

Which  
Way  
To  
Wonderland?

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY  
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A Spring Banquet  
Filled With  
~Whimsey~  
~Faith~  
...and Flamingos!

# OPEN ME!

for  
curiouser  
and  
curiouser  
surprises

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## Which Way To Wonderland?

*Alice In Wonderland*

How do you get to Wonderland  
Over the hill or under land  
Or just behind a tree.

When the clouds go rolling by  
They roll away and leave the sky  
Where is the land behind the eye  
People cannot see?

Where can you see  
Where do the stars go  
Where is the crescent moon?  
They must be somewhere in the sunny afternoon.



*Alice in Wonderland*

Where is the path to Wonderland?  
Over the hill or here or there  
I wonder where?

-Alice's Theme Song from *Disney's Sound Track*



# Fall Down The Rabbit Hole

A Wonderful Spring Banquet Is Waiting!

## Which Way Should We Go?

Would you like to experience your very own Mad Hatter Tea Party with church friends? Have you ever considered celebrating your UnBirthday? Are you excited about planning a nonsense Caucus Race just for the fun of it?

*Who wouldn't love a fanciful trip to a place where every day is your birthday and everyone is just a friend you haven't met yet? Create a Spring Banquet that captures the imagination of every woman, young or old!*



*“Adventures first--*

*Explanations take such a dreadful time.”*

*–Gryphon in 'Alice In Wonderland'*

It's time to create a spring banquet adventure right in your own church with your own loved ones and friends. We provide lots of creative ideas and you provide the completed event filled with fun, food, spiritual insights and, along the way.....Adventures!



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“We’re all quite mad here~You’ll fit right in!”

-The Cheshire Cat



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VARIOUS SHORT QUOTATIONS FROM ‘ALICE’S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND’ QUOTED FROM LEWIS CARROLL’S ORIGINAL VERSION OF THE STORY AND SEVERAL MODERN CHILDREN’S VERSIONS.



## “Order! Order!”

“Read the directions and directly  
you will be directed in the right direction.”

*Doorknob- ‘Alice In Wonderland’*

Follow our tips and add your own creative touches to make your Spring Banquet a unique event to be remembered for years. Manage basic arrangements and have fun developing the wonderland theme!

### A Banquet

A banquet is a party with food as the main attraction. Add a short program, a speaker or entertainment. The occasion is enjoyable, comfortable and social. The most popular traditional spring banquet is the Mother and Daughter Banquet. There are other times when banquets are enjoyable. Ladies evenings, retreat weekends, holiday gatherings, summer picnics and any gathering where laughter and inspiration should meet in the middle.



### An Informal Gathering

A party is a fun and games event where people mix for sparkling conversation, good food and laughter. Parties tend to be informal and hosts do not go to extra trouble to decorate.



*While party games were once wildly popular, there are groups who do not enjoy a lot of organized activity. The event should be a highly enjoyable experience. The activities should fit the needs of the guests.*

Sometimes small parties do not have to be planned at all. A larger party requires good planning to handle the program, publicity, decorating, welcoming, refreshments and clean up. Delicious refreshments are offered and you have a great party if you had a chance to create your own fun and remember the event fondly.

## Pay Attention To Details

Often it is the smallest detail that makes the biggest impression. Wild flowers on a table, small table gifts for each guest, background music, greeters at the door and other thoughtful gestures make individuals feel welcome, special and pampered.

## Practice Christian Hospitality

In the middle of a fun activity, people should be growing in their understanding of the Lord. Everyone should be giving affection and receiving love from other Christians in the family of God. Begin friendly conversations, avoid gossip or mean spirited comments. Make this banquet the happiest evening in the year!

## Set Realistic Goals

What do you want to see happen during the two hours your guests are with you? Be specific! Plans in this workbook are complete. However, you may have more fun if you change details to fit your needs. Add creative ideas and change any activities as desired.



## Work With A Team

Choose a small leadership team to complete advance arrangements. The team may be as few as two or as large as ten or more.

Divide tasks between team members and trust them to finish their tasks. While leadership may be divided, one person should be in charge to keep the whole affair moving smoothly.

## Organize

Follow our suggestions adding your own creativity at the beginning of the planning process. Write down exactly what will happen and when tasks must be completed. Do not leave organization to the last minute. Reserve the last minute for a deep breath and excitement in the sharing of a special time.

## Purchase Supplies As Needed

Decide what the banquet budget is and stay within the limit. Keep expense records. Use the church tax exemption number.

## Practice A Positive Approach

Maintain a light and happy atmosphere during the planning process. If your attitude is right the rest of your team will catch the spirit. After all, this is a party!

## Pray!

Pray for the event, the team and the guests. Pray as a team. Take each detail before the Lord and then-Relax!





## Set Up

Provide adequate time to set up tables, decorations, props, food and other items necessary for the event. Reserve the church for the entire day. There may be situations when room arrangements must take place a day before the party.

## Say Thank You!

The behind-the-scenes team is the core of this event. Take time to write thank you notes, call and give small thank you gifts. Recognize your team publically at the event.

## Clean Up

When the event is over, clean up begins. The party is not complete until the church is in order. Encourage the team to remove their props immediately. Stay to help with kitchen clean up.

## Notes:



Speaking Of...

## A Delightful Speaker

“It would be so nice  
if something made sense for a change.”

*Alice- 'Alice In Wonderland'*

### Invite A Speaker

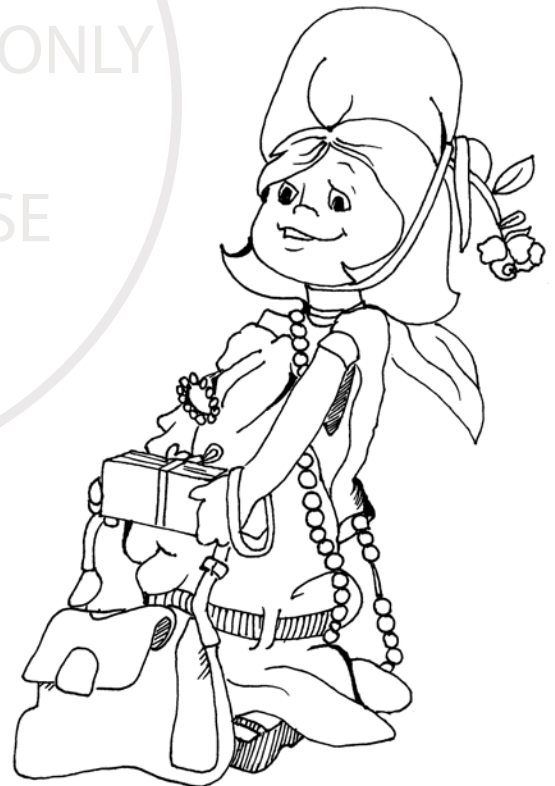
By all means invite a special guest to share inspirational thoughts. When scheduling a speaker, consider reducing program segments we provide that are best performed by the guests themselves. The speaker should conclude the evening festivities.

### The Perfect Person

A good speaker makes a faith connection with the specific group. Choose the speaker from a list of possibilities suggested by friends, relatives, pastor, other churches, community groups or national organizations.

### Consider The Cost

Ask the speaker if she has a set fee. If not, give a generous monetary gift including traveling costs. Think about the time they invest in preparation, travel and presentation.



## Specific Instructions

Send a letter, make a telephone call and stay in contact by email. Include information like highway directions, arrival time and place, group size, time limit, lodging information and other personal details.

*Tell the speaker the type of program and details of what you would like their speech to include. Continue to make contact periodically until the speaker leaves home to travel to the event.*

## Care And Feeding

Be aware that is disquieting for a speaker to enter a room of strangers, be expected to speak about personal and spiritual issues and leave still feeling as if everyone is a stranger.

*Assign a pre-arranged hostess "friend" to handle introductions, sit and converse with the guest to give the speaker a sense of belonging.*

The banquet budget should include payment of all expenses from the time the speaker leaves home until she returns. If more meals are required, host or pay accordingly.

## After The Banquet

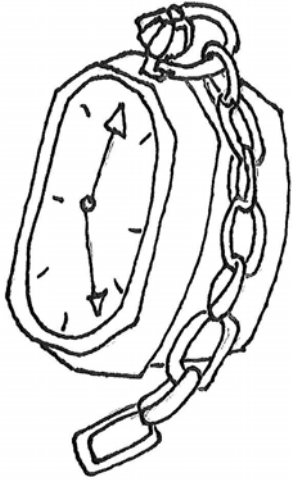
Pay promptly. Stay with the speaker until she leaves to return home. Thank that person from your heart and always follow up with a handwritten thank you note!

## Option

With this program, a speaker is indeed an option. There is enough program material to omit a speaker if desired. Using members of the church gang is fun and less expensive so...you choose!



Tell Everyone...



## Publicize!

*"I'm late! I'm late! For a very important date.*

*No time to say 'Hello', 'Goodbye',*

*I'm late, I'm late. I'm late!*

*White Rabbit - 'Alice In Wonderland'*

Because you make the effort preparing a lovely event, filled with fun, fellowship and fantastic food, go the extra mile to publicize. Let's face it, you need enthusiastic guests. Convince them it will be a unique experience in fine dining, entertainment and with 'Alice In Wonderland' involved...Adventure too!

### It's All About The Details

Invitations, posters, registration forms, programs, handouts and centerpieces should all relate to your theme. Use the same colors, scripture, picture or logo on every piece of publicity.

### Invite Every Gal!

Send invitations. If a community wide event is desired, place posters in local restaurants, business, offices. Insert invitations in the weekly worship folder and in the monthly newsletter.



