



**Harrison Church**  
A UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITY



# Spice

... a monthly  
newsletter for women

## God's Box of Chocolates--A Valentine's Day Devotional

by LauraLee Shaw



Everywhere I look near Valentine's Day, there's chocolate: boxes of chocolate in all the stores, chocolate on tv promising to be the only love you need, chocolate girl scout cookies--CHOCOLATE! I even saw chocolate Altoid breath mints in the grocery checkout aisle the other day! I think that's what led me to remember the famous quote from Forrest Gump: "Life is like a box of chocolates...you never know what you're gonna get." (I even remembered it with his accent.)

In reality, that phrase can be true in many ways. We wake up every morning completely unsure of what the day may hold for us. We've made our plans. Sometimes they even happen the way we make them. But we never know for sure, do we?

The days that come with caramel in the middle are my favorite. The ones with the strawberry goo are just so so--but the ones with coconut--YUCK! I'd rather go back to bed. Then there's the days where tragedy or difficult times come out of nowhere, and the chocolate sits in the pantry untouched...there's no sweetness to be had in those moments, it seems.

God knows that life as it pertains to circumstances is uncertain for us. That's why He comforts us and reminds us so many times that He is our constant companion, our steadfast friend, our consistently loving God and Savior. He doesn't keep promises the way we do:

"When people make promises, they guarantee them by appeal to some authority above them so that if there is any question that they'll make good on the promise, the authority will back them up. When God wanted to guarantee His promises, He gave His word, a rock-solid guarantee--God can't break His word. And because His word cannot change, the promise is likewise unchangeable." (Heb. 6:16-18, the Message)

You see, no matter what chocolate we are "in the middle of" right now, He is there--with the certainty of His promise today as well as His hope of heaven in the future. Listen to how the verse above continues to encourage us: (vs.19-20)

"We who have run for our very lives to God have every reason to grab the promised hope with both hands and never let go. It's an unbreakable spiritual lifeline, reaching past all appearances right to the very presence of God where Jesus, running on ahead of us, has taken up His permanent post as high priest for us, in the order of Melchizedek."

I love the visual picture of grabbing on to Him with both hands as He runs ahead of me to the Father. That makes me able to get up today and praise Him for whatever comes my way. This faith, this confidence, this hope is our

unbreakable spiritual lifeline--HIS love for us no matter what, when, how or why. Let's binge on His priceless box of chocolates today...the sweetest and most satisfying of them all.

"Taste and see that the Lord is good;  
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him."  
Psalm 34:8

LauraLee Shaw is a disciple of Jesus Christ disguised as a wife, mom, writer & speaker. She is a contributing author to "Women of Passions," and a writer for "Internet Cafe Devotions." You can visit LauraLee at <http://faithcoloredglasses.com>  
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## Meet the Women of Harrison: Amanda Conner

Amanda Conner grew up in Mecklenburg and Gaston County. She has been living in Pineville for 11 years. She first learned of Harrison Church about 3 years ago and became a member in May 2015. She was a single mom struggling and down on her luck. Her kid's school referred her to Loaves and Fishes. She knew something was missing in her life and asked about church services. They attended the following Sunday and have been here pretty much every Sunday since! They attend the 11 am service. She loves the traditional feel and works in the nursery during the 9:45 service.

Amanda has 5 amazing children: Jaylenn is 21, Jamie is 18, the twins Brendon & Bryc'on (pronounced Bryson) are 13 and Ethan is 9. She works at Aaron's lease to own in Matthews as a General Manager. She enjoys catching up on sleep when possible, long Netflix binges with the children and they LOVE the Blue Ridge Parkway! She secretly enjoys peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and can crochet blankets.

### Amanda's Go-to Recipe:

Pork tenderloin in the crockpot. It's amazing over rice.

- 1.) Place pork in crock pot two cans of cream of mushroom soup and pack of dried French onion soup mix
- 2.) Cook 8 to 10 hours on low.



## Upcoming Events

### Serve at Room in the Inn during the winter months!

During the colder months of the year, Harrison Church will be opening its doors to the homeless and we will host 12 neighbors each Wednesday night through Thursday morning from December thru March. We need help with preparing and serving dinner and breakfast, clean up, bus drivers, co-pilots and people who can spend the night. You can pick where you serve. No experience needed – there will be a coordinator available to guide you. It's a great chance to serve as a family. [Click here](#) to register and pick your spot. You will be surprised how you are blessed by your gift of service.

**Off Campus Retreat** Due to unforeseen circumstances, the fall retreat has been cancelled.



## Faith Circle: Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

Join this group of ladies for fellowship and fun. They meet in the Administration & Education building in room 103.

