet Monday** YARD SALE, especially "ALL MUST GO... HUSBAND SAYS SO" or "HUSBANDS SAY SO" if multi-family. Make them on yellow or white poster board and write BIG so women will see their effectiveness. Many people will come just because of the sign.
- Give out number to call and price for YARD SALE ads to local paper to your sweet women to save them time.
- Be sure and wear a pocket apron for change and make it festive and fun if you have time. (Everybody loves a party) Mine has "ALL MUST GO... HUSBAND SAYS SO" on it, and I love the Yard Sale just to wear it! ☺-
- Set up your **Sweet Monday** "dessert stand" just like you would on Yard Sale Day and have women use play \$ for donuts and drinks.
- Remind your women at the previous **Sweet Monday** NOT to come at dawn like their future yard sale customers will. Be prepared!!
- Use the rest of your **Sweet Monday** time for women to ask questions and share their YARD SALE savvy. Some of them may want to announce when they are having their YARD SALE!!
- (Optional) If you would like a smaller group activity, divide women by zip codes or neighborhoods and have each group write short and sweet yard sale advertisements for newspaper or design simplest sign to entice! Visuals are always good!
- Announce next Sweet Monday.

See **Appendix**



— Women's Socials on a Shoestring • Tied to a

JUNE

THEME SUITED TO A "T"

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2 NIV

T-shirts usually reveal some information about their wearer. My friend Brenda, from Charlottesville, asked me if I had seen the T-shirt advertising the Functional Family Conference. On it was a large auditorium, but only one person was in attendance! Oh, I could have worn that T-shirt for the first twenty-eight years of my life because that's what kind of home I grew up in. I wonder if we as Christians could wear a T-shirt with the inscription "Experiencing God's Good, Pleasing, and Perfect Will." The reality is that, as believers in Christ, we should have that T-shirt on daily. We are suited to a T to the God we are tied to in Christ. When we received Christ, we were given not only the mind of Christ but His Holy Spirit to reside inside of us (1 Cor 2:16). What a privilege! As we are obedient to Christ and do not conform to the things of this world, we'll be changed, we'll be different. It is OK to be different. So be encouraged, and read the Bible because the Bible is God speaking to us. Why would any of us want to settle for less than God's good, pleasing, and perfect will?

PRAYER

Jesus Christ, You are real, You are personal, You always have my best interest at heart. Your will for my life is good, pleasing, and perfect. Lord, it doesn't get any better than that! I want your will and need You to renew me and transform me as I offer myself to You (Rom. 12:1). Even though I don't always feel that I am suitable to You, I am because I am in Christ. I am not to base it on my feelings but know by faith I am suitable because I have received Christ. "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12 NIV



— Women's Socials on a Shoestring • Tied to a



JUNE

THEME	SUITED TO A "T"
DESSERT	Popsicles & cold drinks
CANDY	Swirl SAF-T POPS®

Did your mother ever tell you never to run with a sucker in your mouth? This summer **Sweet Monday** is for remembering childhood with backyard games—if it is not too hot! Hopefully, you will have had the **Sweet Monday** on Aging Gracefully (We Can't Lick It ☺) and realized reminders of youth are good for us!

- Have women wear their favorite T-shirt with a logo. If they don't have one with a logo, let them make one up and pin it on their T-shirt when they arrive.
- Have women talk to as many women as they can and find out why each T-shirt is significant.
- Give prizes (donated T-shirts) to winners
 1. Woman wearing oldest T-shirt
 2. Woman wearing newest T-shirt
 3. Woman wearing T-shirt with most holes
 4. Woman who has slept in her T-shirt
 5. Woman who doesn't know anything about logo on her T-shirt
- Plan a variety of backyard games so some can sit and some can move. Use what you have. Do games that suit your equipment and yard.
 - HOPSCOTCH
 - PENNY IN BOTTLE (you know... penny between knees and you have to walk to bottle and drop it in bottle before it drops out between your knees)
 - JACKS
 - JUMP ROPE (Brainstorm old rhymes! What a hoot!)
 - VOLLEYBALL
 - BADMINTON
 - KICK THE CAN
 - HIDE-N-GO-SEEK
- PLAY Pictionary* if you don't think your group is up to backyard games.
- Announce next Sweet Monday





— Women's Socials on a Shoestring • Tied to a

JULY

THEME

COOL VACATIONS

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:

Ecclesiastes 3:1 NIV

Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men?

Galatians 1:10 NIV

Why is it that we women feel such guilt saying "No" to some activity? For me it's because I want the person I'm saying "no" to think more highly of me than she should. I want to LOOK GOOD in front of her. Deep down I am afraid I won't look as good to her now that I've said a gracious "no" instead of an enthusiastic "yes." One Sunday after church I was asked to make a meal for a precious girl who had just had a baby. I couldn't do it, but I so wanted the person who asked me to know that I went to her shower, gave her several gifts, just spoke at a weekend retreat and needed to make a meal for my family. I was pooped. That afternoon I was in the worst mood and asked my husband what was wrong with me. He said, "I'll tell you what's wrong. You are too concerned about what So and So is thinking because you said "no" to making a meal this time." Ugh...he was right. Right then and there I said to God, "Please forgive me. I want to live daily to please you above all, not men."

PRAYER

Oh, God, so often I get it the wrong way around. I spend my days pleasing people instead of pleasing You. Cause me, Lord, to be more concerned what You think than what others think. Besides it is just too exhausting to try and please everyone because it is impossible! There will always be time to do the things You have called me to do. God, you cover everything I feel in Your Word. Thank You!



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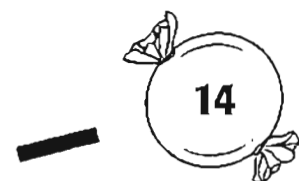


JULY

THEME	COOL VACATIONS
DESSERT	Cool Pops
CANDY	Peppermint Patties®

This **Sweet Monday** is to be so cool and casual none of the women will want to go home!