*Don't forget...One of the best places to put posters is in the Ladies Room at church and in community businesses. If a local business hesitates placing another poster in their window, suggest their ladies' room as a great "out of the way" place!*

## Create Buzz!

Involve lots of people in the planning stages. They don't have to be on the team but delegate tasks or small parts. Ask as many people as possible to participate in the formal program.

No memorization! The benefit? Everyone who is involved will attend and will be more likely to talk about the event and invite others to be involved. Many hands make light work. Cut stress with more help.

## There's Even More Fun!

Let guests know prizes will be awarded for various games. Enjoy the company of friends.

## Be Creative!

If the banquet is near a holiday like Mother's Day, advertise the event to men of the church that this is a great Mother's Day gift they can give their wives and mothers. Find creative ways to make your banquet a "gift" to the women and girls who attend.



## Tea Cups ~ Just For Fun!

Ask all guests to bring their favorite, lovely teacup. These are great decorative items for the tables. Prepare a 'Teacup Table' for overflow. Everyone will enjoy looking at family treasures and the teacups certainly fit the exciting 'Alice In Wonderland' theme!



# Which Way To Wonderland?

You're Invited to a  
Very Merry UnBirthday  
Mad Hatter Spring Banquet

We're all quite mad here,  
You'll fit right in!

By the way,  
Saturday, April 10  
at exaketedly 6:00 PM ~Don't Be Late!

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Down the Rabbit Hole  
5555 State Street  
If you can make it,  
State your name and business at church office!

Price: \$10.00

If You Please: Bring your favorite teacup



Decorating...

## Creating Alice's Wonderland

"In my world,  
the books would be nothing but pictures."

-Alice

Do Alice's words make you smile? There is something wonderful about creating a delightful, whimsical visual space where guests feel welcomed into another world and yet relax as if at home. Make it your goal to create your version of "Which Way To Wonderland" using items available.

*Make the banquet space colorful, joyful and inspirational. When guests arrive they should feel the anticipation of an evening of fun and a time apart being in the presence of Christ. Can you do it? Oh, yes! And we are going to help you!*

Fill the room with bright color reminiscent of Alice In Wonderland. Our tips are meant to spark your own creativity. Read and follow directions but use items that are available locally. Not every decoration or idea listed must be used.

**Choose the best and leave the rest!**

## How Complicated Is This Going To Be?

Your banquet can be as simple or involved as desired. If there are folks in your church who love to decorate, give them the responsibility to turn the room into a work of 'Wonderland' art. If no one comes forward, decorate each table simply.



## What Should Be Decorated?

Decorate guest tables with centerpieces and theme related items. Consider decorating the entry door, stage area and each corner of the room. Add Wonderland decor to the buffet table and dessert table.

## Tasteful Elegance

Less is more. Do not clutter any area with an overabundance of 'Wonderland' decor. Choose whimsical items and tea party accessories to make the tables and stage come to life.

*Which Way to Wonderland* is a banquet event based on the classic story of *Alice In Wonderland*. Girls of all ages will relate to the fanciful tale and the nonsensical journey Alice experienced. Along the way, they will catch on to some interesting spiritual truths for Christian gals.

Everything in the room, from table decorations to displays to staging should revolve around the Merry Unbirthday-Mad Hatter Tea Party visual.

The most fun is when guests arrive and place their own treasures on their table or on a display table. The theme begins to come to life. "Oo's" and "ahh's" will be your reward as people move from place to place around the room to view the decorations and teacups.

**TEACUPS:** Ask guests to bring one special teacup for display. The cups may be from special heirloom collections, children's cups or modern teacups used every day.

**TEAPOTS:** It is also fun to ask guests to bring a special teapot from their own collection. Display teapots on a separate table to keep them safe. Provide small cards and print the owner's name to display near their teapot.





## Tables

Count the number of tables that need centerpieces. Each table can be a bit different depending on items available. Consider colors and themes based on Alice's Adventure.

**COLORS:** Remind the group of Alice's sweet pale blue dress by covering all tables with pale blue fabric or plastic tablecloths. Her pinafore was white so white fabric or crochets doilies may be featured in the center of the table. Or, cover tables with colorful fabric to create a more whimsical theme.

**CHAIRS:** Most churches have standard chairs. This theme lends itself well to adding odd chairs here and there around the tables so people have to sit at different heights. Place a large armchair at the head of the table. Use what is available and fun.

**HATS:** Provide hats for guests to wear at the tables. Not every guest must wear a hat but it is fun to scatter a few throughout the room for willing participants. They can be old fashioned, silly, serious, light up...anything you can get donated will bring a laugh and enjoyment!

## Centerpieces

**A VERY MERRY UNBIRTHDAY:** Celebrate an Unbirthday Party by making each table look like a whimsical tea party. One large wrapped box with lots of bows and ribbon can be featured in the middle of each table. The boxes can be empty or, if you want to be sneaky, put a small table gift inside each box to be opened by the lucky winner at each table at the end of the event. *(Place a mark under the chair or plate of the winning place at the table. Sshhh, keep it a secret!)*

One large teapot may be placed near the box and when guests add their teacups the table is complete.



**CUPCAKE TOWER:** Instead of a gift box, make a short tower of colorful cupcakes on crystal plates. If 8 people are at the table, place 8 cupcakes as the centerpiece. Each cupcake should have twine wrapped around it with a small printed sign attached stating: **Eat Me!** Or attach Eat Me to a toothpick with is stuck in the top of the cupcake.

Print small signs attached to twine and tied to water glasses that state: **Drink Me!**

**KEY:** Add one large key anywhere on the table...the bigger the better.

**UNBIRTHDAY GIFT:** Wrap a small box and top with a ribbon bow for each guest. Each plate should have their Unbirthday gift placed carefully on top when they arrive. Purchase party favors to place inside the box. [www.orientaltrading.com](http://www.orientaltrading.com) Check out their choices!

**Glass Table Top:** Lay a mirror or clear glass in the middle of the table. Place a large clear glass bottle in the middle of the table labeled DRINK ME. Place a large cookie nearby with EAT ME printed on it. Add a large key to the scenario. Place one small wrapped gift on each plate at the table as an Unbirthday table gift.

**ALICE IN WONDERLAND PAPER DOLLS:** There are online web sites that have colorful paper dolls ready to print. What fun to make colored copies and use them as place mats.

**CLOCKS:** Place small clocks on the tables that are stopped at tea-time.

[www.papercraftprintable.com](http://www.papercraftprintable.com) Is a good place to start your search.

**TISSUE PAPER FLOWERS:** An inexpensive party decoration that is so much prettier than streamers. Most people made these in elementary school but have forgotten how beautiful they are.

**Supplies:** tissue paper (an 8 sheet package will make 2-3 flowers, scissors, wire (floral or pipe cleaner work well).



See [www.ehow.com](http://www.ehow.com) "How to Make Tissue Paper Flowers" for a visual lesson.

Unfold the tissue paper. Take the 8 sheets and cut them in half (leave full size for bigger flowers). Now you have 16 sheets. Take 6 to 8 sheets and lay them on top of each other making sure all corners match up.

Fold tissue paper accordion style folding it over ½" to 1" then folding it back the other way. It should look like a fan when you open the folds.

To make rounded petals and a prettier flower, take a pair of scissors and round the edges at each end. To make petals that look like Dahlias cut a small slit in the middle of the round edges about 1" deep.

Tie the middle together with floral wire, pipe cleaners or twisty ties from your garbage bags. Keep in mind how you will be displaying them. Are they going to be tied to something or put in a vase or placed on top of a colorful birthday wrapped gift. If you are simply setting them on tables, a small piece of wire will do.

To open the flower, carefully separate the tissue layers. Make sure to separate the left and right side towards the center to make your flowers shape more apparent. Be very careful not to tear the tissue.

**ALICE IN WONDERLAND ITEMS:** Because this is a classic story theme, consider finding items to bring Alice to life. Check [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com) to find a wonderful collection of hats: Mad Hatter, White Rabbit, Queen of Hearts, Tweedle Dum. They look wonderful as table centerpieces.

*Amazon and other web sites sell the Cheshire cat, white rabbit and other characters from the story. There are many choices when it comes to finding Alice dolls. Ebay sells them and private online companies also have wonderful options to complete your decorations. There may be someone who has a doll that resembles Alice in your church or community. Ask!*

People may have books they are willing to lend. Disney books are available. "Alice's Adventures In Wonderland" by Robert Sabula is a beautiful pop up book which can be featured on one table.



## Fun Optional Props

**CHESS PIECES:** If available, place large chess pieces here and there in the room.

**RED AND WHITE ROSES:** Vases of roses with artistic paint brushes in the bouquets fit the Queen of Hearts theme and look great.

**PLAYING CARDS:** To represent the Queen's guards, scatter playing cards here and there.

**FLAMINGOS:** Display pink lawn flamingos on the stage or in corners of the room. [www.orientaltrading.com](http://www.orientaltrading.com) offers several choices of inflatable flamingos. They even offer fun flamingo sunglasses and straws. Check out their site!

**MIRROR:** If a huge mirror is available, place it near the entry so the guests must actually go "through the looking glass".

## Background Music

Quiet music is best while guests gather and enjoy conversation. Choose CD's that are easy listening, instrumental only.

**Want a fun option?** Purchase the Disney Original Soundtrack "Alice In Wonderland" at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or similar web site. There are 23 sound tracks from the animated movie that sound amazing for any event!

If local talent is available, ask a pianist, guitarist, harpist or other talented musician to provide live music through the dinner hour.



