

Save the Date

- August 16*
Morning Star Café in D7, 10:30-11:15 a.m.
- August 26*
Bible Studies resume
- September 9*
MEMS resumes
- September 14*
20 Somethings meet
- September 15*
Mending Hearts begins
- November 9*
20 Somethings meet
- November 11*
No Bible Studies
- November 15*
Morning Star Café
- November 25*
No Bible Studies
- December 4*
Women's Christmas Outreach Dinner

Odds and Ends

Charles Martin, who spoke at our Christmas banquet, spoke about his experience with his next book. To follow up on what's been happening with this, visit Charles' website at www.charlesmartinbooks.com and click on BLOG for "the rest of the story."

L.I.G.H.T. Homeschool Group meets twice a month for park days and fun and educational field trips. There will be an ice cream social kick-off meeting on Saturday, August 29th at Mandarin Park. If you would like more information or are interested in joining for the 2009/2010 school year, please call Ashli Lee Crawford at 260-5328.

Do you have an event you would like published in the next issue of *The Purple Thread* or a question or submission for Odds and Ends? If so, please send information to carolannjax@bellsouth.net by the end of this September.

2009 Women's Ministries Team

Cindy Harby, Director of Women's Ministries

Debbie Brackett
Margaret Davis
Naomi Gillis
Kim Harmon
Carol Hayes

Helen Jones
Leslie Jones
Stephanie Kaloupek
Gail Logan
Carolyn Phillips

MEMS was founded on the belief of God's love for mothers of preschoolers, a love that fully affirms the identity and value of each mother. This is a fun Mommy time! "We learn about why our "job" is so important and get to laugh with other moms who change as many diapers as we do." The program provides opportunities for friendship, creative outlets, and spiritual emphasis, as well as loving childcare for our children. **MEMS will meet on the 2nd and 3rd Wednesday of each month** (Sept. - May) in D6. We will meet at CFC from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. It is going to be a fun-filled year and if you are a mother of a preschooler, we would love for you to join us. If you have any questions about the MEMS program please call Tricia Murphy at 262-8363.



20 Somethings - Revved Like Bev

This group of young women (single and married) meet quarterly in a fun time of learning, sharing and activity with "older women" in the church. The concept is based on a modern-day version of the Proverbs 31 woman and how God designed us to live in His service and for His purpose.

Fall Schedule:

- Monday, September 14th Favorite ways to pray for your family, husband, and friends....how to practice being a good listener
- Monday, November 9th The Best Of..... Come learn about our favorite things from brownie mix to jeans

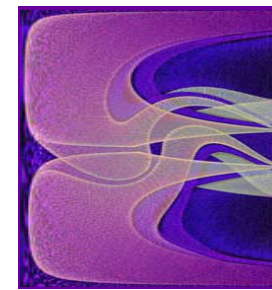
Watch for details to follow. If you are a woman in your 20's and would like to learn more about our 20 Something events, call Cindy Harby at 262-3000.

Serving Opportunities:

Leigh Meadows Tutors & Homework Helpers - Tutors needed at Leigh Meadows Apartments on Sunbeam Road, Tuesdays (3:30-5:00 p.m.) One-to-one tutoring and homework help are both needed. Please contact Patti Bethea at 262-3464.

Hands and Feet Ministry - Ladies needed to help clean kitchens in C & D Buildings, Oct 16th and Dec 1st. Please contact Helen Jones at helengus@comcast.net or 642-2098.

Outreach Dinner - Help is needed for set up and decorating, December 3rd and 4th. Please contact Helen Jones at helengus@comcast.net or 642-2098.



The Purple Thread

To keep the women of Christian Family Chapel informed, connected, and involved.
www.christianfamilychapel.com Fall 2009

"We proclaim Him ... that we may present everyone mature in Jesus Christ." Colossians 1:28



A Recipe for Friendship

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. I Thess 5:11

Authentic....Approachable.....Available. Are those the characteristics you think of when you think of a friend? Are those words that your friends would use to describe you? Friendship is referred to many times in God's Word. We know God considered both Abraham and Moses His "friend." God designed friendship, and that friendship is especially sweet between Christians because we have the love of Christ as a foundation. God's design of friendship helps to meet the needs we have for love, understanding, encouragement, companionship, and support.

At a conference a few years ago I heard speaker Pam Farrel, the author of Men are like Waffles, Women are like Spaghetti. From my experience, her view of the difference between women and men is right on target. Men, like waffles, keep everything in little boxes separated by walls. They compartmentalize better than we do. Women, on the other hand, are like spaghetti. If you look at a plate of spaghetti, the noodles are all touching each other and are intertwined and intersected. Our lives tend to be intertwined with the lives of other women....or at least we would like for them to be. We tend to be relational and vulnerable.

