

The Carpenter's Helper

This Week...

#LOVEHEALS

At Thistle Farms women are given a second chance at life.

Weekly Parish Schedule

Add your event to the calendar: stthomassooffice@googlegroups.com

Dr Reverend Becca Stevens

AUTHOR, priest, social entrepreneur, founder and president of Thistle Farms

Love doesn't ask what you did. Love asks what happened TO you.

The roots of prostitution and trafficking are often found in severe childhood abuse, loss and/or neglect. It is these traumatic childhood experiences that pushed the women towards homelessness, addiction, prostitution, trafficking, and incarceration. They are survivors, and Thistle Farms offers unconditional love and support without judgment.

Love says come in off the streets, here's a safe place to live. Magdalene is the name of their 2-year residential program that offers women a peaceful place to live and receive support while they focus on living sober, honest and self-sufficient lives. All services are provided without government assistance and are free of charge.

Love says your physical and mental health is really important, and I'll drive you to your appointments. It's important to connect survivors with the specific services that will help them heal. This includes alcohol and drug treatment programs, mental health services and physical health care, as well as prescriptions, dental, and vision care.

Love says your dreams are attainable, and I'll help you get the education or job skills you need to reach for the stars. Many survivors haven't earned their GED or held consistent employment. They don't want anything to hold them back, so they provide the support they need to complete their education and acquire marketable job skills.

Love says here's a job where you can earn a livable wage to support yourself - and you'll feel good about the work you do. They saw that women survivors were making great strides in their recovery but still had trouble getting a job due to arrest records or gaps in their resume because they were living on the streets. So they started a social enterprise where they could make and sell natural bath and body products. Now they can earn a living wage and have a path toward financial independence.

Love says we're in it for life. We'll always be here for you, no matter where you go. After a survivor graduates from our two-year residential program, they become part of our graduate network. This network provides them lifelong access to counseling, education opportunities, and emergency financial assistance.

Here are 3 ways you can show love and give hope to women survivors:

Shop: Every sale benefits the women survivors who make our products.

Donate: Every dollar donated supports the mission of Thistle Farms. Your donation is tax-deductible.

Share: Share your time. Share their story. And let them share what they've learned, with you.

thistlefarms.org



We all have a story. Whether written from the hardships of deep wounds, grief, or longing for justice, your life can overflow with hope.

Becca Stevens is an author, speaker, episcopal priest, social entrepreneur, founder and president of Thistle Farms, featured on the front of this issue of the Helper. She has been featured in the New York Times, on ABC World News and NPR, was recently named a 2016 CNN Hero and a White House "Champion of Change." She was featured in the PBS documentary, A Path Appears, named Humanitarian of the Year by the Small Business Council of America and inducted into the Tennessee Women's Hall of Fame. Stevens attended the University of the South and Vanderbilt Divinity School. She has been conferred 3 honorary doctorates. Author of 10 books, her newest book, Love Heals, was published by Harper Collins in September of 2017 and is available for purchase.

In **Love Heals**, you'll find principles that have transformed lives. Each chapter brings encouragement and practical steps for anyone going through a difficult season or searching for a deeper faith.

Love heals by the mercy of God.
 Love heals with compassion.
 Love heals during the act of forgiving.
 Love heals past our fears.
 Love heals across the world.

Along with other ways that love heals, read true stories of healing and joy, where brokenness is transformed into compassion. And believe the truth that you, too, can be changed and grateful for this life you live.

"Love Heals is true, and in this book, I've found a beautiful place of encouragement and hope- a meeting point for us all to experience community, healing, and love"- Amy Grant

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, August 18

8:00am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite 1
 9:15am (DO) Coping with Grief
 10:30am (U) Nursery
 10:30am (GH) Children's Worship
 10:30am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite II
 11:45am (GH) Coffee and Fellowship
 12:30pm (P) Vestry Meeting
 6:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance

Monday, August 19

6:00am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
 7:30pm (GH) Scottish Dance

Tuesday, August 20

6:00am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
 5:00pm (CO) AIDS Delaware
 6:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance
 6:00pm (P) Pastoral Care meeting
 8:00pm (U) KIS AA meeting

Wednesday, August 21

6:00am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
 10:30am (C) Bible Study Group
 4:00pm (C) Blue Hen Bounty
 5:30pm (P) Centering Prayer
 8:00pm (GH) S. College Speakers AA

Thursday, August 22

6:00am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
 3:00pm (C) Blue Hen Bounty

Friday, August 16

6:00am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
 12:00pm (C) Al-Anon
 6:30pm (P) Women's AA

Saturday, August 17

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Sunday, August 18

8:00am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite 1
 10:30am (U) Nursery
 10:30am (GH) Children's Worship
 10:30am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite II
 11:45am (GH) Coffee and Fellowship
 6:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance

location key:

(C) Classroom	(MR) Music Room
(GH) Great Hall	(U) Undercroft
(N) Nave	(DO) Deacon's Office
(P) Parlor	(RO) Rector's Office