## Art Supplies, Decorations, Small Gifts

Check out craft shops,, party stores, discount stores and rummage shops. Make table decorations, programs and table gifts. Check the internet for affordable items.

**Door Prizes:** Ask businesses and restaurants to donate gifts or gift cards. Buy small items like picture frames, note holders, lamps, cosmetic bags, pill organizers, tea cups, key chains, potted plants, candles, little dolls and costume jewelry.

Find inexpensive items that appeal to the feminine eye. Gifts are not necessary but often make the event special for those who attend.

If children are present, include charming toy gifts. The "Alice In Wonderland" theme is perfect for whimsical, colorful toys.

### A Real Live 'Alice'

One fun option is to ask one person to become Alice for the evening. There are many great costume suggestions on various web sites. ([www.wikihow.com](http://www.wikihow.com) Try [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com) Or, just Google information.)

*Design a costume with items available: Buy or make a light blue dress. Tie or sew on a white pinafore apron. Optional: white pantaloons with lace edging. White nylons or tights, black flat shoes, long blond wig (if not a blond), Black hair band!*

Alice may be one of the program speakers or she may be used for picture opportunities, moving from table to table and greeting the guests in character.



## Table Cones

Here's an idea that may make your tables sparkle! Instead of wrapped Unbirthday gifts, make a paper cone that is wrapped with ribbon or twine, stamped with an 'Alice' character and filled with candy or a small gift. Tuck matching colorful tissue paper into the top of the cone to complete the look.

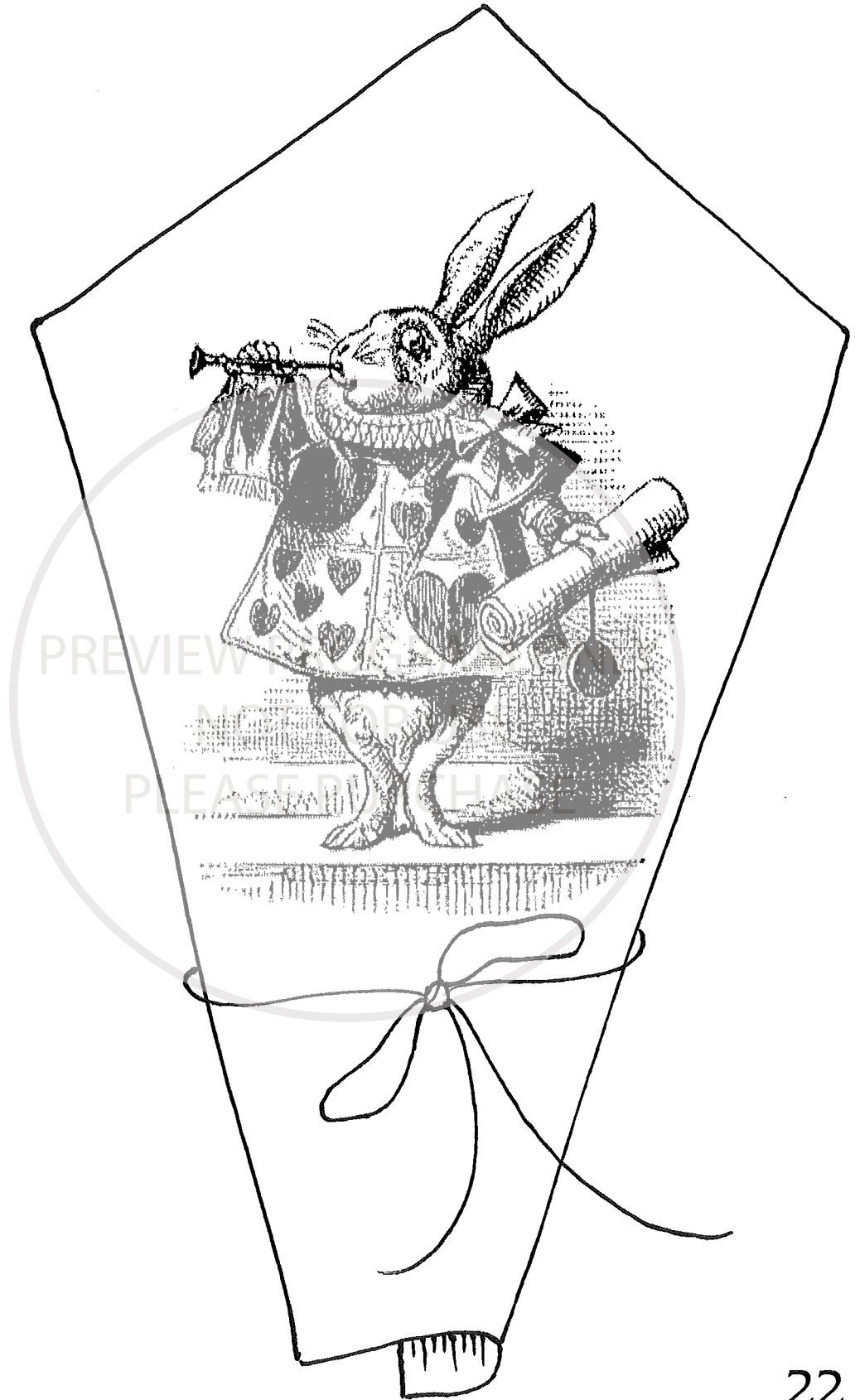
"Alice In Wonderland" Rubber stamps are available on [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com) and other rubber stamp sites.

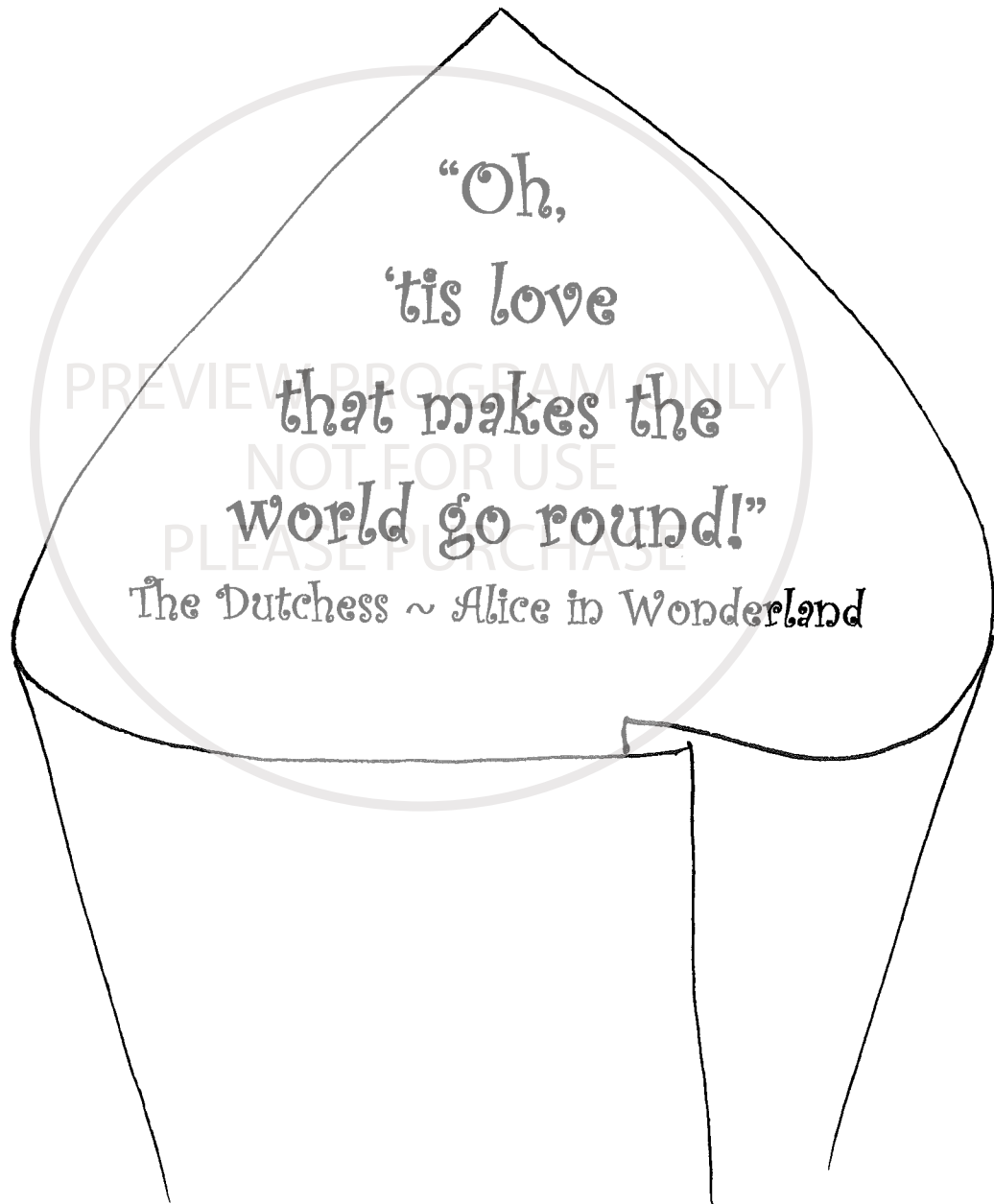
"Oh,  
'tis love  
that makes the  
world go round!"  
The Dutchess ~ Alice in Wonderland

This quote may be printed inside the tip of the cone so it can be easily read as it rests on the table. If you cannot figure out how to print each piece of paper on an angle, print the quote, cut it out and glue it in the tip of each cone.

**COLOR:** All table cones should be the same color. It is effective to make the cones from brown paper, printed with rubber stamps in black and wrapped with brown twine and a bow or blue ribbon with a bow. Or, choose a pale blue with blue or black satin ribbon.







