



Ministry Profile

THE CONNECTION

By Danielle Street

From left: Laurie Berglund, Donna Thomas, Danielle Street, Sherri Bolognone, Danielle Reed, Tess Scaffidi

For two years, I've enjoyed writing in this newsletter about what God's been doing in various ministries and getting to know more and more people who have a passion to serve. While all the ministries are extremely valuable at FAC, I'm excited to highlight one now that is very dear to my heart. It's called *The Connection* newsletter.

A great number of people are involved in making it possible for our FAC family to read each issue of *The Connection*. All of them have unique roles and special gifts that they contribute to the ministry. Currently, The Connection Ministry Team includes: Laurie Berglund, Sherri Bolognone, Lynn Guise, Danielle Reed, Tess Scaffidi, Donna Thomas, and me (Danielle Street).

According to our editor, Lynn Guise, "It was during the summer of 2001 when Pastor Brian Snyder first spoke to me about his idea of having a monthly church newsletter. The church had grown to the point where there were too many activities to announce from the pulpit. The bulletin was filled with sheets of paper, and Brian was looking for a better way to provide announcements in a central location. It was decided that we would try a newsletter and see what would happen. The first issue was published in November of 2001 — almost 13 years ago! Since then, the size of the newsletter has grown from 8 pages to 32 for this month!

Lynn shared, "I have always thought that the newsletter is a good reflection of the desire of Pastor Marty, Pastor Brian, and other FAC leaders to communicate effectively in as many ways

possible. The ministry leaders are so faithful in submitting information about their events and classes. For me, it has been a great privilege to be involved with them through the newsletter for all these years. It has also been so great to be involved with volunteer writers throughout the years. The current team is very talented. They have the ability to bring stories to life for our readers. It's a lot harder for them than it looks!"

Laurie Berglund, also believes the newsletter is an important communication tool. "Telling the stories of what God is doing in His people's lives is such a powerful way of celebrating Jesus and making much of Him," said Laurie. "Every story that gets told is another peek into the amazing ways of God. And when we fail to tell the stories, we lose so much."

A couple of years ago, Laurie wanted to find more ways to use the God@Work stories in *The Connection*. She began praying about putting together a team to create video stories to be used in the weekend services. She invited Sherri Bolognone, a writer for God@Work stories, to join the team and then Donna Thomas began participating as well. The God@Work team started working

on both video and written stories at the same time. Sherri and Donna currently alternate writing the God@Work feature each month while Laurie is in charge of the video stories.

Then a year ago, Laurie began serving on The Connection team in a new way by writing an article every month called "Encouragement for the Journey."

"I've enjoyed being able to share in this way," she explained. "With such a big church family, I value any opportunity I can have to stay connected so it's a privilege to be able to communicate in this way. I try to share some of the ways that God is working in my own life in hopes that it will encourage at least one person who reads it."

Sherri Bolognone says that Laurie has been the steady, driving force since day one with the God@Work team. "I'd never really known Laurie or anyone on the team. When she asked me, I knew it was where God wanted me," said Sherri.

Sherri's job includes finding stories,

my faith every time I work on and read a story about how God has touched someone else. It transforms me and helps me to feel closer to Him, and His people," she shared. "I love walking people through this process. Rarely do we take the time to truly pray, write, and think about all God has done for us. The process is emotional, transformative, and faith-building all at the same time. It helps people take a pause in their busy lives to focus on God for extended periods of time."

Donna Thomas would agree with Sherri. Donna loves sharing how God is very much alive and active in the lives of His people. "The stories are of lives changed, transformations, the lost being found, the sick being healed, marriages being saved, and every person is giving God the glory."

Donna explained, "Sometimes one of the pastors will give us a name, and we will pursue the story. Sometimes God opens my eyes to someone in the congregation on a Sunday morning and says, 'Go,' so I go. God has taught me to depend on Him. My talents are not adequate to tell

His story. He has taught me that if I leave it up to Him and take myself out of the picture, I can sit down at the computer and just hold my fingers over the keys, and He'll do the typing!"

Danielle Reed and Tess Scaffidi are two more women who enjoy serving God through the newsletter. Both of them joined The Connection Team in November 2013.

Danielle's been writing the "Spotlight on Volunteers" feature and loves everything about it. She shared, "I feel that everyone has a story to share, and I love talking to the volunteers about how they got involved with their ministry and how God has used them. I think God has helped me connect to so many great volunteers, and He always gives me the

right questions to ask. I know He's always leading the conversations I have with the volunteers to help give me the information needed for each article."

Tess Scaffidi's job is to take the compiled Word documents, photos, and graphics from Lynn Guise and lay them out to

create a visually pleasing magazine. Tess feels it's really neat to be able to see the amount of events, Bible studies, and ministries that come out of FAC.

"I had been interning with Planet 678 when I decided to go to school for graphic design," explained Tess. "I was 21 years old and in the process of switching schools and majors. God made it clear to me through my internship with Planet that design was where he wanted me to go. My boss at the time, Pastor Erik Jarvis, would give me most of the ministry's design work, which helped me gain a lot of experience. I love the creative aspect of my job with *The Connection*, but my favorite part is being able to work with and bounce ideas off of Lynn and the editing team."

If you are wondering how the process of producing *The Connection* works, here are the steps:

- Articles originate from three sources. First, the ministry leaders provide the bulk of the information. Second, most of the features come from the writing team. Third, Family Life announcements, such as births, graduations, engagements, weddings, and deaths come from the FAC family. If you have a Family Life announcement, please submit it with a photo to lynn@myfac.org. We want the church family to know!
- Articles, announcements, and photos are due on the fifth of each month preceding the distribution.
- Editing and design occur during a 14 to 20-day period.
- The designed document is given to Chris Rose, Joanne Horner, Mari Lynne Snyder, and Donna Beridon for approval and proofing.
- When the document has final approval, it is printed in-house by office staff and distributed monthly.

I hope you enjoyed reading this article. I love writing Ministry Profiles for *The Connection*, and I look forward to continuing to share the great things God is doing at FAC. I'm always amazed at how He continues to use His people in a powerful way to provide the needs of others. It inspires and motivates me to develop a servant's heart and continue to follow God's call.

Please pray for all the people involved in *The Connection* and that God will continue to be glorified through each article in the newsletter! ☐



Lynn Guise



Danielle Street



Lynn & Tess, editing *The Connection*

interviewing and e-mailing people, and then helping them tell their testimony through a written medium. She believes we all have stories and all have ways God is working in and through us. "It expands