- Host **Sweet Monday** outside, weather permitting.
- Have women wear their coolest vacation clothing or clothing bought on vacation and be ready to give a prize if a woman comes in her swimsuit! Have the women bring a photo book with one set of vacation pictures marked.
- Share some vacation tips you found helpful from summer women's magazine issues.
- Ask women to share briefly their favorite vacation. Was it with family, alone, or with just a friend or two? Where did they go? What was one highlight from their trip? Is there a particular souvenir they collected from the trip?
- Ask women to bring a vacation souvenir if you have a large group and photo albums are too cumbersome for your size group.
- Take some cute pictures to display when you decide to take a short **Sweet Monday** sabbatical. (I don't have **Sweet Monday** in September because of school starting and sometimes take a Summer **Sweet Monday** sabbatical because of my husband's schedule.) Entitle it either, **Sweet Monday** Goes on Vacation or **Sweet Monday** Sabbatical, and be sure to include the months **Sweet Monday** is not meeting.
- Announce next Sweet Monday.





— Women's Socials on a Shoestring • Tied to a

AUGUST

THEME SEW WHAT?

Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:6 NIV

A home economics class in college brought forth my very first sewing project—a pant suit. (Remember those?) It was the prettiest polyester pantsuit you've ever seen (If you like burnt orange). ☺ The suit was complete with requirements to pass — collar, zipper, and button holes! Of course, I had plenty of assistance from the skilled professor while at school, and I remember my mother, who is an excellent seamstress, being so pleased with my performance. It wasn't until I was home alone without any help from the experts that I FAILED MISERABLY. I attempted to make a dress that looked yummy on the pattern but when donned, was disgusting. I threw it right in the trashcan. It drooped where it should have draped and stayed where it should have dropped, and it was the ugliest outfit I had ever seen! When I was over the initial shock, I realized I had used the wrong kind of fabric!

We sometimes try so hard to fix ourselves apart from our Creator, our Designer, the Finisher of our Faith! We can't fix ourselves any more than I could fix that "outfit" with the wrong fabric. Jesus fixes us and completes us not only now but for all eternity when we belong to Him.

PRAYER

Jesus, how you have captured my heart with what you did for me on that cross. Because you rescued me for all time, I am a good work, not an ugly work. I can never say thank you enough. I don't have to spend my time making myself a good work. I'm already a good work because you live in me. I don't have to complete myself either because you will do it! Whew! Thank you.



— Women's Socials on a Shoestring • Tied to a



AUGUST

THEME

SEW WHAT ?

DESSERT

Donut holes...as a reminder of all the holes we need to mend

CANDY

Candy necklaces or bracelets to wear with your new fashion or fashion accessory

OR

Individually wrapped Twizzlers that look like curtain rods if your Sweet Monday seamstress shares a simple curtain we can sew

- I guarantee you there is at least one woman in your neighborhood, church, or friendship circle that sews! (It may be YOU!) Have her choose one easy curtain, one easy gift bag, one simple skirt, a guaranteed SUCCESS for each woman, and bring her sewing machine or locate a portable one to have available.
- I think to provide some different fabrics and ribbons and create some simple gift bags that every woman could use would be a great way to start.
- Have each woman bring a pair of scissors and you provide extras and straight pins.
- Women, as with all the **Sweet Monday** Socials, the sky is the limit in terms of what your group wants to do. **Sweet Monday** is a perfect way to use some of talents of the women around you for the benefit of others, so always be listening and ask questions. Remember, you can't add to or take away from the Bible, but you can surely add to and take away from **Sweet Monday** to make it yours! ☀️
- Announce next Sweet Monday.



— Women's Socials on a Shoestring • Tied to a

SEPTEMBER

THEME

BIRTHDAY BASHES

In reply [to a Pharisee, a member of the Jewish ruling council, named Nicodemus] Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

John 3:3 NIV

Oh, I'll admit it. Those two little words BORN AGAIN have caused some uncomfortable times in my Christian experience. I believe it was because it seemed there was a distinction between a Christian and a "BORN AGAIN Christian." Maybe the BORN AGAIN Christian had some privileges not available to a "regular Christian." I wasn't even sure where that term BORN AGAIN came from until I started studying God's word. Well, here it is right in the Bible! Jesus was explaining the term to a Bible scholar that had good behavior. Jesus told him that all men have a physical birth, but in order to ever see the kingdom of God, each man must have a spiritual birth. This was wonderful news to me. There is no distinction between a Christian and a BORN AGAIN Christian. If we believe in Jesus Christ as payment for our sins, we are BORN AGAIN CHRISTIANS. Why? God tells us so just thirteen verses later in John 3:16. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

PRAYER

Lord, every physical birthday I get closer and closer to the reality of spending eternity with you. Thank You that each of us needs only one spiritual birthday to be BORN AGAIN, and that time comes when we've said, "Lord, I believe. I need you." Thank you for dying on the cross for all my sin and for the assurance of eternal life this brings.



— Women's Socials on a Shoestring • Tied to a



SEPTEMBER

THEME	BIRTHDAY BASHES
DESSERT	Birthday cake and ice cream, of course and candles!
CANDY	Candy-filled toy assortment or pinata.

Birthday Celebrations aren't ever going away, at least this side of heaven! At this **Sweet Monday** you can log away some simple ideas for all ages.

- This **Sweet Monday** have women share, after you give a few suggestions, their Budget Birthday Bashes and supply pencils and pads of paper!
- Have a wrapped birthday item (box of candles, cake decorations, cake mix, etc.) for winner whose birthday falls into this **Sweet Monday** month.
- Close singing "Happy Birthday" as a loud boisterous group!
- Some women may want to share when they came to know Christ...their spiritual birthday.
- Announce next Sweet Monday.

Kim's Birthday Bashes. See **Appendix**.



OCTOBER

THEME SWAP 'TIL YOU DROP
OR
DOES SHE OR DOESN'T SHE...
KNOW HER COLORS?