“Oh,

‘tis love

that makes the  
world go round!”

The Dutchess ~ *Alice in Wonderland*



## Catalog Stuff

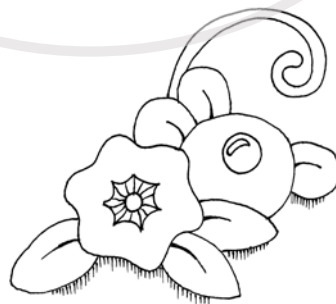
Check out S&S Arts and Crafts web site: [www.ssw.com](http://www.ssw.com) for art supplies at a great price.

Oriental Trading Company offers a wide variety of appropriate decorations and gift items. See their website at: [www.orientaltrading.com](http://www.orientaltrading.com)

Dover Publications is the perfect spot to browse for "Alice In Wonderland" books/Paper Dolls. They offer a coloring book and sticker activity book among other options.

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"Alice In Wonderland  
How do you get to Wonderland?  
Over the hill or under land  
Or just behind a tree."



“Where shall I begin?”

--The White Rabbit

“Begin At The Beginning  
Go On Till You Come To the End:  
Then Stop!”

--The King

Consider crowd psychology. No one enjoys going to a party where everyone remains a stranger, little conversation occurs and a subdued mood becomes awkward. Everyone enjoys an event where people are talking and laughing, light and temperature are controlled, music sets the mood, strangers are just new friends and tables are inviting.

When The First Person Arrives,  
The Party Has Started

Greet guests cordially, give them a name tag and direct them to the party area. If special items are on display, encourage guests to travel from spot to spot as the crowd gathers. They may look at table decorations. Help them chose a seat or find their assigned table and specific seat. Point out rest rooms and conveniences within the building. Keep guests out of the kitchen!!!



## Get Acquainted

Put people at ease with smiles and hospitality. Help them get acquainted by providing simple table activities. Place conversation starters under each plate. Scatter pens or pencils at each table and place paper puzzles or short games in obvious places so guests can work together to win a table prize.

## Getting Together

Help the guests *"sense the whole"*. Enthusiastic group singing encourages togetherness. Play a few table games as ice breakers.

## Small Groups

Place guests in small groups and offer opportunities to make more intimate contact with others. Devise an activity that could be done in pairs or fours. Dividing by birth months is an effective way of creating smaller groups across all lines: age, race, sex.

## Alternate The Pace

Some activities may be interactive and some may be quiet. Provide some activities requiring a mental challenge with pencil and paper, and sometimes activities or quizzes for the whole group.

## Build Toward A Conclusion

Complete a few exciting activities just before dinner and continue the fun after the meal.

## Close With A Whole Group Activity

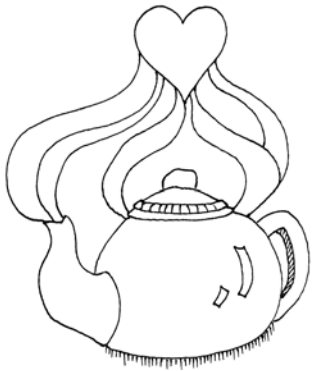
Do **not** end the evening with food. Instead, bring everyone together with a whole group activity. It could be singing, listening to a story, letting people tell what they enjoyed or an inspirational spiritual closing with a serious skit or talk, songs, hymns, praise choruses, sharing and a benediction featuring a fellowship prayer circle.



## Clean Up

Leave the church much cleaner than you found it. Often those enjoying the fun are asked to help clean up. That can be fun and don't forget, *"Many hands make light work"*.

**Tip:** Keep the music playing through clean up. Take a moment to sing and dance with other workers!



## Welcome! Which Way Do We Go?

Welcome guests in a medium sized area where they are warmly greeted. Serve a delicious chilled punch. Make our recipe or serve your personal favorite beverage while coats are removed and table seating is confirmed.

*Make this a delightfully formal treat by serving a delicious cold beverage in crystal punch bowls with crystal cups. Consider serving small appetizers on beautiful plates. Add color coordinated beverage napkins.*

Cover the punch table with a pale blue table cloth. Add silk greenery and a small stuffed rabbit. Light white candles to complete the scene.



## ALICE BLUE PUNCH

- 1 pkg. Unsweetened blue Kool Aide drink mix
- 1 (2 liter) bottle lemon-lime carbonated beverage
- 1 (64 oz.) Bottle white cranberry juice
- 8 scoops vanilla ice cream
- 1 Cup white sugar (or to taste)

*Options: If you cannot find blue Kool Aide, use one jug of Blue Hawaiian Punch and white grape juice if the cranberry juice is not available. Sugar may not be needed if substituting sweet drinks.*

In a large punch bowl, stir together the drink mix, lemon lime soda and white cranberry juice. Taste and stir in sugar to your liking. Float scoops of ice cream on the top. The ice cream melts somewhat and turns the punch a beautiful baby blue color with frothy white clouds floating on the top.

Notes:

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# Feed Me!

*“The rule is jam tomorrow and jam yesterday  
but never jam today.”*

–The White Queen

The menu is the most important detail of the banquet event. Choose food your group enjoys and will remember fondly! We make suggestions but you know your group best.

*Plan Accordingly!*

*Use the ‘Which Way To Wonderland’ Theme!*

Plan the menu and assign a kitchen team to prepare the meal. Since this is a special event for the gals, it doesn't seem fair to ask them to cook their own party food. Ask the men of the church to cook and serve or consider local caterers! Ask a local Boy Scout troop to help. They often look for community service projects.

## What Should We Eat?

There are food choices that are delicious and appropriate. We'll give you a few ideas to get you started. Consider the cost, the theme, the effort involved to make the food and the tastes of the group.

Sometimes it is appropriate to design a separate menu for the children under age 12. If so, be sure to let people know the choices when they are making their reservations.

Think about various fun foods served in creative ways. Favors can be displayed in small Table Cones as discussed in the Decorating segment. Small candies like Hershey Kisses can be scattered across the table for easy access.

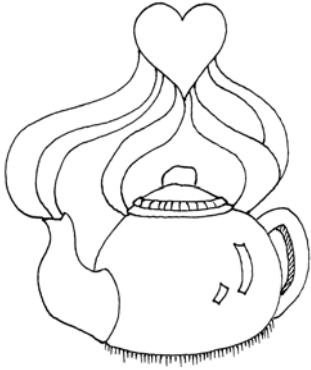


## Mad Hatter's Tea Party

"Take some more tea," the March Hare said.

"I've had nothing yet, so I can't take more."

-Alice



If choosing the full tea party theme, make the foods plentiful, cut small and delicious. This is a sample menu. Adjust as desired.

Egg Salad Sandwiches  
Chicken Salad Sandwiches  
Ham Salad Sandwiches  
Jam and Butter Sandwiches  
Cucumber Sandwiches

Potato Chips W/Dip  
Macaroni Salad  
Jello Salad

Vegetable Tray W/Dip  
Cheese Squares  
Crackers  
Mixed Nuts

**Dessert:** Cake

If using the cupcake tower centerpiece idea, the desserts are already at each table ready to serve.

**Beverages:** Serve a variety of beverages and be sure to include a wide array of teas. Coffee, Milk, Cold Juice may be added as desired.



## Formal Tea Party Fancy Finger Foods

Three or four choices  
of fancy finger sandwiches  
(Peanut Butter and Jelly triangles for children)

Tiny Fruit Tarts  
Miniature Eclairs

Variety of little homemade cookies  
Giant strawberries dipped in chocolate  
Cake squares  
with small tags "Eat Me!"

Beverages:  
Homemade Lemonade  
in crystal pitchers  
with crushed ice

Variety of Hot flavored teas  
Real sugar cubes and real cream  
Coffee



Serve all menu choices on crystal, silver and china serving dishes lined with white paper doilies. Serve some of the foods on footed cake plates so there is a variety of heights.

**JUST A FRIENDLY TIP:** Assign one person to serve the strawberries with silver tongs. Children love them and will polish them off like bread. Women love them too and will serve themselves several (for later!). Everyone enjoys them tremendously but they are expensive and labor intensive. One giant strawberry per person is plenty!

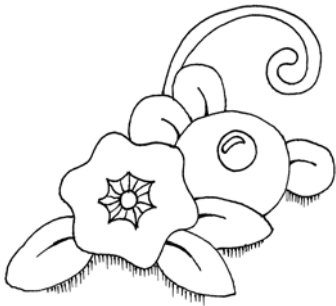




## Dinner Menu Choices.

### 'Cheshire' Chicken

Boneless Stuffed Breast of Chicken  
topped with creamy sauce of your choice  
Fresh asparagus  
Tossed Salad with Salad Dressings  
Garlic Mashed Potatoes  
Homemade Bread with Real Butter  
Dessert: Orange Sherbet With Slice of Orange



### 'Too Late' Tender Pork

Stuffed Pork Chops  
Roasted Red Potatoes with butter and sour cream  
Vegetable: Carrots and Peas  
Salad: Tossed Salad with Salad Dressings  
Homemade Rolls with Real Butter  
Dessert: Warm Gingerbread  
with Lemon Sauce or whipping cream

### Wonderland Beautiful Beef

Sliced Tender Roast Beef  
with Sauteed Mushrooms and Onions  
Vegetable: Corn and Green Beans  
Salad: Tossed Salad with Salad Dressings  
Homemade Rolls with Real butter  
Dessert: Chocolate Cake with Strawberries

### 'Curiouser' City Chicken

Breast Of Chicken on Stick  
Herb Rice  
Vegetable: Green Beans and Almonds  
Sliced Tomato on top of Rice  
Dessert: Cherry Cheesecake



## Dessert Buffet

“Life is uncertain. Eat dessert first!”

