

A Princess Party Report

How the event came to be: Craving someone to mentor/disciple myself, I found myself seeking out women and moms who I could glean any amount of advice from in raising my kids and having an awesome marriage. I talked with women from our church, as well as at the pool, park, etc ... basically whenever I had a chance to learn more. I saw how specific moms had or were raising their kids to LOVE GOD and LOVE OTHERS and wondered what helped them train their children. What encouraged them when they were tired? What challenges have they faced that I can learn from? etc. As I began talking with more and more women, it was obvious that I was not alone in desiring these relationships. Also, the more I studied God's Word and in particular Titus 2 (the command for older women to train the younger women), it was clear to me that God created us for these relationships. How then could I (and others) continue to learn from these Godly women? I had so many questions. Thus the idea of a panel to ask questions of was formed. I also knew that as a young mom (and one who also worked for part of her child's life) that an event where this could really thrive would be by creating an event where moms and kids (in particular daughters) could attend together. It is clear that overall we are a generation dedicated to our kids, and if something doesn't allow our kids to attend through childcare or an activity, it is a stretch to get us moms there. How could I encourage moms/women while also providing an opportunity for us as believers a way to invest in their kids as well. So in thinking along those lines, naturally is the SAVING GRACE of the GOSPEL applies to EVERYONE! According to Romans 8, those of us saved are already called "heirs to the throne" ... thus being females we are DAUGHTERS/PRINCESSES of a HEAVENLY KING and what a message to share with those who don't know Christ as their Savior at any age! Thus the idea of a Princess Party began.

So what do the young girls do?

0-3: Childcare was only provided for volunteer kids this year. Most moms likely find someone to watch their young kids because let's face it, 3-4 hours in a nursery is not ideal. However, some women are only able to attend if this is provided.

3-12: They participated in the following: learned a dance to perform, created a couple crafts, did jazzercise, and most importantly heard THE GOSPEL during Story-time & Etiquette Lessons! Also, there is NO COST to participate in these!!!

12-18: These girls lovingly volunteered their time to help the younger girls all morning and overall LOVED it themselves. * Our older HS and College girls also kindly dressed up as Disney Princesses to make the event seem all the more magical to the young girls ... but they all know that being a Daughter of the King is the BEST princess that one can be!

What do the women do?

Women this year could select 3 out of 6 different panel sessions to attend. Those sessions were Social Media, Loving Your Prince (Spouse), Practical Parenting, Things that Hurt (Abuse), Our Top 3 (Variety of topics), and Taking Care of Mom (Finances and health). Basically, we have tried to create sessions that are applicable for moms as well as those who are not yet moms or have passed that phase of life. Here they get to hear personal stories and ask & listen to a variety of women who "have been there" on a wide range of topics. The women all come from different backgrounds: single, newly married, seasoned in life, etc. and have also dealt with a variety of things: infertility, single parenting, traveling spouse, role reversals, working mom, stay at home mom, etc. and have also had unique experiences with the following: kids who are adopted, spirited, shy, outgoing, popular, outcast, a bully, a victim, gay, depressed, disabled, over-achiever, the loss of a child as well as having kids who attend different schools: home, private, public. They admit they are not experts and that every situation is different, but they are willing to share what they have learned thus far in life. The majority of these panel sessions also met prior to the event to go over questions submitted and to pray for the ladies as well as well as one another. We have had a handful of women reach out to our panel speakers after the event wanting to hear or learn more about what was shared that morning. The women also have a keynote speaker who also shares some encouragement and most importantly the Gospel as well! Laurie Anderson did the girls and women's keynote sessions and was FANTASTIC!!! These sessions are recorded and on the website so that everyone has an opportunity to hear them if desired (esp. for those who couldn't attend last minute or the mom's who stayed with the young girls who may have been scared to go alone).

Everyone also gets ...

A light lunch together, watches IMPACT (Aurora's female show choir) perform, a professional family picture, & fun before and after the event with the photo-booth, dessert table, chances to win door prizes, time with friends, etc.

Registered

Some Stats from the 2019 year!

- 410 Registered (See column on right for age breakdown).
- Roughly 325 actually attended the event (less than last year but likely due to flooding and last minute cancellations.)
- Of the 325 in attendance, roughly 3/4 were NOT from Monroe.
- 41 different communities were registered. (Up from 18 last year)
- Lunch Seating 355 (Used ALL church tables + 8 of Mullarkey's)

What you CAN'T see on paper:

- Hearts encouraged & softened
- Women and girls feeling loved and valued
- Friendships formed and strengthened (as well as some reconciliation)
- Generational bonding w/ grandma-mother-daughter...
- Lives Changed & Eternal blessings

Improvements from last year:

While there are little ways here and there we continue to improve on, the biggest ways enhanced this year was by adding some additional childcare helpers And giving them shifts. We also had a quicker and more efficient way for the day Of registration by using the check in computers and printing name tags. Both parking lots were full.