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?

Matthew 6:25 NIV

The night before my first television appearance, of course, I wanted to look good. The reality though was that I was three days away from MAJOR SURGERY, a cervical fusion, and my vain prayer was that I would look better than I felt. A precious friend met me the night before my big debut. Before dinner she came up to my room to analyze what I was going to wear. The dilemma turned out to be that I thought to be "Miss Tea Party" I had to wear my old fashioned black tea party boots and to feature Sweet Monday I didn't need those, but there was no time to change. We went from one set of shoes to another. My true blue friend informed me that I couldn't wear those boots. They weren't the right color. They were too dark for my Spring outfit. I told her I had to wear those boots because they were the shoes I brought! I stewed a bit about it and decided to get up my nerve to ask the camera men never to show my feet! ☺ Do you know the morning of taping my Bible reading was from Matthew 6:25? "Do not worry about what you shall wear." Oh, Is God personal? Is He real? Does He know the tiniest details of our lives? The answer is an overwhelming, Yes! Yes! Yes!

PRAYER

Thank you, Lord, that You are so personal and thank you for reminding me that you speak to every issue of the human heart. Thank you for allowing us to come boldly to You (no matter what color we are wearing) to pray honestly, "Help me look better than I feel." And thank you for saying "Yes!" to me that big day in my life. I love You.



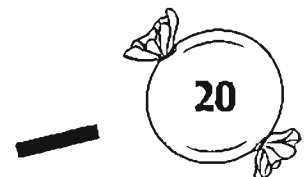


OCTOBER

THEME	SWAP 'TIL YOU DROP OR DOES SHE OR DOESN'T SHE... KNOW HER COLORS?
DESSERT	Rainbow sherbet (pretty and low fat)
CANDY	Spree® for a real shopping spree!

Back home in South Carolina my precious Dad listened regularly to a radio program called "Swap 'N' Shop." Have your own at this fashionable Swap 'Til You Drop **Sweet Monday**.

- Ask women to bring a shopping bag with 3-10 nice items of clothing that they are tired of or no longer use. (You may provide shopping bags.) Call some good friends who love to shop that want to clean out clutter, invite them to share their shopping bags at **Sweet Monday**.
- Spread the clothing out throughout the room or if you have a portable garment rack, you could use it for some items. The clothes just need to be quickly visible. Bring a standing mirror into the room if you have one.
- Instruct women to SWAP 'TIL THEY DROP by filling their bag with same amount of items they came with.
- After all swaps and last minute decisions over leftovers are made, donate the rest of the items.
- Tell women to feel free to model their "new clothes" at next **Sweet Monday**.
- Don't worry about different sizes. Someone will have a friend or relative in mind for clothing.
- Announce next Sweet Monday.





— Women's Socials on a Shoestring • Tied to a

NOVEMBER

THEME

MAN-I-CURED THOSE NAILS!

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!
II Corinthians 5:17 NIV*

I learned recently that one reason nail polish does not stay on very long is because the nail isn't clean to start with. Ugh! How many times have I taken off old polish with the oily fingernail polish remover and rushed to get a quick coat of polish on before heading out the door? There was certainly no time for cleaning in between!

When Christ was actually nailed to the cross, died, and rose again after three days, He took off our old polish. There wasn't even a trace left! Those who have believed by faith have not only clean nails, but clean hearts. Christ can stick to us! Oh, of course, we chip often, but when God sees us, which is all the time, He sees us as PERFECT NAILS— clean and shiny—like an Eternal TOPCOAT that reflects His glory.

He is also our DAILY PROTECTOR! He provides daily upkeep for us through His Word, the Bible. Let's pull it out right now and read it while our nails are drying. ☺ Why not start with II Corinthians 5:17?

PRAYER

Dear Lord, I'm so glad when it comes to my salvation that I don't have to go back regularly for touch-ups. You said, "It is finished" on the cross and how freeing to know that you are MY ETERNAL TOPCOAT and DAILY PROTECTOR. I don't have to spend my time protecting myself because You love me and are committed to doing that. Thank You.



— Women's Socials on a Shoestring • Tied to a



NOVEMBER

THEME

MAN-I-CURED THOSE NAILS!

DESSERT

JELLO JIGGLES® (See package directions.)

After all, haven't we always heard that gelatin strengthens our nails?!

CANDY

JELLY BEANS or RING POPS (to show off those nails)

- Have women, on arrival, put their name in a "finger bowl" with marbles just like they do at the nail salon. This will be used for a drawing for services.
- Take a risk and go to a nail salon and have a manicure if you've never had one. It may spark some ideas for your **Sweet Monday**. Ask for a gift certificate for Christmas or your birthday!
- Have women assess their own hands and pass around a pump hand lotion for women to massage into their hands.
- Share a current article in a women's magazine addressing hand/nail care.
- Invite a real nail technician to **Sweet Monday** to share her knowledge. Buy a gift certificate, if possible, for another name drawn.
- Have women in audience ask their individual questions when short nail presentation is finished.
- Ask women to share their own nail secrets and hang-ups as a way to include more participation.
- Trade nail polishes with each other if you announced at the previous **Sweet Monday**. Give a new bottle to the woman who brought the most nail polish.
- Paint each other's nails if it is a small group. Remember to clean all lotion off nails before polishing or polish will peel! Use fingernail polish remover. (If we did this I'd have to send my husband on an overnight, as the fumes bother him so. Believe me—I have tried to sneak and paint my nails inside!" Be considerate.)
- Announce next Sweet Monday. Remind women to bring a White Elephant! ☀-





— Women's Socials on a Shoestring • Tied to a

DECEMBER

THEME

ALL NEW WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE

Then [Jesus] called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

Mark 8:34-38 NIV

When you return an item to the store, it is usually easier to exchange a size than go through the rigmarole of finding a receipt, making sure you are within return policies, and getting a refund. In God's goodness and great love for us He made a simple way for us not only to share eternity with Him but have a personal relationship with Him on earth. God exchanged His only Son's life, His perfect, sinless, Son's life, for all of our sinful, imperfect lives. We can never hear enough of this good news of the Great Exchange of all time. The only return God requires from us is that we receive Him, by faith, in believing that His Son, Jesus, died on the cross in payment for our sin. That was his purpose in coming, to sacrifice Himself, to redeem us from all our selfishness. When we make this personal transaction by faith, he does not require us to keep exchanging for our salvation. The Great Exchange was finished on the cross. He indwells us the moment we receive Him. He wants us to be assured that the exchange has been made and we have eternal life. He tells us in *1 John 5:13*: "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

How wonderful to celebrate Christmas knowing the Great Exchange has already been made on our behalf!