—Ernestine Ulmer

Sometimes the best choice for a feminine theme is simply DESSERT! Fill formal buffet tables with desserts of all kinds. Let the group sample many of the desserts. Add hot and cold beverages as desired.



Chocolate Truffle Cake  
Cheesecakes with various fruit toppings  
Carrot Cake  
Fruit Sorbet with Fresh Fruit Garnish

Large Sugar Cookies  
(EAT ME printed on each cookie)  
Angel Food Cake W/Slice Strawberries

Pies: Apple, Peach, Cherry, Pecan  
Cobblers: Peach, Apple, Cherry, Blueberry

Assorted Fruit Tarts  
Brownies and Vanilla Ice Cream  
Tropical Fruit Kabob  
Frosted Cupcakes  
Strawberry Shortcake/Whipping Cream  
Assorted Cakes

Presentation is everything. Squirt ribbons of chocolate or fruit topping across individual plates before placing the dessert on it. Add a live flower on the side. Cut fruit and place on plates as accessories. Drizzle warm topping just before serving the dessert.

**DIETARY RESTRICTIONS:** While it is not possible to prepare totally separate menus, it may be possible to accommodate those who have dietary restrictions due to health or allergies.



## Children's Menu

Sometimes children do not enjoy the delicious foods adults anticipate eating. Consider an optional Children's Dinner Menu at a lesser cost.

### Children's Menu #1

Chicken Nuggets W/Ketchup  
Jello Cubes    French Fries  
Cold Drink    Dessert

### Children's Menu #2

Hamburger on Toasted Bun W/Ketchup and Pickle  
Potato Chips and Celery Sticks  
Apple slices    Cold Drink    Dessert

### Children's Menu #3

Hot Dog on Bun - Choice of Toppings  
Tater Tots    Fruit Cup  
Cold Drink    Dessert



Music ~

# UnBirthday Songs!

“A Very Merry UnBirthday, to me!”

“To who?”

-Alice and The Mad Hatter

Play pre recorded background music throughout the event. Christian CD's, Broadway Show Tunes, classical music, soft jazz or...Disney music! Excellent Christian jazz and Christian Big Band music is also available online.

Non vocals work best. Check [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) for the perfect music. Check out Disney's "Alice In Wonderland" CD soundtrack.

If your community has amateur/professional musicians willing to perform, ask them to participate in the festivities. Think about asking a violinist, guitarist, harpist, pianist or ensemble to perform as guests arrive and continue playing as the group enjoys dinner.

Sing fun songs and Christian choruses after dinner.

Ask a pianist to accompany the group.

Choose familiar songs.

## Praise And Worship Songs

Sing a few contemporary Praise and Worship songs that are familiar and popular with your group. Sprinkle music whenever you desire to break up the program.



Make A Memory ~

## Treasured Keepsake Program

“Oh, I’ve had such a curious dream.”

—Alice

Create a “take home” keepsake in the form of a printed program. While not necessary, it is a nice addition to the banquet event.



### Cover

The program cover should match the predominant color of the table decor. Use heavier card stock and make copies on the church printer/copier.

Use the teapot template included with the plans to make covers and backs for program listings. Enlarge or reduce the size of the teapot and cut out as desired.

Attach a pale blue bow in the center of a heart shape glued into place in the center of the teapot cover. This gives a 3-D effect. If desired, attach a real tea bag to the handle, pretty button to the front or any feminine small object.

### Content

Simplify the content pages by printing information on square sheets of paper stapled inside the thicker teapot shapes.

Information to be included should include the menu, lyrics to songs and people to thank. Quotes from “Alice In Wonderland” are totally appropriate. Choose from the many quotes sprinkled through this program. Add a scripture verse as desired.





# Welcome!

*“I’m not a visitor, and I’m not a servant.”*

–Alice

Seat guests informally  
at prearranged tables.

Be sure families and friends sit together.

As groups arrive, encourage them to get to know  
one another by playing games  
provided on each table.

Guests may team up to answer the questions.

Furnish small prizes for each successful table group.

Prizes may be Hershey Kisses,

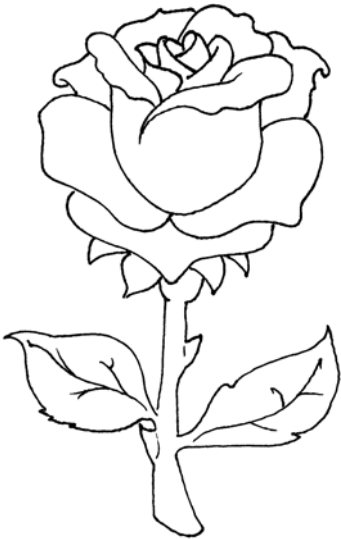
Mini candy bars or other tiny treat.

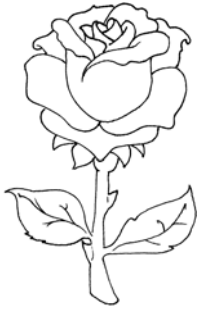
Walk the prizes to the guests as they win.

Secret: Let EVERYONE win at least once!

Use games we suggest or find others to fill the need.

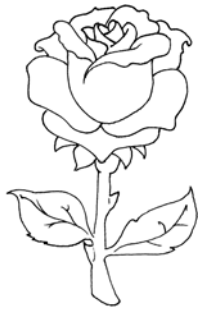
Copy as many as desired on colorful paper.





## Getting To Know You

As members arrive at each table, ask each person to write down on a slip of paper two unknown, unusual facts about herself. Put all the papers in a basket. Pass the basket around the table and when each person gets it, they take a slip of paper and read the fact aloud. The group tries to guess who it describes. Once the person is discovered, the group can ask questions and learn more about that person.



## Would You Rather?

There is a great game available in stores called "Would You Rather?" Play your own version of this game at each table by presenting two options and asking each person which they would rather do. **NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO SAY "Neither"!!!** To win the game, the people at the table must guess what the person will say before their answer is revealed. Make up some of your own questions too!

Would you rather get trapped under heavy weights while bench pressing at a crowded gym OR have your fingers get stuck in a bowling ball, dragging you down the lane in a crowded bowling alley?

Would you rather eat a bucket of apple stems OR eat 20 banana peels?

Would you rather be stranded on an island with a survival expert who is a stranger OR your best friend?

Would you rather be a famous singer OR a movie star?

Would you rather have your flight delayed 12 hours OR have your luggage lost?

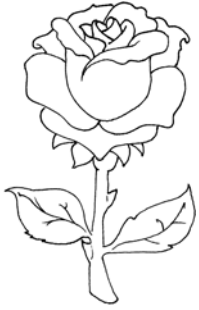
Would you rather eat three large pizzas by yourself all at once OR not eat anything all day?

Would you rather be hated by everyone but extremely wealthy OR be loved by everyone but broke?

Would you rather stub your toe OR hit your funny bone?





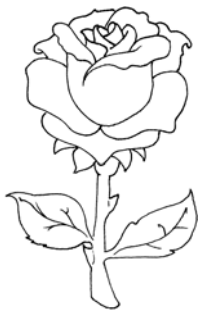


Would you rather be able to fly OR have the power to be invisible?

## Conversation Starter

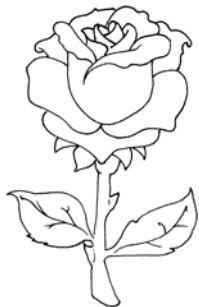
Place one conversation starter on each table. Encourage the guests to share their answers with the table group.

When was the first time you were aware of "Alice In Wonderland"? Did you read the book or see the animated movie? Did it scare you if you were a young child?



## Tray Game

Place a number of common items on a large tray. Cover the tray with a towel. Carry it to each table and allow the guests to view the items for one minute. Cover the tray and move on. Their task is to write down as many of the items as possible in a numbered list. This can be accomplished as a table team or individually. Give a small prize (Hershey Kiss) to each winner.



## Alphabet Name Game

Each guest prints the alphabet down the left side of a piece of paper. They choose one letter of the alphabet to print next to the letter 'A'. Whichever letter they choose, they continue to print the alphabet from that point, in order, to the end. Once they have their two letters side by side, the Alphabet Name Game begins.

The game player must think of the name of a person, famous or non famous, who has those initials. They write the person's name next to the letter. Each full name is worth 1 point. The players with the most points win small prizes at the end. The most anyone can earn is 26 points, of course.

Ex: A E     Albert Einstein



# Which Way To Wonderland?

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY  
NOT FOR USE  
PLEASE PURCHASE



These program segments may be used any way desired.  
Ask gals of all ages to participate.

No one needs to memorize.  
Eliminate what you cannot use.  
Add material as desired!

Make as many copies as needed from the Master Copy.  
Do not give the program to any church or group without  
permission from CLOSE ENCOUNTERS MINISTRIES.

If a speaker has been invited, consider using a few  
of these segments instead of all of them.  
Consider time limitations.

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY  
NOT FOR USE  
PLEASE PURCHASE  
*AEJW*

Encourage each speaker to communicate clearly.  
Provide microphones.

No rehearsal is necessary.  
The participants follow directions in their segment.  
The program comes together on the spot.

Be sure to confirm involvement with each person  
before the event to be sure each one is coming.

Adapt the material as desired.  
Enjoy the humor and inspiration of each segment!



