

Women of the Word—God & Me

Upcoming Events (Mark Your Calendar):

- God Our Peace—January 24, 2009
- Annual Ladies Retreat—Encountering the Lord of Hosts—February 26—February 29, 2009
- The Lord is My Shepherd - April 20, 2009
- Mother Daughter Banquet May 8, 2009
- The Alpha & Omega—June 22, 2009
- WOF—July 31 - August 1, 2009

Saturday Morning Breakfast Event— God Our Peace—Saturday, January 24, 2009—8:30 am

As we take a break from the cold weather and enjoy a refreshing and sumptuous winter breakfast amidst new and old friends, ladies will have the special opportunity to bask in the wisdom of our sister, Rebecca Lewis, as she shares with us how God can be our peace during the winter season. She will describe for us how Jehovah Shalom is the Lord is Peace. As Rebecca explores God as our peace, she will describe how we can find peace in a world filled with enmity, strife and anxiety. She will discuss how we can move from anxiety and worry to obtain God's Inner Peace, that passes all understanding. She will remind us that "You (the Lord) will keep him (her) in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You (the Lord), because he (she) trusts in You (the Lord)" (Isaiah 26:3).



Sign up begins in December at the Women's Ministry Table on Sundays. The cost for this refreshing morning is \$8 with advance sign up. Guests are \$6 with advance sign up. After January 18, 2009, if space is available, cost will be \$10. Child Care will be provided with advance sign-up at no additional cost. For questions or further information, contact Debbie Arthur at debbie@judeministries.org or 703-451-0422.



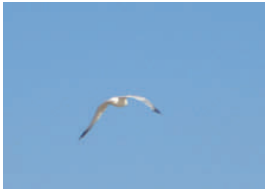
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Ladies' Book Club

Ladies are currently gathering at the home of Charlene Henderson (just 5 minutes from the church) for our ladies' book club, which meets on a Tuesday evening at 7pm once a month. The calendar for January through August is as follows: January 13, February 24, March 24, April 28, May 26, June 16, July 28 and August 18. Each get-together will be a time of sharing and discussion about Christian books on varying topics of interest. The Ladies' Book Club is sure to be a time of growth, challenge, and special leadership. For questions or further information regarding upcoming books to read, directions to her home, and other areas of inquiry, contact Charlene Henderson at lemondrops@cox.net. All ladies are welcome to attend and participate. Child care is not provided.



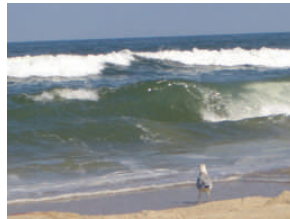


Annual Ladies Retreat Encountering the Lord of Hosts February 26-28, 2009 Ocean City, Maryland



Then she made a vow and said, “O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me and not forget Your maidservant...” I Samuel 1:11

This year our retreat will begin on Thursday for a special two nights at the beach. We will travel to Ocean City, Maryland and stay at the Carousel Resort Hotel. The hotel is located directly on the ocean and has some lovely amenities including an indoor heated pool, indoor ice skating rink, sauna & fitness center (climate-controlled gym with cardiovascular equipment, resistance machines and a television for enjoyment). All hotel rooms are equipped with a microwave, sink, coffeemaker and mini-fridge.



Our retreat is a time to get away from our daily routines and busy schedules. It is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other Christian women, to reconnect with Jesus, and to grow in our faith as we learn about Hannah and her personal encounter with the Lord of Hosts. We will compare her desperate situation to those we encounter today. Are you desperate enough to call on the Lord of Hosts? Have you reached the end of yourself? Then, this retreat is the perfect opportunity for you to learn about the grace and strength that the Lord of Hosts provides when our burdens and trials are great and we have reached the end of our human resources. The Lord of Hosts is also always available to us in the day-to-day walk of life.



Throughout our retreat there will be opportunity to worship the Lord in song, prayer, praise, testimony and fellowship, as well as free time to shop, rest, walk the beach, and other activities.



There will also be special early morning prayer time, for early risers, as well as breakout sessions on various topics and areas of interest. Sign up and brochures will be available in December at the Women's Ministry Table on Sundays. Contact Linda Rhodenhizer at 703-922-7365 for more information.

Pilgrimage with Debbie - Being Fat in God's Word



Dear Ladies, As we enter into the winter season, it is often a time of overeating and gaining weight/fat as we gorge ourselves on holiday food and then the “comfort foods” of winter. As we eat more, we desire more. This is not necessarily a good thing. Instead, the winter months are a wonderful time to feast on God's Word, to, in a sense, become fat in God's Word. Psalm 63:5 says: “My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.” What an interesting comparison of the satisfaction that we have from time with God and in His Presence — as David compares it to the food that fills the longings of our flesh. David says in verse 1 that he will seek God early. He speaks of his soul thirsting for God, his flesh longing for God. And then as he reaches verse 5, he is satisfied. He then goes on in verse 6 to meditate on God in the night watches. And finally, in verse 11, he rejoices in God. So, in this winter season, I encourage you to be fat in God's Word. Spend time with Him, feasting on His Word. Only true satisfaction and ultimate joy comes from a growing relationship with the God who saved you, who loved you, and who is always with you. Learn of Him, thirst for Him, long for Him. Be fat in God's Word! Love in Jesus, Debbie Arthur

Pilgrimage with Charlene — Thanksgiving



Dear Sisters in Christ, As we begin to enter our Holiday Season, may I wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving. I would like to share some reflections on Thanksgiving past, present, & future. A brief look at the history of Thanksgiving will give us a place to start. Thanksgiving Day in the United States is an annual day of thanks for the blessings of the past year, observed on the fourth Thursday in November in each of the states, the District of Columbia, & Puerto Rico. It is a historical, national, & religious holiday that began with the Pilgrims. After the survival of their first colony through the bitter winter, & the gathering of the harvest, **Gov. William Bradford** of Plymouth Colony issued a thanksgiving proclamation in the autumn of 1621. This first thanksgiving lasted three days, during which the Pilgrims feasted on wild turkey & venison with their Indian guests.