PRAYER

Dear God, during this holiday season, I want to focus on the real meaning of Christmas, not all the externals. How I love all the lights, the smells, the fireplaces aglow, but it would be meaningless apart from You. Thank You that You are personal and real, and because of Your Great Exchange, I am redeemed!!!



— Women's Socials on a Shoestring • Tied to a



DECEMBER

THEME ALL NEW WHITE ELEPHANT
GIFT EXCHANGE

DESSERT White vanilla ice cream with holiday sprinkles

CANDY Any candy wrapped like a package... Example, Ande's® Mints (Alternative – I surprised my women with a bath oil bead shaped like an elephant instead of candy, in clear cellophane. My holiday gift to them.)

Everyone seems tired this time of year and yet a White Elephant takes little preparation except the wrapping of the "gift." This White Elephant is lively and quick just like St. Nick!

- Ask your previous **Sweet Monday** for every woman to bring an unpurchased item wrapped to entice. Tell women this will be their first step towards spring cleaning.
- Wrap extra gifts so if someone comes empty handed, everyone can participate. (Don't worry. You'll still have lots of items for annual Clutter Auction in Spring!)
- Have each woman choose a gift from the pile and stand up. Make a circle so you can quickly pass gifts around.
- Read the story about "His Left" and "My Right" trimming the tree. See **Appendix**. Start slow until woman catch on and gradually speed up the story. Gifts are passed, rather "pushed," to the next person in the direction given, any form of LEFT or RIGHT.
- Have everyone open their gift and have "Show and Tell".
- As another alternative, donate ornaments to someone who could use this cheer. Have women bring an ornament of personal significance that they are willing to part with. After the passing and unwrapping women tell each other in front of the group the significance of the ornament they gave away. (This serves to help your women get to know each other better and to join in the spirit of giving to someone they may or may not even know.)
- Provide a small Christmas tree, real or artificial. Decorate with ornaments and give to a **Sweet Monday** sister that is sick or grieving or has any special need God makes you aware of. It won't be difficult. We are all needy!
- Announce next Sweet Monday.



Sweet
Monday
Staples



— Women's Socials on a Shoestring • Tied to a

THEME

A PROPER ENGLISH TEA PARTY

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:25 NIV

In our busy, hectic, technological world, I fear we are moving closer and closer to isolation. Think how much time children and adults spend alone watching TV and sitting at a computer. I believe vital skills, which usually determine job success, are good communication and sensitivity to others. Having been a teacher for almost ten years, I am concerned these skills are not being properly emphasized. We have difficulty slowing down long enough to teach these skills at home, school, work and play. Taking time for tea teaches not only manners but consideration to others. People are precious, all people, and it takes time and thought to care for even the elderly person walking more slowly in front of you at the grocery store. It certainly takes time, even in the church community, to meet together and encourage one another, but God instructs us to do just that, and we all benefit!

PRAYER

Lord, cause me to remember how even the smallest act of kindness, a call, a casserole, a cupcake, an extra set of hands has cheered my heart. It is amazing how the unexpected kindnesses and gifts of time or resources are never forgotten. And, Lord, help me to forget the things that I do. I pray that they would only be reminders of You!



— Women's Socials on a Shoestring • Tied to a



THEME	A Proper English Tea Party
DESSERT	Small prissy sandwiches, scones, crumpets, muffins, croissants, etc. Pickup desserts like cake and cookies
CANDY	Brach's® Butter Toffee

Women love this and you can make this tea as elaborate or as simple as you like. Even the candy sounds English. The three courses are provided by the women as this is one tradition each year where women may bring one of the courses instead of you providing your simple dessert. You'll have a real HIGH TEA — substantial enough for supper!!! (See **Appendix**.) You supply fresh brewed tea. I like to borrow extra glassware from Grandma Hazel across the street, but pretty paper products are just fine, too.

- Have women Bring Their own Teacup (BYOTC) and provide extras.
- Set up outside as many tables as you can round up and use mismatched tablecloths or you can always put food on a big table and serve buffet style inside.
- Have hot water and plenty of tea bags available if you do not feel comfortable brewing tea. Use decaf at night, lemon slices, sugar cubes, and use MILK, not cream, which is too heavy for tea.
- Include a playful short history of tea in "A Proper English Tea Talk" (**Appendix**).
- Give a small tea treasure as a prize to woman who has the closest birthday to the tea party.
- Have women bring odds and ends if you have a crafty group and design fru-fru hats to wear! My hat, which a neighbor gave me years ago, reminded me of a birthday cake. So I attached candles to light for birthday parties. Fun! Fun!
- Use If Tea Cups Could Talk by Emily Barnes as a wonderful resource.
- Announce next Sweet Monday.