Pre Dinner Introduction ~

## DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE!



Welcome to WHICH WAY TO WONDERLAND! It is our sincere desire that you delight in fun and whimsy as we bring the classic tale of "Alice In Wonderland" to life in our own unique, creative way. If you don't remember the story, we'll remind you with snippets of the story here and there. After all, it was a dream that happened long ago.

Sit tight! You are on your way to a grand adventure as we travel "Down The Rabbit Hole"! This is how Alice's story begins:

"Alice was beginning to get very tired of sitting by her sister on the bank and of having nothing to do. Once or twice she had peeped into the book her sister was reading but it had no pictures or conversations in it, "and what is the use of a book" thought Alice, "without pictures or conversations?"

*"Suddenly a white rabbit with pink eyes ran close by her.... "Oh dear! I shall be too late!" She didn't think much of this... (when she thought it over afterwards, it occurred to her that she ought to have wondered at this, but at the time it all seemed quite natural) ...until he pulled a pocket watch out of his waistcoat pocket and popped down a large rabbit hole under the hedge.*

*"...Alice suddenly found herself falling down what seemed to be a very deep well. Either the hole was very deep or she fell very slowly for she had plenty of time to look about her. The sides of the hole were filled with cupboards and bookshelves...maps and pictures hung upon pegs*

*"Down, down, down. Would the fall never come to an end?"*  
Doesn't that sound like an exciting beginning to a tale of a seven year



old girl who finds herself in an amazing land of Wonder? There was a real Alice and a real white rabbit but that is all I can guarantee.

"Alice's Adventures In Wonderland" was told by the English author, Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, better known as Lewis Carroll. He told it to a bored little girl named Alice Liddell. She loved the story he made up and begged him to write it down for her.

**We can learn lessons from Alice's adventure.** She asked the mock turtle "How many hours a day did you do lessons?" He replied, "Ten hours the first day, nine the next and so on." She said, "What a curious plan!" He said: "That's the reason they're called lessons, because they lessen from day to day."

**This is our Down The Rabbit Hole lesson:** Whether I rise or fall, I am the Lord's. When I am falling, I have no choice but to trust God's promise to take care of me no matter what.

The 'no choice' part is probably good because I am so prone to doing everything myself. His presence in my life teaches me how to fall and His presence assures me I'll make a soft, safe landing.

Free falling is frightening! We have no sense of space or time. The end result is unknown. But sometimes, just sometimes, we end up having a grand adventure just like Alice.

Let's Eat and Drink!

## PRAY FOR THE MEAL!

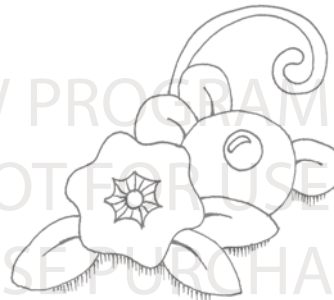


## After Dinner Program!

The After Dinner Program is filled with snippets from the story "Alice's Adventures In Wonderland".

Speakers read their short segment and reflect upon lessons learned from the classic story that makes no sense and yet is filled with common sense!

Choose the segments you like best, add music as desired and, if a special speaker has been planned, omit what cannot be used.



Adapt segments to fit the group. Use people available and vary participants' ages from young to old.

Most of all, keep your Victorian sense of humor, charm and whimsy. Add thoughts about how the Lord can make sense out of nonsense!

Let The Program Begin ~ After Dinner...



## Which Way To Wonderland?

**SPEAKERS:** Two gals of any age.

**PROPS:** Carry a homemade signpost with several conflicting directions: *Here, There, This Way, That Way, Over There* printed on separate poster board/cardboard arrows. Hidden on the opposite side of each arrow, print the word JESUS on each arrow before attaching to the post. (Do not let the audience see the JESUS side until the end of the segment.)



**SPEAKER #1:** The program is beginning and it's our job to let everyone know 'Which Way To Wonderland?'.  
*PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY NOT FOR USE PLEASE PURCHASE*

**SPEAKER #2:** Why ask me? I have no idea which way to go. I have never been good with directions. I can get lost in my own closet!

**SPEAKER #1:** I was counting on you to point the way.

**SPEAKER #2:** Well, you 'counted' wrong. Did you bring your GPS?

**SPEAKER #1:** All I know is we're supposed to go down a rabbit hole. So, let's look for a rabbit.

**SPEAKER #2:** Nuh-uh, not me! I'm not following rabbits or going down any rabbit hole. You go down the rabbit hole and tell me all about it when you get back.

**SPEAKER #1:** Alice made it home okay and SHE went down the rabbit hole. I bet we can do it too. After all, at the bottom of the hole we will find Wonderland!

**SPEAKER #2:** Look at the directions on the sign post. That will show us how to get there!

**SPEAKER #1:** Why didn't we think of that before? The sign reads 'This Way'. Let's go this way.



SPEAKER #2: Wait! The sign reads "That Way". We have to go that way. I'm sure that's the right direction!

SPEAKER #1: But the sign post also reads "Here", "There" and "Over There". I'm totally confused.

SPEAKER #2: Does this remind you of something we have talked about in church?

SPEAKER #1: Ohhh, you mean the day we talked about how to get to Heaven! We said people try every way they can think of to find the path to Heaven.

SPEAKER #2: Except the only way. People think if they just go 'this way' and become a good person, they will find Heaven. Others think if they just go 'that way' and go to church they will get to Heaven.

SPEAKER #1: That's not the right way, is it?

SPEAKER #2: The Bible says there is only one way to Heaven. Jesus said: *'I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me.'* (John 14:6)

SPEAKER #1: I think there is a 'Wonderland Surprise' for us! Look! *(Spin the sign post so the audience can see the words JESUS on all the arrows.)*

SPEAKER #2: Wow! We've been wondering "Which Way to Wonderland" when the answer has been on the signpost the whole time!

EXIT





# Tell Me About Wonderland!

## ~Just For Fun

**SPEAKERS:** A small group of children eagerly gather around one person dressed in crazy clothing. Everyone walks through the maze of guest tables, following the friend to the front of the room.

**Friend:** Dress in mismatched colors and wear a crazy hat. The children ask the questions. The friend (teen or adult) answers them...ham it up and become a person who may have spent time in Alice's Wonderland!

**CHILD:** What is Alice's Wonderland like?

**FRIEND:** Alice's Wonderland is a delightful place although visitors often find it puzzling and confusing at first. At least that's what the story says.

**CHILD:** What would be useful to know about Wonderland?

**FRIEND:** I am told that in other lands objects stay where you put them. Do not expect this to happen in Wonderland. Objects may vanish and then reappear in different places. **You must be ALERT!**

**CHILD:** Could you draw me a



map so I can go there?

FRIEND: It is not possible to draw a map of Wonderland, since the places do not join up in the usual way. **You must be FLEXIBLE!**

CHILD: Tell me about the animals in Wonderland!

FRIEND: As a general rule, assume that all animals can talk there. **Be POLITE!**

CHILD: Animals TALK? Do they do anything else?

FRIEND: Well, they might understand more than one language.

CHILD: I have never heard of anything like this. Are you sure Wonderland is a real true place?

FRIEND: True? No. Fun? Absolutely! Even Alice was amused as she traveled from place to place in a land called Wonderland before she woke up.

CHILD: Is there anything else we should know about Wonderland?

FRIEND: Hmm, well I have heard that Wonderland creatures are also able to vanish and reappear which you may find disturbing. **Be PREPARED!**

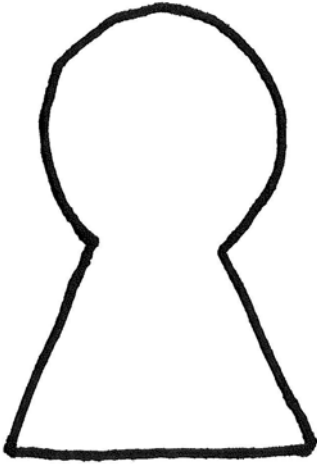
CHILD: Are you trying to teach us something? Every time you mention a wonderful, odd fact about Alice's Wonderland, you give us 'down to earth' words of advice.

FRIEND: Me? Would I do that? Do you mean 'be alert', 'be flexible', 'be polite' and 'be prepared'? What do YOU think? Maybe Wonderland is closer than we think. Follow me!

EXIT



## Life Gets 'Curiouser And Curiouser'!



**SPEAKER:** One older woman with a soft voice and sense of wonder reflecting on the world she has experienced as she reads parts of the story.

**PROP:** She holds a golden key to show the audience.

"Curiouser and Curiouser"! Do you remember Alice said that soon after she fell down the Rabbit Hole following the very late White Rabbit?

*"There was not a moment to be lost, and away went Alice like the wind. She followed the Rabbit around a corner and found herself in a long, low hall. The Rabbit was nowhere to be seen. There were doors all around the hall, but each one was locked. 'How shall I ever get out?' Alice wondered."* —Alice's Adventures In Wonderland

I have often felt like I've been locked in a long hallway of troubles with no way out. Like Alice, I couldn't seem to come to terms with the world around me. It was an interesting place but also unnerving at times. The world around me was something I wanted to understand but it became 'curiouser and curiouser'.

*"She came upon a little table made of solid glass and on it was a tiny golden key. Alice's first idea was that this might belong to one of the doors of the hall. However, it was too small. Then Alice spied a tiny door she hadn't seen before. She tried the key in the lock and to her surprise, it opened!"* —Alice's Adventures In Wonderland

The older I got, the more settled I became with the idea that this place where I was so unhappy was meant to be my home. Maybe I would never leave the long, low hall with the strange locked doors. The actions I took and the mistakes I made seemed to have no meaning and it felt like those around me were speaking another language.



And then, much to my surprise, I found the golden key! My key was Jesus! I feel a sense of freedom and no longer trapped in a world that makes no sense.