	2017	2018	2019
0-3	14	20	9
3-6	47	110	108
7-12	51	54	66
13-19	19	24	33
20-29	21	37	26
30-39	42	99	99
40-49	30	33	28
50-59	11	15	22
60+	15	18	19
TOTAL 3-12:	98	164	174
Total Adults:	119	202	194
TOTAL REGISTERED	250	410	410

93 Sponsors & Donors (up from 66 in 2018):

* To see how they specifically gave, please visit the web-site:

Anne Daly	Christine Rippe Harris	Froggy's Fog	Kiddzink (Etsy)	My Print Boutique (Etsy)	Stacie Faber
Amy Grudzinski	(Scentsy)	Glenna Markham	KristenKorea (eBay)	Ohcayboys (Etsy) Caleigh	Starwarehouse (eBay)
Amy Holthus (Facebook)	Cooje (eBay)	HadleyDesigns (Etsy)	Laurel Marlett	Heeg	Stur6025 (eBay)
Ashley Drake (Facebook)	Dale & Sonya Beya	Hobby Lobby	Laurie Anderson	Once Upon A Bowtique	StyrofoamArtDesign (Etsy)
ASF Tashi (Amazon)	Dani Klute	In Laura's Lens - Laura	Lilie Jack Boutique	Oriental Trading Co.	SugarBeanVinyl (Etsy)
Aurora Mall	Danielle Hearon (eBay)	Oswald	Lily Mullarkey	Outside the Box Papers	Super Saver
Black Tie Entertainment	Dapoo7 (eBay)	Jason & Kristin Frew	LittleAFunCutz (Etsy)	Party City	Swansong213 (eBay)
Brad & Rachel Teide	Dapperdrakesupply (eBay)	Jeanette Koelling	Little Adventures *	Poohpattie08 (eBay)	The Mason's Jar
Bridgett Svoboda	DarkIdeals (Etsy)	Jenny Hamilton	Magical Moments (Etsy)	Princess Awesome	The Toy Nation
Brown Cow Creatives (Etsy)	DotDotSmile (Bethany	Jill Held	Matilda Jane Clothing (Katy	Princess Party Prints	Tiffany Stevens
Caleighs Dream Couture	Schlegel)	Jo Bish	Bates)	Purposeful Living Org	Tina Vettel
(Etsy)	Di Keller (Facebook)	Joe & Lori Mullarkey	Megan Stout (Facebook)	Republic of Party (Etsy)	Timaree Goertzen
Capture It	Doug & Cynthia Willey	John Peters (eBay)	Mermaid Pillow Co.	Rich & MA Nelson	Touch of Health
Capture Memories Shop	Eledashoplc (eBay)	Julie Uhrmacher Stevenson	Mfox10119 (eBay)	RoseDesignForU (Etsy)	Tricia Grafton (Facebook)
(Etsy)	Element Salon	(31)	Michelle Fileccia (eBay)	Rummage On (eBay)	Toddzgal (eBay)
Chadlarsaomon (eBay)	EventsJoyGifts (Etsy)	Katocollections (eBay)	MissPrissThrift (eBay)	Ruthie Kay Designs	Wantadeal02 (eBay)
	Feather Flag Nation	KaylaLee Photography	Monroe E-Free Church	signs.com	3kids85 (eBay)

Some other fun facts from this year:

- The DJ (Brandon Warner) excitedly dressed up as Prince Eric from The Little Mermaid to fit into our theme.
- We had 12 "Disney Princesses" present.
- There were over 50 Door Prizes given away.
- Roughly 70 Volunteers made the event happen!
- Men kindly served in the kitchen so that women would not have to be asked to fill that role and could attend.
- Registration opened Jan 1st and was full with 350 people by the end of the day and a waiting list started (all of the waiting list was accommodated for, especially with those at the end having to cancel (likely due to flooding).
- This event would have costed roughly \$8,000 but due to God's provisions. we were able to do it for a little less than \$2,500. The wal-mart in York generously gave us a \$1,000 grant (which is huge - most "religious organizations" seldom get through the forms.

Website: <https://lorimullarkey.wixsite.com/princessteaparty>

* This site contains all the information from the event, including all the handouts, session downloads, photos taken, resources, etc.

* To be involved in the next one, talk to Lori Mullarkey or visit the website to see a list of all the volunteers needed:

Childcare, Panel Speakers, Food Crew, Crafts, Dancing, Jazzercise, Donations...