— Women's Socials on a Shoestring • Tied to a

THEME

CLUTTER AUCTION

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

Hebrews 10:24 NIV

When you really think about it, good organization frees you up for more time to put love in action with good deeds. When I begin to unclutter, little by little, it is freeing. I'm not just talking about uncluttering my home, but my mind, heart, and schedule as well. Often I've said to God, "Oh, Lord, I don't want to miss anything you have for me because I know it is the best." Uncluttering, whether it's a big undertaking or little by little, is a step towards more time with others. Why not begin with one little drawer in your home or putting aside one novel or television program that will clutter your mind with matter that is not *true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, or praiseworthy?* (Philippians 4:8)

PRAYER

Oh, Lord, sometimes I think you are probably tired of hearing it, but, truly, I don't want to miss anything you have for me. Why would I want to miss your best? Help me to forget what is behind and strain toward what is ahead (Philippians 3:13). Help me also not to hold too tightly to things. They are all going to burn anyway.



— Women's Socials on a Shoestring • Tied to a



THEME	CLUTTER AUCTION
DESSERT	A cluttered assortment of individually wrapped snack cakes
CANDY	Brach's® AbraCabubble or all your previous Sweet Monday candy clutter

Have women bring one unwrapped item in good condition that they are willing to donate. Give out fake money in individually numbered envelopes (for 30 women prepare 30 envelopes numbered 1-30). Start with \$10 or \$20 in fake money in one envelope and **increase the amount in each envelope by \$1**. You must have **unequal** amounts in each "wallet" envelope or there will be no "play" and item won't be sold to one person. It is just like real life—some rich and some poor. It is fun to watch women help each other by giving some of their \$ if a woman really wants something! Women will flash their numbered envelope to Clutter Auctioneer when bidding on someone else's clutter. Clutter Auctioneer will start the bidding with gavel at "One Clutter Clutter Clutter, Two Clutter Clutter Clutter, Three Clutter Clutter Clutter," etc. until SOLD to highest bidder! If you don't have a gavel, use a hammer, or a big plastic hammer from your child's toolset!

- Designate an auctioneer and a banker to make change. Give two prizes at end of auction:
 1. Guest whose item sold for the greatest amount
 2. Guest whose item sold for the least amount
- Make sure prize is small so as not to add clutter to the winner's home! For instance, a trash bag or a bag from a local charity that will inspire them to conquer clutter.
- Highlight Dan Aslett's book, Clutter's Last Stand, for inspiration.
- Announce next Sweet Monday.



Appendix

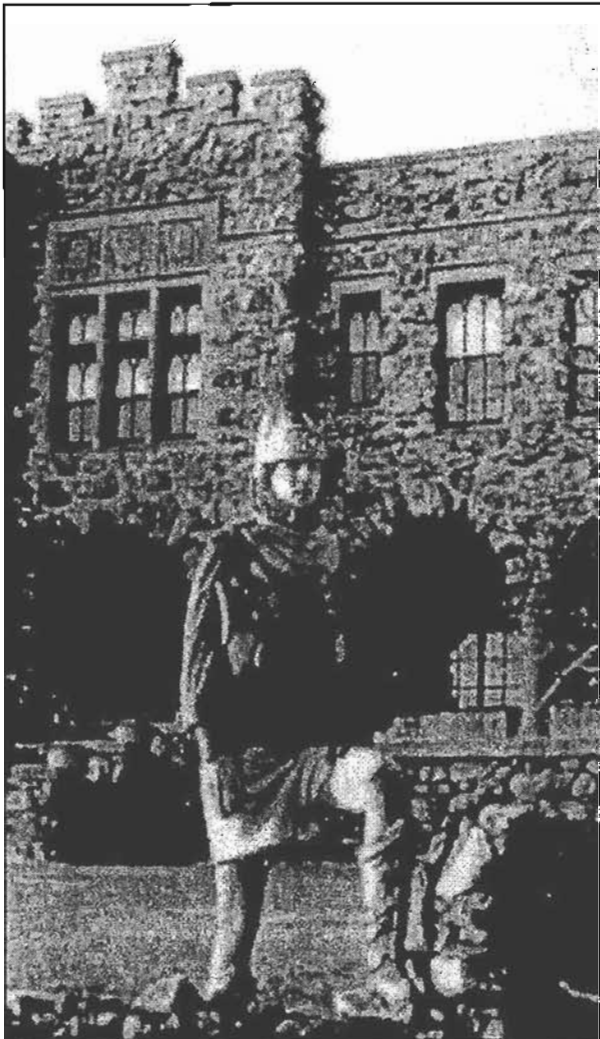


AN IRRESISTIBLE DECENT PROPOSAL

My knight in shining armor, husband of fourteen years, proposed in a full suit of armor at a real castle!

I'd always dreamed that when a man proposed I'd be dressed like a princess from head to toe, and certainly have my legs shaved! ☺ I'd return a breathy "Yes" over candlelight. Love is full of surprises!

Winding through the Virginia mountains, we passed a NO TRESPASSING sign. Mark was NOT turning around at my insistence. When we arrived at a romantic castle



he set off to find "the facilities." ☺

It was awkward because he was gone so L-O-N-G. No wonder!

It took him awhile to get all that armor on and pull up the gray tights he put on backwards! ☺ Mark finally came out clanking and proposed. My immediate response? "I'm not ready!" Donning the same make-up and clothes from the day before I didn't feel like the princess!

Needing my lipstick on!

Kim Newlen ☺

December 1984, Afton Mountain

POTATO ROLLS

1/2 c mashed potatoes	1 1/2 c warm water
2 pk yeast	1 tablespoon salt
1/2 c sugar	1/2 c melted butter
2 eggs	6 1/2 c flour (may not need all)

Cook potato in microwave. Beat potato with mixer. Dissolve yeast in water; add sugar and salt. Let sit a few minutes. Add eggs, butter and yeast mixture to potato and beat. Add 3 c flour and beat again. Add 2 c flour. Stir with wooden spoon. Cover and refrigerate 2 hours. (will keep in refrigerator up to 5 days)

Punch down. Divide into 3 balls. Roll ball into 10" circle. Cut in 8 crescent shapes. Roll up each crescent. Place on greased cookie sheet. Let rise one hour.

Bake 350° 15 min. Makes 2 dz

Best ever! Stay soft for days.