Today the world makes sense to me. I am alive and excited. I am happy just to be here and to know I found a key much better than Alice's little golden key! I found the key to eternal life.

Just because I have unlocked my faith in Christ doesn't mean I don't still love Wonderland and all the things I learned there. There are many things we can learn from the places that don't suit us, from the things that seem to make us uncomfortable and confused. Listen to Alice and the Cheshire Cat:

*"Would you tell me, please,  
which way I ought to go from here?" Said Alice.  
"That depends a good deal on where you want to go,"  
said the Cat.  
"I don't much care where—" said Alice.  
"Then it doesn't much matter which way you go," said the Cat.  
"—so long as I get somewhere," Alice added as an explanation.  
"Oh, you're sure to do that," said the Cat,  
"If you only walk long enough."  
—From 'Alice's Adventures In Wonderland'*

My suggestion for all of you is to decide where you WANT to be going! That may begin to answer our question, "Which Way To Wonderland?".

EXIT



## Caucus Race Run To Win!



**SPEAKER:** Track Coach, wearing a sport shirt and jeans or a track suit with sneakers, whistle around neck.

**RUNNERS:** Young children and a few adults to run with them. Wear running shoes. (Really, anyone in the room can participate at the last minute.)

*(The Caucus Race in 'Alice's Adventures In Wonderland' was a race to nowhere, with no beginning, no end and a lot of activity in the middle. There were PRIZES at the end of the race!)*

**PROPS:** Miniature candy bars given to each runner at the end of the race.

**COACH:** *(Blow whistle....)* I need all Caucus Race runners to gather around for the pep talk. You know the routine! Come, come now. Hurry along. There is no time to waste in Wonderland. The pep talk is the best part of the race because you have to listen to ME!

You DO remember what a Caucus Race is, don't you? Maybe I should refresh your memories:

*"As Alice scrambled onto the bank, she saw that the long hall with the glass table had vanished completely. The creatures gathering around her were all dripping wet, angry and uncomfortable.*

*'The best thing to get us dry,' said the Dodo, 'would be a Caucus Race.' 'What is a Caucus Race?' said Alice. 'Why,' said the Dodo, 'the best way to explain it is to do it.'*

*First the Dodo marked out a racecourse in a sort of circle and then*



*everyone was placed along the course.*

*They could all begin running whenever they liked. When they had been running half an hour or so, and were quite dry again, the Dodo suddenly called out, 'The race is over!' and they all crowded around, panting and asking, 'Who has won?'*

*'Everybody has won,' said the Dodo, 'and all must have prizes.'*

*'But who is to give the prizes?' a chorus of voices asked. 'Why, she is, of course,' said the Dodo, pointing to Alice. The whole party quickly crowded around her, calling out, "Prizes! Prizes!"*

*Alice had no idea what to do and in despair she put her hand in her pocket. She pulled out a box of candies and handed them out as prizes. There was exactly one piece for each of them."*

–From "Alice's Adventures In Wonderland"

Are you ready to run our own version of the Caucus Race? Stand anywhere you like and after I blow the whistle, begin running whenever and wherever you wish. It won't matter which direction you take or how fast you go.

*After all, as the Red Queen said, "It takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place."*

–From 'Alice's Adventures In Wonderland'

**BLOW WHISTLE!** (If the runners hesitate, direct them to run around the room, in between tables and along aisles. It doesn't matter at all.)

**After a few minutes of running and hilarity–hopefully–blow the whistle and call out:**

The race is over!

**When the runners gather around you, encourage the runners to ask "Who has won?"**

Everybody has won! And all must have prizes!



**Give each tired runner a small piece of candy before they return to their seat.**

Christians have a different attitude about running races. In Alice's Wonderland it doesn't matter how you run, where you run or who wins. In the Christian's life it matters a great deal. Listen to the words of Paul:

"You've all been to the stadium and seen the athletes race. Everyone runs; one wins. Run to win. All good athletes train hard. They do it for a gold medal that tarnishes and fades. You're after one that's gold eternally. I don't know about you, but I'm running hard for the finish line. I'm giving it everything I've got. No sloppy living for me! I'm staying alert and in top condition. I'm not going to get caught napping, telling everyone else all about it and then missing out myself." I Corinthians 9:24-27 TM

**ONE RUNNER READS THIS POEM:**

*You're Always There For Me*

—Joanna Fuchs

When the world comes crashing in  
And chaos rules my mind,  
I turn my heart to you, Lord,  
And pure, sweet peace I find.

You lift me out of trouble  
You comfort me in pain;  
You nourish, heal and cleanse me,  
Like cool, refreshing rain.

In times of joy and bliss,  
When things are going right,  
You lift me even higher,  
And fill me with delight.

You listen to my prayers;  
You hear my every plea;  
I'm safe because I know  
You're always there for me.



## Kingdom Thoughts for Moms!

“Everything’s got a moral, if only you can find it.”

-The Dutchess

**SPEAKER (S):** One or more people take turns reading this special rendition of The Beatitudes written especially for mothers.



**SPEAKER #1:** A mathematics teacher who agreed to babysit while her friend went shopping, left her this note: “Dried tears 11 times...tied shoelaces 15 times...blew up balloons, 5 per child...warned kids not to cross the street 26 times...kids insisted on crossing the street 26 times. Number of Saturdays I’ll volunteer to do this again - Zero!”

**SPEAKER #2:** We decided with all this talk about Wonderland, we should bring you back to the real world with a few ‘wonderful’ Beatitudes for Mothers.

1. Blessed is the mother who makes peace with spilled milk and mud, for of such is the kingdom of childhood.
2. Blessed is the mother who does not compare her child with others for precious is the uniqueness of each child. Let them grow at their own pace.
3. Blessed is the mother who has learned to laugh for it’s the music of a child’s world.
4. Blessed is the mother who can say “No” without anger and mean it for comforting a child is the security of firm decisions.
5. Blessed is the mother who can give her child the gift of consistency for it brings heart’s ease in childhood.







6. Blessed is the mother who accepts the awkwardness of growth for she is aware of the choice between ruined furniture and damaged personalities.

7. Blessed is the mother who is teachable for knowledge brings understanding and understanding brings love.

8. Blessed is the mother who in the middle of boring days give love for they give the greatest of all gifts to their children.

--Based on "Beatitudes for Parents" by Marion E. Kinneman



## Survival Tips For A Mad Tea Party

**SPEAKERS:** 3 gals of any age wearing silly hats and over the top crazy old fashioned tea party dressy outfits. Of course, the sillier, the better.

**PROPS:** Tea cups

Make a big deal of entering the room with laughter, 'Oh dahling, you look mahvelous', etc.

SPEAKER #1: Oh darlings, look. Here's a little piece of Alice's story for us to read before we enjoy our tea party. Who wants to read? Who wants to read?

SPEAKER #2: I would read it but I'm weary of this 'Which Way To Wonderland' stuff. I'm a party girl. I love MAD tea parties!

SPEAKER #3: Who brought the tea? I have the cup! (*Hold up tea cup.*)

SPEAKER #1: I think we're supposed to read this. I'll do it.

*"Alice found the March Hare and the Hatter having tea at a table set out under a tree. A Dormouse was sitting between them, fast asleep, and the other two were resting their elbows on it.*

*The table was large but the three were all crowded together at one corner of it. 'No room! No room!' they cried out when they saw Alice coming.*

*'There's plenty of room!' said Alice, and she sat down in a large armchair.*



*Everyone kept moving from seat to seat, insulting each other, insulting Alice and asking questions that had no answers. They spilled milk on her. She was outraged. "I don't think..." began Alice. 'Then you shouldn't talk,' said the Hatter. This rudeness was more than Alice could bear. She got up in great disgust.*

*The last time she saw them, they were trying to put the Dormouse into the teapot. 'I'll never go there again!' said Alice. 'It's the stupidest tea party I ever was at in all my life!'*

–From 'Alice's Adventures In Wonderland

SPEAKER #2: Well, that's mad! We should begin our tea party with some rules.

SPEAKER #3: You mean 'Survival Tips'.

SPEAKER #2: Whatever. First, Upon Arrival: Sit down in any vacant seat, even if told there is no room. There is always plenty of room.

SPEAKER #3: I hate to be crowded at a tea party. Give me elbow room and clean cups! I must have clean cups!

SPEAKER #1: Conversation is important. The Mad Hatter is fond of riddles and may ask you to solve one, such as 'Why is a raven like a writing desk?' Do not be alarmed—he is unlikely to have the slightest idea of the answer. And neither do I!

SPEAKER #2: Hygiene is important. Brace yourself. You may be instructed to move around and it is not at all certain you will find your new setting of tableware unused.

SPEAKER #3: Clean cups! I must have clean cups!

SPEAKER #1: Welfare of guests is important. The Mad Hatter and March Hare's treatment of guests may concern you. They may lean on you as a cushion, pinch you or pour a little hot tea on your nose. Be aware than any guest is free to leave at any time. As are you.

SPEAKER #2: I'm leaving.



SPEAKER #3: You're leaving?

SPEAKER #2: I'm leaving.

SPEAKER #3: Well, I'm leaving too!

SPEAKER #2: Why?

SPEAKER #3: I'm leaving because I must have clean cups and I am not at all convinced that the Mad Hatter and March Hare care one little bit about clean cups.