## Lunch on Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at Noon

You are invited to a lunch sponsored by our senior ministry. It is open to everyone. This month we will be offering some information about healthy living – there will be a health professional available to offer a free chiropractic evaluation. Lunch cost is \$7.00. RSVP to Pam Spurlin at 704-544-4853 or [pammyspurlin@aol.com](mailto:pammyspurlin@aol.com)

## Friendship Circle: Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.

Another great opportunity to meet other women of Harrison Church. This month they will be having a book discussion on the book: "You Don't Have To Be Wrong For Me To Be Right" by Brad Hirschfield. Meeting in the Administration & Education building in room 100.

## Ash Wednesday Service: Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Join us for our traditional Ash Wednesday service in the Sanctuary.

## Ladies Luncheon: Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at Noon

Join the ladies for lunch – no agenda and no cost, just fellowship, food and conversation! Bring a friend – it's open to everyone. Meeting in the Administration & Education building in room 101.

To register, please contact Melissa Voignier at 704-747-9050 or [melissavoignier@yahoo.com](mailto:melissavoignier@yahoo.com) or Sherrie Ray at 704-806-7392 or [sray1958@carolina.rr.com](mailto:sray1958@carolina.rr.com). Childcare will be available. To register for childcare, [click here](#).



## Coming soon... REALM:

### a new way to get and stay connected at Harrison Church!

On February 18<sup>th</sup>, our church will be moving to a new kind of church record keeping solution called Realm®. In addition to serving the administrative needs of our staff, it also offers some exciting opportunities to support the way you are involved in our church. It will make it easier for our church family to connect with each other, keep up with what's going on, and grow as a connected community of believers. You will be able to update your personal profile information (address, phone, e-mail address etc.), look up other members in the church directory, give online, view your giving history and statement, make and keep track of pledges, and more... We will be launching Realm to our congregation on February 18<sup>th</sup>, so be on the lookout for an e-mail invitation to join. You will also be able to download the Realm Connect app on your smart phone.

[Let's be the church... together.](#)



## Upcoming Bible Studies at Harrison Church

**Easter Earthquake – How Resurrection Shakes Our World** This 6-week energizing Lenten study will inspire you to live as a more faithful disciple of Jesus Christ as it explores how Jesus' resurrection shifts our assumptions about ourselves and God. Cost of book: \$10.00 Click on link below for the different days / times available.

**First Place 4 Health: Healthy Boundaries** - Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. starting February 21<sup>st</sup>. People without boundaries can quickly lose direction. Learn how to create intentional boundaries to leap the hurdles of temptation and not compromise your commitment to healthy living. This 12-week study will help you do this and more. Discover how God can empower you to assess, define and rebuild physical, mental, emotional and spiritual boundaries. Cost of book: \$20.00

**Conversations with Shane** – Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. 2 groups: One starting on February 21<sup>st</sup> and the other starting on April 11<sup>th</sup>. For these few weeks, participants will explore the United Methodism's current debate over questions of human sexuality. The class will place a special focus on the work of the *Commission On The Way Forward*, its proposals, and how we might remain united as Methodists. No cost.

To register for these studies, [click here](#). For childcare, [click here](#).

**Looking for somewhere to serve?** Here are some opportunities that are currently available:

Host for English as a Second Language – Choose to host on Wednesday mornings, Tuesday evenings or Thursday evenings. Greet newcomers and set up/serve donated snacks. On the job training available – no experience needed. Contact [Leslie Little](#).

Set up chairs for Journey worship service on Saturday (once a month rotation) – Contact [Anita King](#).

Greeter for Children’s Sunday School at 9:45 or 11 a.m. on Sunday mornings – greet families at the entrance to the children’s wing and assist parents with check-in – training will be provided. Contact [Kelly Regueira](#).

Find a complete list of service opportunities in our Service Guide [click here](#).

For more information about what’s happening at Harrison Church, see the calendar below.

You can also visit our website: [www.harrisonchurch.org](http://www.harrisonchurch.org)

February 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 Women's Council 10 a.m.	6 Faith Circle 6:00 p.m.	7 Luncheon at Noon Room In The Inn	8	9 <b>SABBATH WEEKEND</b>	10 <b>SABBATH WEEKEND</b>
11 <b>SABBATH WEEKEND</b>	12 Friendship Circle 10 a.m.	13	14 <b>Ash Wednesday Service</b> 6:30 p.m. Room In The Inn	15 Women's Luncheon at Noon 	16	17 Men's Breakfast  Parent's Night Out
18 <b>1st Sunday in Lent</b> Welcome to Realm	19 Presidents' Day	20	21 Classes start: Conversations with Shane and Healthy Boundaries  Room In The Inn	22 Senior's Day Trip to Jaars	23	24
25	26	27	28 Room In The Inn	<b>Notes:</b> Lenten study (Easter Earthquake) start dates are Thursday, Feb. 8, Sunday Feb. 11, Tuesday Feb. 13 and Wednesday Feb. 14. We encourage everyone in the congregation to participate in one of these studies!		

**For more information about Women’s Ministry at Harrison Church contact:**

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