Days of thanksgiving were celebrated sporadically until, on November 26, 1789, President Washington issued a proclamation of a nation-wide day of thanksgiving. He made it clear that the day should be one of prayer & giving thanks to God. It was to be celebrated by all religious denominations, a circumstance that helped to promote a spirit of common heritage. Credit for establishing this day as a national holiday is usually given to **Sarah J. Hale**, editor & founder of the Ladies' Magazine (from 1828) in Boston. Her editorials in the magazine & letters to President Lincoln urging the formal establishment of a national holiday of thanksgiving resulted in Lincoln's proclamation in 1863, designating the last Thursday in November as the day. Succeeding presidents annually followed his example, except for President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who in 1939 proclaimed Thanksgiving Day a week earlier--on the fourth but not the last Thursday--to encourage holiday shopping. In 1941, Congress adopted a joint resolution setting the date on the fourth Thursday of November.

Thanksgiving in my lifetime holds sweet memories of family & friends. As I reflect back to the 1st Thanksgiving I remember, I was in West Virginia. It was a cold snowy day. I remember the week or so before hearing my Mother fret about whether or not there would be a turkey with all the trimmings or if there would be a ham. I remember her praying that our Lord would provide. And God answered her prayer. We never went hungry. There was always enough "holiday" food for everyone to leave the table full and sleepy!

Before any holiday shopping (which I do very little, I am not much of a shopper), I plan to remember the original meaning of thanksgiving & to count my blessings, the Big and the Small. I am thankful that the God of Abraham, Issac, & Jacob is the God that I worship & praise. I am thankful that we have a warm, comfortable place to worship & pastors that preach God's word. I am thankful that 12 years ago, Susan Richardson, my neighbor & dear friend, invited me to visit Calvary Road Baptist Church & that I joined a Sunday School class & have become a part of CRBC.

I am thankful that my husband, Clyde, loves the Lord. I am thankful that my son, Michael, came back to us whole & alive from Iraq. I am thankful that my daughter, Melanie, loves the Lord, studies his Word, & often ministers to me. I am thankful for the Ladies in the WOW ministry & that we have sweet fellowship, but most of all, I am thankful that years ago, my Mother planted seeds of gratitude in my heart & that we have a nation that remembers to celebrate God's gifts to our nation.

The future of Thanksgiving in America could be bright! If we continue to remember the origins of this celebration & what it has meant to each of us since childhood, it will remain a time of fond memories & religious celebration. If we teach our children & grand children to always give thanks, the date will always be a time of celebration & joy. However, if those in this country who want to remove God from our money, our pledge of allegiance, & our public places are successful – then Thanksgiving may become a nameless, fall holiday, devoid of real meaning. Let's continue to stand for the spirit in which the holiday was conceived by passing on to future generations the history and memories of Happy Thanksgivings. Happy Thanksgiving & May God continue to bless us and our Nation. Charlene Henderson



Creative Fellowship Nights



Ladies, do you have a love for a special craft or hobby that you just don't find time for while at home? We have just the answer for you! The Women's Ministry is sponsoring monthly "Creative Fellowship Nights". Bring your favorite craft (scrapbooking, stamping, knitting, cross-stitching, quilting, etc...anything you can transport) and treat yourself to an evening of fun, fellowship, and light snacks as you work on your craft/hobby.

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend! We will meet from 6:30—9:30 pm in 2009 on Friday, January 16, Monday February 2, Friday March 13, Monday April 13, and Friday May 1. What a wonderful, fun way to meet fellow Christian women. Questions? Contact Susan Wilhide at 703-865-8362.

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We're on the Web!

www.pilgrimagewithdebbie.org



Prayers for the Winter Season

Isaiah 1:18—Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord, Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.

Psalms 51:7—... Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Dear Lord, forgive me of coldness of heart toward your people and the suffering of others in the world. Forgive me of seeking only my own ends and sitting with pity only on myself and my own pain. As my heart melts and softens toward others, wash me, and purge me, and make my heart whiter than snow.

Proverbs 31:21—She is not afraid of snow for her household, For all her household is clothed with scarlet.

Dear Lord, may I take care of my home, finances, family, and other loved ones in perfect order, as you lead. May I use my time and talents in Your will and in the service of others. Then, I will have no fear of the winter, for You are there to keep me warm. You have prepared me for winter as I listen to You and obey your will.

Psalms 74:17—...You have made winter and summer.

Dear Lord, thank you for the seasons. The clean and stark whiteness of winter with the coolness of the wind refreshes my soul. Lord, bring refreshment to my soul in this winter season.