**SPEAKER #2 AND SPEAKER #3 LEAVE THE ROOM IN A HUFF.**

SPEAKER #1: It appears I am left alone at a Mad Hatter's Tea Party. I hope I remember the Survival Tips. Let's see what else they said:

*"You should say what you mean," the March Hare went on.*

*"I do," Alice hastily replied, "At least I mean what I say.*

*That's the same thing you know."*

—From 'Alice's Adventures In Wonderland

Is saying what you mean and meaning what you say the same thing? I'm pretty sure it's not. You should think about this: Do you really say what you mean? Do you really mean what you say? Communication is so hard for me. I don't always say what I mean because I am afraid to or because I'm not sure exactly what I mean. I spend a lot of time thinking, but not all that much time thinking before I speak.

In some ways, we're all in our own little Wonderlands and what makes sense to us doesn't always make sense to others. However, I've found that if you take the time to really think about what you want to say and if you really mean the words that come out of your mouth, things in life go a lot more smoothly. Hmmm, maybe I can survive a Mad Hatter Tea Party after all. I'm off! I mean I'm not 'off', I'm off to see the Hatter. I mean off to...well, you know what I mean.

EXIT



## “Who Am I?”

-Alice

**SPEAKERS:** 2 teen gals

**PROPS:** Speaker #1 carries and reads from a book which is supposed to be “Alice’s Adventures In Wonderland”. Speaker #2 carries and reads from a book of poetry.



**SPEAKER #1:** Look what I found in Alice’s story:

*“Dear, dear! How queer everything is today!  
And yesterday things went on just as usual.  
I wonder if I’ve changed in the night? Let me think...  
Was I the same when I got up this morning?  
I almost think I can remember feeling a little different.  
But if I’m not the same, the next question is,  
‘Who in the world am I?’  
Ah, that’s the great puzzle!”*  
-Alice

**SPEAKER #2:** Who am I? That is the question! It is the great, mind boggling question of all time. Does anyone REALLY know who they are?

**SPEAKER #1:** Well, Alice wondered and I suppose no one is 100% certain of who they are.

**SPEAKER #2:** I finally figured it out. You notice it was ME who asked the question and not you! I am a thinker, a soul searcher. I WANT to know who I am.

**SPEAKER #1:** I do too! You just got to the answer quicker than I did! What happens when your world turns upside down one day and you are asking everyone, “Which Way To Wonderland”?

**SPEAKER #2:** I will do what every Christian has done since Jesus told us about Himself and salvation and Heaven...the REAL Wonderland. I will



say I have a firm foundation on which I always rest. I am God's girl! I am ME!

SPEAKER #1: Good answer! As we grow older we'll keep exploring our faith in Christ and trying to learn more about ourselves because everything we learn helps us live to please God.

SPEAKER #2: *When I say I'm a Christian I'm not shouting I am saved, I'm whispering I get lost. That is why I chose this way.*

*When I say I'm a Christian I don't speak of this with pride, I'm confessing that I stumble and need someone to be my guide.*

*When I say I'm a Christian, I'm not trying to be strong. I'm professing that I'm weak and pray for strength to carry on.*

*When I say I'm a Christian, I'm not bragging of success. I'm admitting I have failed and cannot ever pay the debt.*

*When I say I'm a Christian, I'm not claiming to be perfect. My flaws are too visible but God believes I'm worth it.*

*When I say I'm a Christian, I do not wish to judge. I have no authority, I only know I'm loved.*

-Carol Wimmer

EXIT



## A Very Merry UnBirthday!

**SPEAKERS:** 2 gals of any age playing flamingo croquet. Wear silly, mismatched clothing and big hats.

**PROPS:** Two plastic pink yard flamingos.

SPEAKER #1: A very, merry UnBirthday to me!

SPEAKER #2: To who?

SPEAKER #1: To me! A very, merry UnBirthday to me!

SPEAKER #2: To you?

SPEAKER #1: To me!!!

SPEAKER #2: It's not even close to your birthday.

SPEAKER #1: I said it was my 'UN Birthday'! Weren't you listening?

SPEAKER #2: *(Sigh)* Living in Wonderland is so difficult. I'll never get it right. Like, why are we playing croquet with pink flamingos?

SPEAKER #1: Because if we don't, the Queen will yell "Off with their heads". I'm rather fond of my head so just keep playing croquet with the flamingo.

SPEAKER #2: I just got my hair done so I'll play. *(Look off in the distance and yell....)* Fore!

SPEAKER #1: That's golf, dear. We are playing croquet. The game that gets you nowhere.

SPEAKER #2: From all I've heard of Wonderland, that's about right. Creatures running here and there, mad tea parties, silly riddles, crazy clothes. I want to get somewhere in my life.

SPEAKER #1: A very, merry UnBirthday to me....



SPEAKER #2: Should a person get a person a present for their UnBirthday? I am not at all certain of the proper protocol.

SPEAKER #1: The proper protocol for an UnBirthday is to give a person the gift of good advice.

*I give myself very good advice,  
But I very seldom follow it.  
That explains the trouble that I'm always in.  
Be patient is very good advice,  
But the waiting makes me curious.  
And I'd love the change,  
Should something strange begin.  
Well I went along my merry way  
And I never stopped to reason,  
I should have known there'd be a price to pay.  
Someday....Someday.  
I give myself very good advice  
But I very seldom follow it.  
Will I ever learn to do the things I should?  
Will I ever learn to do the things I should?  
~from Disney's "Alice In Wonderland"*

SPEAKER #2: Good advice? I'm not aware of any advice I can give that will help you survive Wonderland. Let me think a moment. Oh! Here's something!

**Stop doing things that get you nowhere!**

Yep, that is the best advice I have for your UnBirthday. Can we stop hitting these poor flamingos on the head now?

SPEAKER #1: Nope, it's them or us. Keep playing croquet. 'Stop doing things that get you nowhere.' That's pretty good. I'm always doing things again and again and then complain when I get the same result. I make choices and then I'm unhappy with them afterward. Sometimes it feels easier to keep doing what I've been doing because it's comfortable.





SPEAKER #2: I found the part of Alice's story where everyone plays flamingo croquet. Listen:

*'Can you play croquet?' shouted the Queen as she walked away. 'Yes!' Alice called back. 'Come on, then!' Roared the Queen, and Alice joined the procession, wondering what would happen next. When they reached the croquet ground, the Queen shouted, 'Get to your places!' -and people began running around in all directions.*

*Alice thought she had never seen such a curious croquet game in her life. The croquet balls were live hedgehogs and the mallets were live flamingoes and the soldiers had to double themselves up to make the arches. The players all played at once without waiting for turns.*

-From 'Alice's Adventures In Wonderland

SPEAKER #1: I found a verse in the Bible that explains what the exciting Kingdom of God is like:

*"Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade." Mark 4:30-32*

SPEAKER #1: That's where I want to go! A kingdom where things are real and true and wonderful. And the flamingoes can enjoy big branches, and sitting upright for a change!

SPEAKER #2: Have a very, merry UnBirthday! Fore!

EXIT



## To Dream The Impossible Dream!

**SPEAKERS:** Two gals of any age may conclude the program and bring Alice home.

### Believe In What Seems Impossible.



*SPEAKER #1: "There's no use in trying," Alice said,  
"One can't believe impossible things."*

*"I daresay you haven't had much practice," said the Queen.  
"When I was your age, I always dreamed impossible things  
for half an hour a day. Why, sometimes I've believed  
as many as six impossible things before breakfast."*

SPEAKER #2: How many of us are like Alice, so certain that something is impossible that we don't even give it a try? People who succeed in life do so because they try and because they have a good attitude. Successful people 'do', rather than just thinking about doing.

No matter what you envision for your life, you can make it happen. It won't always come easily, but you have to BELIEVE!

Where do we Christian 'Alices' begin? Why, we begin believing at the beginning:

"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." Acts 16:31



## Wake Up!

*SPEAKER #1: "Wake up, Alice dear," said her sister.  
"Why, what a long sleep you've had!"*

*SPEAKER #2: "Oh, I've had such a strange dream!" said Alice.  
And she told her sister, as well as she could remember,  
all these strange adventures that you have just been hearing.  
Alice closed her eyes as she spoke, and it seemed as if  
the whole place around her became alive  
with the strange creatures from her dream.  
The long grass rustled at her feet as the White Rabbit hurried  
by...The frightened mouse splashed his way  
through the neighboring pool...*

*SPEAKER #1: She could hear the rattle of the teacups  
as the March Hare and his friends shared their never ending meal  
and the shrill voice of the Queen ordering her guests  
to play croquet with flamingoes.*

*SPEAKER #2: Alice knew all she had to do  
was open her eyes,  
and all would change  
to dull reality—the grass would rustle  
in the wind and the pool would ripple...*

*SPEAKER #1: The rattling teacups  
would change to tinkling sheep bells  
and the Queen's cries  
would become the voice  
of the shepherd boy...*

*SPEAKER #2: And yet, as long as  
Alice's eyes were closed,  
she half believed herself in Wonderland.  
What a wonderful dream it had been."*



SPEAKER #2: Did Alice long to go home while she was in Wonderland? Her journey was so crazy. She was big, she was small, she met animals who talked and mean authority figures who said 'off with her head'. I would long for home!

SPEAKER #1: Christians long for home all the time. Imagine Heaven...a place where we feel like stepping into the kitchen to prepare scrambled eggs, where we put our feet up on the furniture whenever we want. Talk? Not talk? It's home. We can do as we please.

SPEAKER #2: That's it! "Which Way To Wonderland" is really finding Heaven and feeling at home. There is something safe, secure and calm about waking up from a dream and finding ourselves Home at last!



## Conclusion

End Which Way To Wonderland  
with a song, a prayer and a wish  
for pleasant dreams.

Go home  
knowing you have been  
faithful servants  
to the Lord Jesus Christ!