I want to be the type of friend who is a sweet blessing to those around me. I pray I am warm, caring, open, genuine, approachable and loving...one who takes time to linger over a cup of coffee. Some of us need lots of friends and others, just one special friend. I urge you to evaluate your "recipe for friendship" and ask the Lord to grow your friendship appetite and make your life a sweet aroma to the lives of those with whom you come in contact. "In the cookies of life, friends are the chocolate chips" (with a few nuts thrown in!).

Cindy (yes, *chocolate is a food group*) Harby
Director of Women's Ministries

Women's Fall Studies

Classes begin Wednesday, August 26th. All classes are offered both morning and evening, unless noted. You may sign up at the Women's Cart on Sundays.

Disciplines of a Godly Woman - 9:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. - D8

A book by Barbara Hughes. 15 week study designed to help us as women grow in our relationship with God....the "dread" of a disciplined life will be replaced with desire and anticipation as you find that there is no greater purpose than loving him in every moment, every activity, and every thought. Cost \$11.00 for book.

Scriptural Salve for Your Soul - 9:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. - D5

God uses the difficulties of living in a sin-cursed world to conform us to the image of His Son. In this small group study of God's Word, you will learn how to be braided with God in the loving purposefulness of pain and hardship in your life. You will learn how to use the current or past trials of life to bring glory to God and, therefore, grow in peace, rest, hope and joy. Limited group sizes for this study. Contact Beth Karadeema at 874-8234 or bammerbeth@bellsouth.net to register. No cost for this study.

Precept Covenant Study

- 9:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. - D2

See this incredible thread running from Genesis through Revelation. God enters into a binding agreement with His people and always keeps His promises. Trusting Him as a covenant partner frees us from the bondage of worry and anxiety. This study will transform the way you read the Scriptures! Cost: \$20.00 for regular workbook or \$14.50 for streamlined In and Out version.

Lord's Table - 7 p.m. only - D7

This 15-week small group Bible Study presents solutions to overeating and other food related issues, right from the passages of scripture. This study is a compelling call to return to God's Word to find the reasons why we overeat or struggle with food, as well as the permanent solutions it provides. Limited group size. Cost: \$18.00. Call Christine Schievink at 217-0615 to register.

Morning Star Café

The CFC's Women's Ministry is excited to introduce the Morning Star Café, a quarterly gathering for women of all ages. This is an opportunity for the women of CFC to simply meet together and enjoy each other. There will be complimentary coffee, tea and breakfast treats. The goal is to provide a time of fellowship, to get to know other women, and to provide information about upcoming women's events. Sometimes it can be a challenge to make it to an event, or perhaps you might not feel an event is right for you, but still you would like to know more women at CFC. If so, the Morning Star Café is for you! If you've been going to CFC since you were in the womb, or if you are brand new, if you want to know more women, if you are very involved in ministry, or if you are unsure, if you already have a lot going on, or if you are not very involved – please stop by! We hope to encourage and be encouraged, to casually inform, and to take time to hang out and enjoy those who we minister to and receive from.

We're having our first Morning Star Café on Sunday, August 16th from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. (between 1st and 2nd hours) in room D7. The time is not long, but we hope that you will take advantage of it - to give a little of yourself and to receive from others. Or maybe even to just get a little something for breakfast.

We hope to meet you there!

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You...

Thank you for today, thank you for right now. Thank you for those who you use to teach me, for those who you use to encourage me, for those who set a right example, and for all things that draw me closer to you.

It is your will for us to give thanks in all circumstances. You ask of us to seek and do your will. You tell us in I Thessalonians 5 to "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing and give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you." Thank you for telling us so plainly. Thank you for your Spirit in us that enables us. We do not have to try to look like Christians by doing what is thought to be 'good'. We do not have to be righteous, try to serve more or love better. For why would we try to do and be what you already are and are ready to do in us? You have commanded us to obey the gospel, to choose and to know Christ.

Help me to be faithful to seek after you, to remain a branch on the vine because you will not let go. Help me to deny my flesh so that I do not choose to separate from you. Thank you for your strength that is already in me now. Thank you that, even now, I have all that I need for life and godliness - not on my own, not by trying. No, it is Christ, who is in me, eager and ready to go to bat for me. In this there is complete freedom. I am no longer a slave to sin, nor am I a slave to the law! May I always rejoice in this, always give thanks, and continuously be in communication with you as you direct my path in your will for me.

- A. Dorothy King

Missions Update



I began hearing and dreaming of Africa when I was probably 4 or 5. By the age of 12, I knew that was where I wanted to be! I went to Bible school, found a missionary-minded husband who loved God and me, went to nursing school, and had 2 babies. By the time I was 27 ½, we were here: Africa! Mombasa, Kenya, to be exact. It is everything and nothing I dreamed about. The people here are beautiful and lost and amazing and desperate. It is hot and dusty and muddy and rainy.