DAPHNE WILKINS FOR C.E.

YARD SALE PRICING GUIDELINES

25¢ per dish

50¢ paperbacks

\$1 hardback books

\$2 set of towels/sheets

\$4 videos (or 2 for \$7)

1/4 cost of good furniture/electronics

10¢ -25¢ old makeup and leftovers (They'll sell!)

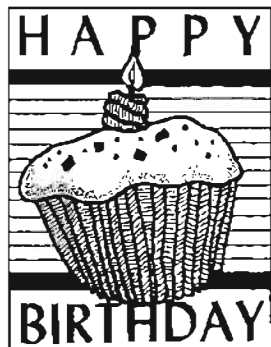


Have some small boxes marked 10¢, 25¢, 50¢ for "stuff."

Be willing late in the day to lower prices.

KIM'S BIRTHDAY BASHES ☀

1. A December Birthday turns into a Birthday Breakfast ages 1-4. (If appropriate, at the exact time: Kali was born at 8:00 am, so we had a birthday breakfast at 8:00.) Ask your adult friends and a playmate or two and celebrate your child's birthday and Christmas in a month of too much to do and too little time. Have guests arrive in pajamas!
2. For a December Birthday age 5 and over, have a half birthday party in June or July. It is a wonderful way to see school friends and enjoy warmer weather. Summer is perfect for Backyard Birthdays! Have a small family birthday dinner in December. That's TWO parties for almost the price of one and TWICE the FUN. My daughter loves it! (Oh how hard it was expecting Birthday presents when Christmas shopping was such a burden to some people) This way is much simpler.
3. Take a risk and just try having your child open a gift when the guest arrives and thanking them properly right then. We did it for the first time at my daughter's 6 1/2 birthday and it worked beautifully. Then the focus was not on the gifts at the party and the connection between the gift and the giver was solidified.
4. For that man in your life, surprise him with a "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" Birthday Party. Make simple invitations out of old wallpaper in the shape of a man's tie. Ask male guests to bring your man a tie of their own that they are tired of.
5. If your husband or boyfriend has a winter birthday and a fireplace, ask guests to bring a piece of firewood for an ALL FIRED UP BIRTHDAY BASH. You'll have a sure fire starter for all those candles. Make POPCORN FOR "POP" or S'MORES for S'MORE FUN over the flames.



ALL NEW WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE

DIRECTIONS: Each guest is to bring a gift “wrapped for appeal” that was unpurchased, something from home that she wants to get rid of. It is a good way to start decluttering early! Have extra “white elephants” on hand in case someone forgets. [This is great to do to save time and get arm exercise?] Have everyone choose a gift and get in a BIG circle. While hostess reads story below, guests pass gifts to the right or to the left whenever any form of the word RIGHT or LEFT is read. To liven things up the reader may speed up the story. At the end each guest keeps the gift she is holding. If there is time, have a SHOW 'N TELL and laugh! ☺

“HIS LEFT” AND “MY RIGHT” TRIM THE TREE

Once upon a time my neighbors, “HIS LEFT” and “MY RIGHT,” decorated their Christmas tree in the middle of November! Of course it looked to me like MY RIGHT’S way was the RIGHT way and HIS LEFT’S way could’ve been LEFT behind. Did I say that RIGHT? Anyway, HIS LEFT LEFT, and RIGHT then and there MY RIGHT LEFT the room for a cup of tea and to summon her three daughters, RIGHT AWAY, RIGHT ON and RIGHT NOW. Oh, how RIGHTEOUS they all were, and RIGHT AWAY immediately they began to unpack the ornaments LEFT over from the last Christmas. RIGHT ON just stood around cheering, “RIGHT ON! RIGHT ON! RIGHT ON!” every time someone put an ornament on the tree. HIS LEFT finally told her to be quiet RIGHT now or she would be LEFT to clean up by herself. Of course, RIGHT NOW wanted the decorations cleaned up before they even got out of the box. It was either RIGHT now or never for her! And there was certainly no room for grace to slip in there! Whew! As you can imagine, I LEFT HIS LEFT and MY RIGHT’S home as soon as my son, Put Together, came over to invite LEFTY to play. Believe me LEFTY was very eager to go over to Put Together’s home and shirk his tree trimming duties!

THE END (ALMOST)

The moral of this story is: before your family trims the tree, make sure ALWAYS RIGHT is busy in the kitchen making cookies! ☺

A PROPER ENGLISH TEA TALK

Good evening! As I was preparing exactly what I wanted to share with you in "A Proper English Tea Talk," I was thinking how lovely it would be to have a beautiful English accent. But ya'll will just have to surrender to my southern drawl for a few minutes.

I grew up in a very loving home and one of my sweet Daddy's constant pieces of advice was, "Kim, take time to smell the roses." Having a tea is a wonderful way to stop and smell the roses midst busy schedules and high tech lifestyles. Tea can be a simple centerpiece to opening your home that fits in beautifully with today's statement to SIMPLIFY. Teas are unique enough that guests will still feel like they've been to a special event, and you will have saved a lot of time, energy, and expense by not having to prepare impressive entrees and beverages. A BIG mistake we make is shying away from these because we think the task is too overwhelming. but, truly, a PROPER ENGLISH TEA can be anything from cookies and milk to the fat and extravagance of real dotted cream with scones. Remembering how you serve is always more crucial than what you serve. Classically, what is served at a tea is a three course snack.

1. 6-8 small sandwiches per person
2. scones or other breads, additional treats of jam, honey or dotted cream
3. desserts: petit fours, cakes and cookies

Using this as your skeleton, you can present your tea as simply or elaborately as you'd like according to what your pantry allows. When it comes to food, think small, delicate finger foods. To provide richness, spread butter on sandwiches before filling. Instead of scones, use croissants, crumpets, biscuits or muffins. Add a dessert of cake, cookies, pastries, or trifle, and apart from an attractive setting and a gracious, friendly atmosphere, you have all the trimmings for a delightful tea!

