

What Do These Stones Mean?

Theme Scripture: Joshua 4:1-9

Theme Hymn: How Firm A Foundation and I Love to Tell The Story

Theme Song: Ancient Words

Purpose: What do these stones mean? These stones represent stories of God's activity throughout history. As Cumberland Presbyterian women we will remember and celebrate our history. We will add to this history as we share our faith journey with others. Our stories are a point of reference for our children and those who do not know God. These stories tell us that God led in the past, leads today, and will lead in the future.

There was much to tell whenever a little one asked the question, "What do these stones mean?" The answer came in the form of stories – stories of miracles, of disobedience, of journey, of manna and quail; stories of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac, Joseph and his brothers; stories of Moses, Pharaoh, and the Red Sea; stories of desert living and the Jordan River; stories of new beginnings in the Promised Land of Canaan. "What do these stones mean?" That simple question was an occasion of remembering God's greatness and faithfulness.

A visit to Montgomery Bell State Park in Dickson, TN might cause one to question, "What does this cabin mean?" "Why is there a chapel in a state park?" "What's all this about anyway?" Those simple questions will recall stories of Samuel McAdoo, Samuel King, and Finis Ewing. The answer will include stories of God's mighty movement during the 1800s; stories of men who struggled with what God was calling them to do and what the leaders of the Presbyterian Church at that time were asking them to do. Answers to these questions will recall periods of great prayer and discernment on the part of the founding fathers of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in 1810. The question, "What is Cumberland Presbyterian?" affords the wonderful opportunity to talk about God's greatness and faithfulness, an opportunity to talk about the Holy Spirit's movement throughout the land, and an opportunity to discover once again what it means to be a Cumberland Presbyterian, and more importantly, a believer in Jesus Christ.

This coming year Women's Ministry will tell stories – stories of our matriarchs like Johnie Massey Clay, Eva Hughes, Louisa Woosley, Beverly St. John, Cornelia Swain; stories of ministries like the Chinese Church in San Francisco, missionaries to Colombia and Japan, and God's activity around the globe through the work and ministry of the women of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. This coming year we'll tell the stories of faithful and committed women in our local churches and regions, women who make a difference in so many people's lives in quiet and unassuming ways. We'll tell these stories, and many more in the coming year. Through our storytelling our faith will be strengthened. Through our storytelling others will come to know better the power and presence of God. There is power in a story! Together we will celebrate God's power at work in our lives and in the world.