

# Following Mama by Bligh Jones



Illustration by Kate Foreman

I've been going in circles most of my life. You know how some kids don't crawl, they roll? Then, when learning to walk, they pull up on the leg of the coffee table and go around it, and around it, and around it. . . ? Yes, that got me going, but I *really* started going in circles around age two with my mom.

As a young woman, my mother was active in our community and in our church. She made announcements, gave reports and presented Bible lessons. I was right by her side—or more accurately, her backside. I was a clinger, following her to the podium and holding onto the back of her dress as she made her talk. Yes, I have been going in circles most of my life, and following my mother.

I continued to go in circles as I headed off to college, only to return to my hometown (not really *my* plan). But, I met this great guy from upstate and we got married. He graduated and on a visit to my parents' house, he heard about a job. After a quick interview, we were circling back south.

The next circle I encountered was through a postcard. It told me I had

been assigned to a circle.

A church circle!

I laughed—*my mother* did circles! A few days later, a former Sunday school teacher invited me to her home for the circle meeting. I *had* to go.

I have been going in church circles ever since.

I was assigned to that circle in 1970, but soon every woman was encouraged

to sign up for the circle of her choice. By 1974, I joined Circle Number 7, the Young Women's Circle—it offered free childcare and held meetings at the church. The members of Circle 7 continue to be my closest friends. I admit I have been tempted to join Circle Number 8 (they lunch at a local restaurant while they meet), but so far I haven't made the move. Some things have changed, however. Two circles became so small they had to combine. So now we have Circle 1, Circle 23 and Circles 4–8.

Now going around in Presbyterian Women circles usually means certain activities. You will have Bible study (*Horizons*, I would hope!), pray, hear about needs in your congregation and community, plan mission programs and hopefully, have refreshments.

I want to make sure that as you run in your circles, you're well fed. I have followed my mother (yet again) in preparing the following dish.

Bligh Jones is a member of Government Street Presbyterian Church, and welcomes your favorite circle or church recipes, which she will share here. Send your recipes to [blighjones@gmail.com](mailto:blighjones@gmail.com). Please include your name and the name of your church and city.



## Recipe Name: Mama's Curried Fruit

- 1 can pears
- 1 can pineapple, chunks
- 1 can peaches
- 1 can apricots
- 1 small jar Maraschino cherries
- 1 cup brown sugar
- ½ cup butter
- 1 tablespoon curry powder

Drain all fruit and put in two-quart baking dish.

Melt brown sugar, butter and curry in sauce pan.

Pour melted mixture over fruit.

Bake uncovered at 300 degrees for one hour.

Good side dish for chicken or pork.

Recipe from Martha Tissington  
Government Street Presbyterian Church  
Mobile, Alabama

NEW DEPARTMENT!

going in circles