Before I *sandwich* in "How to Serve," I want to give you a brief history about tea and then close with a hodgepodge of ideas that I hope will encourage you to stop for tea time.

Legend has it that tea was discovered by a Chinese Emperor called Shen Nung in 28th Century, B. C., when leaves of a camellia bush accidentally fell into his boiling water. He was a fastidious man who insisted his water be boiled. News of this spread and soon everyone was trying the beverage. It is still a big part of Chinese culture today.

Tea didn't reach English shores until around 1657. The Dutch actually brought it to Europe, but the habit of tea drinking was adopted when King Charles II started drinking tea throughout the day, followed by his court, and then the entire country. For all you Trivial Pursuit players, did you know that from one plant called *Camellia Sinensis* came 3 types of tea and more than 3000 varieties? This plant is a bushy evergreen and grows in a tropical climate. It grows 40-50 feet but when cultivated is carefully pruned to 2-5 feet. The three types of tea are black, oolong, and green.

Black Tea	Fermented. Produces the hearty brew we westerners are accustomed to. High in caffeine, but still has less caffeine than coffee. <i>(Earl Gray, English Breakfast)</i>
Oolong Tea	Blend of black and green. More delicate than black but stronger than green.
Green Tea	Lowest in caffeine and has the most delicate flavor. A great taste that is enjoyed plain rather than with lemon or sugar.

To brew tea, be sure and start with COLD water. We have the tendency to brew tea too long. Three to five minutes maximum. Don't gauge readiness by color but set your timer. English tea traditionally comes late in the afternoon, anywhere from 2 o'clock to 5 o'clock, to provide a little refresher between lunch and a late supper. High tea can be served as late as 5 o'clock and doesn't mean "super fancy" but substantial enough to stand in for supper.

If you are having a large tea, feel free to use pretty paper goods, but serve tea in teacups with flatware spoons. For a smaller tea, pull out your silver service or your good china and table linens. For a more whimsical approach, use a variety of teacups. Flowers are always nice and can be used to garnish your food trays as well as decorate your table. Just make sure they are not too overwhelming for a small, intimate table.

Consider appealing ways to serve your delicious morsels. Three-tiered servers, trifle bowls, and those "not used enough" cake stands are all nice ways to serve. And don't forget to use pretty paper doilies. Having a tea is a great way to use some of those Christmas jams and jellies that are now taking up much needed cabinet space while you are spring cleaning your kitchen!

Jams and jellies are so much more enticing when served out of a pretty cut glass bowl, and warm toast takes on new meaning when served out of a basket lined with pretty cotton lace. I love to hear my little girl say, "Pretty Mommy."

My closing right now is going to sound like a list of school cancellations for all that snow we had this past winter, but I love sharing ideas and want to give you as many as I can, hoping one or two will be just right for you!

1. Have tea regularly with your children or grandchildren. My daughter and I have enjoyed many spring days outside with her tea set and lunch. I don't think it even has to be a **woman thing**. Serve tea to your husband or male friends, but remember to keep conversation light and not focus on all those ways he hasn't met your expectations this week!
2. Stop for tea at a local tea house.
3. Use milk in your tea and not cream. Cream is too heavy.
4. Try strawberry tea this spring and summer. Serve it cold. It's wonderful!
5. Don't forget cranberry bread this winter for a cozy Christmas tea!
6. Next time you are in an antique store or junk store, be on the lookout for small silver tongs. They are precious for serving lemon slices.
7. Gourmet shops carry colored sugar crystals. They add flair to your sugar bowl!

NOT SO PROPER, BUT STILL FUN, TEA TYPE PARTIES

1. Mug & Muffin. Host one.
2. Mad Hatter's Party. Design and wear hats. My hat is a birthday cake.
3. Think about going from here and celebrating life with a Spring Tea. Relax with your tea and friends. Keep it simple and joyful.
4. And above all, HAVE FUN, and take time to SMELL THE ROSES!



Tea Party Sign-Up Sheet

Tray of Small Sandwiches

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

A dozen scones, croissants, crumpets, biscuits, or muffins

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Small "Pick-Up" Dessert

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Lemon Slices _____

Bowl of jam, preserves, honey

_____	_____
_____	_____

Box of flavored decaf tea bags _____

Box of regular decaf tea bags _____



SAMPLE
OF A
SWEET MONDAY
REMINDER
AND
INVITATION



Sweet Monday 2000

March 6 I Can, You Can!

Two Spring Specials:

- Susan MacBride - she cans, we can!
- Susann Bellflower - she crafts, we craft!

April 3 Annual Clutter Auction

Don't bring money, but do bring from your household
1 unwrapped item that needs a new home!

May 1 Let's Teaparty!

BYO Teacup and one plate of finger food to share.
Come in high tea fashion (hats & gloves) or as you are!

June, July, August - Sweet Monday Sabbatical

Reminder! October 1, 2000 we'll have our Annual Fall Decorating Special!

Questions? Call Kim Newlen (555-5555)

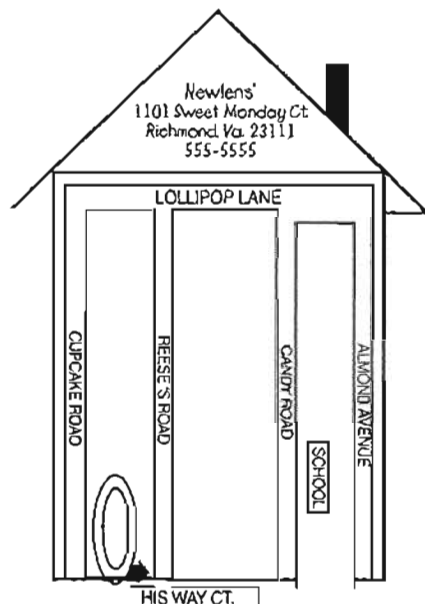


2000

Directions on Back

7:30 pm

Take Cupcake Road south.
Turn Left onto Lollipop Lane.
Turn Right onto Reese's.
Turn Right onto Heart.
Turn Right onto His Way.
Look for Sweet Monday flag at
first home on the right. # 1101



NO RSVP'S
NO CALLING
NO STRESS

Put these in
your foyer:

Keep some
in your
car and
pocketbook!