And that is where things change from my dreams of years past. I spend most of my days here in my house with my children, my dishes and my laundry. As I fall tiredly into bed I sometimes hear the echoes of older missionary women who have "encouraged" me to get out and be more involved in ministry. And I look at my fussy children and dirty kitchen; I take a deep breath, and I KNOW that I am in ministry!

Whose souls are more important to me than those of my precious daughters? If I fail to teach them about our Loving Father and Savior, who will? I have connected with a few of my neighbors and even met a Mus' mom at the supermarket who has invited us over to her son's birthday party on Sunday night. Twice I was able to go into surrounding areas to utilize my nursing skills and have received much joy and rejuvenation from those times. I hope and pray someday I will be living some of those earlier dreams of "bush medicine". But for now, today, I am learning to live and love and be content right where God has me: in my home, with my husband and my daughters in Kenya. Thanks for keeping us in your prayers; don't ever stop!

Shannon Brown

wife, mother of two (now 2&4) with a third on the way, and missionary

CFC Community Connections

CFC's surrounding community has a clear picture of someone sharing the love and gospel of Jesus Christ in **Kok-Tow Ng**. Kok-Tow volunteers with the International Learning Center (ILC) of Jacksonville (www.ilc.jax.org), and is beginning her third year of teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) to adult women twice a week from September to May in the Baymeadows area of Jacksonville. The goal of the ILC is to help women, many from countries where they are oppressed, to speak English with confidence in order to find work, contribute to the well being of their families and society, and enjoy this country to which God has brought them. ILC's mission field is in our backyard and at our doorsteps.



The most important aspect of any ministry is being able to share the gospel of Christ with unbelievers, so each week, after class time, there is a lesson on the Bible, usually a story highlighting women of the Bible. Throughout the year, Kok-Tow and the other ESL teachers have opportunities to share their faith outside of class time, especially during tea parties at ILC, celebrating birthdays, Thanksgiving, Christmas and Valentine's Day. Kok-Tow also hosts informal dinner parties at her home during the summer. This summer, ILC is offering the 'Experiencing God' study one night a week.

Kok -Tow states that, "Without Christ, I would not be able to do this. He gave me a love and a heart of compassion for internationals coming to this country who face challenges that I myself had to face when I first came to this country 25 years ago. I am not a teacher, and I speak English with an accent, but He gives me the wisdom, strength and time to commit to preparing lesson plans and teaching them. I also open up my home to my students and they know they can call me anytime with any questions."

In addition, Kok-Tow has also been volunteering since 2006, along with a few other dentists and dental hygienists, one Friday morning a month at the dental clinic at the City Rescue Mission (www.crmjax.com), mainly doing extractions to keep up her dental skills which help her as she goes on dental mission trips. All of her patients are in the LifeBuilders Program, a 12-step, faith-based, long-term residential addiction recovery program which includes classroom instruction, counseling, job and life-skills training, Bible study and worship. When asked if this ministry allowed her to share the gospel with unbelievers, Kok-Tow responded, "Most definitely. Many of the students are reading while waiting for their turn to be seen and I usually take note of what they are reading as conversation starters, as much as one can talk when having one or more teeth pulled!"

Christmas Outreach Dinner - "An Unexpected Gift"

December 4 with Julie Hadden

You, your family and friends won't want to miss hearing Julie Hadden of the hit NBC reality show "The Biggest Loser" as she shares her story of "An Unexpected Gift" at this year's outreach dinner. Julie will blend classic humor and candor with a story that relays how God brought her through significant struggles in her life and answered her prayers in a most unusual way to bring her - not what she had prayed for - but so much more!

Julie will share how her obesity, which had held her back all of her life - and which she considered her greatest weakness - actually ended up being a gift. God used her weakness to teach her that His plans are not our own and that His ways are far better than ours. Even though Julie didn't win "The Biggest Loser," God used it in her life to make her open to adopting the precious child she and her husband brought home shortly after the show's 4th season finale. Julie describes her changed life like this: "All my life I had tried to please God. But it became increasingly apparent that I had not treated my body as a temple; I had treated it as a fair ground. I thought God was mad at me because I was fat. And although He wants us to care for the body He has given us, I realized He was far more concerned with the condition of my heart than any number on the scale. When I began to truly see the 'Julie' God created me to be instead of the 'Julie' I had created through a lifetime of bad habits, my life was changed forever."

This Christmas season you are sure to find inspiration and motivation from Julie's special story. Begin to pray now about whom you will invite, and watch for details on when tickets will go on sale at the Women's Cart.

NOTE: If you would like to help with this event, please contact Helen Jones at 642-3098.