BSSYP

When I was a freshman in college, a thrilling "first letter from home" was sitting in my campus mailbox awaiting my enthusiastic response. It was obvious that Mama had addressed it, but Daddy had scribbled **BSSYP** in the upper left-hand corner of the envelope. For the life of me, I couldn't figure out its meaning. Out of curiosity and probably homesickness, I immediately called home. I remember part of our conversation as if it were yesterday:

"Daddy, what is **BSSYP**?"

"Sugar, it is what I've told you all your life. Be sweet and say your prayers."

For many years, Daddy never missed leaving his mark on each letter or package that my Mama carefully and lovingly addressed. **BSSYP** survived graduation from college, graduate school, marriage, and now our first baby!

My unique tribute to Mama and Daddy is a perpetual Virginia license tag with **BSSYP** on it. The look on my parents' faces when I drove home for the first time donning my "tribute tags" was priceless.

God only knows how many people have inquired about its meaning over the years. I've never tired of sharing this tribute about my special parents, Bo and Maxine Bowman.

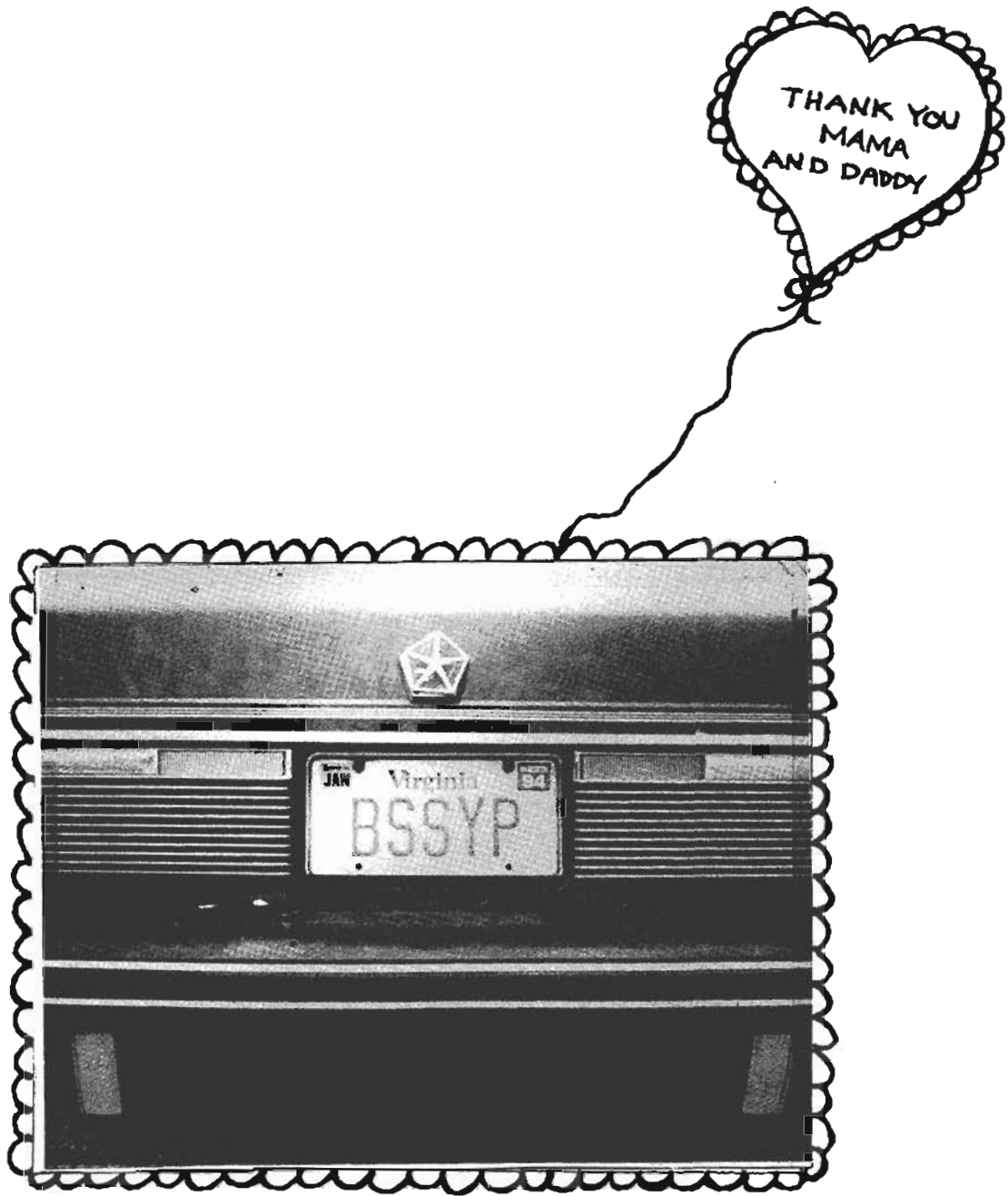
I taught school almost ten years and an old license plate always adorned my classroom. The students inquired about it without fail and were given a little extra credit when they sought out its meaning and told me the next day. They loved it.

Imagine my joy in giving my parents an autographed copy of Dennis Rainey's book [The Tribute](#) (Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, Tennessee, 1994) in which a letter from me, about them, was published!

This **BSSYP** tribute has already been passed on to our daughter as a tribute from her special, special grandparents, my mama and daddy, and now to you, **Sweet Monday Sisters!**

BSSYP,

Kim



Design courtesy of Dawn Goodrich