

## Community Connection

There is more to a church than services, small groups or outreach ministries. Churches also need to work at being a part of the community in which they reside. Vaughn McLaughlin, of The Potter's House on Jacksonville's Westside repeatedly asks, "Would the community weep if your church were to pull out of the city? Would anybody notice if you left?" This is an important question, being answered weekly with a resounding "Yes" by men and women from Christian Family Chapel.

For example, Barbara Hightower, Kathy Kahrs, Joe Smith and a handful of our Jr. and Sr. High students have partnered with the city to offer a weekly afterschool program on Friday afternoons at a nearby apartment complex. They share Bible stories, Christian music and crafts, memory verses, and KidStuf virtues with children in the program. Their goal is to minister to the children, as well as their families. On Sundays they offer a van to help bring the children to CFC, and this summer they headed up two Power Up Clubs at the apartment complex.

In another part of town, Karen Donovan and a dedicated group of women visit with employees and dancers at a local strip club on Saturday afternoons twice a month, bringing flowers and food as part of the "Just Friends" ministry. While there, they get to know these men and women, building relationships that lead to sharing the hope of Christ in practical ways, praying for them, accessing community services such as the First Coast Women's Services, and inviting them to church. Besides Karen and her Delivery Team, there are also women involved behind the scenes with food, prayer and special projects, and men who help with a Security Team. The manager of a club they are now visiting tells others that God sent these women to him and that he believes God is trying to speak to him through them, but he has not decided what to do about it yet. He also says that they "don't have to bring the food anymore, they are welcome with or without food."

Our prayer is that Christian Family Chapel never becomes irrelevant to our community. What about you? Are you involved in a ministry that brings the love of Christ to those in Mandarin or Jacksonville? If so, let us know, and we will share it with the women of CFC. If not, consider contacting Barbara Hightower or Karen Donovan, to see how you can become involved in one of these growing ministries. Watch for future articles on what women are doing, and how you can get involved in impacting our community for Christ. - Suzanne Skaff

### Save the Date

August 20

**CFC Women's Worship**  
P3 dessert in courtyard, 7:00 pm  
P3 event in sanctuary, 7:27 pm

August 27

**Wednesday Studies Resume**

September 2

**Mending Hearts groups begin**

September 9

**MEMS begins**

September 15

**20-Something Women**  
meet at Cindy Harby's

October 24

**Cooking Demonstration Outreach**  
with Mary Holmes

December 12

**Christmas Outreach Dinner**  
with Charles Martin

*2008 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

## Bible Studies for Fall

**Sign up begins August 10th at the Women's Cart**  
**Studies begin Wednesday, August 27 at both**  
**9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Childcare provided mornings & evenings.**

### Isaiah Part 1

Precept upon Precept Inductive Study. Isaiah is the crown jewel of Old Testament prophets, a book that strikes awe in the heart of its reader. Come join us as we meet the Holy One of Israel, and learn how He deals with those who claim Him as God but don't honor Him as God in the way they live. And we will find the destiny of nations, the future of all mankind...including ours. 15 week study, Isaiah chapters 1-39, cost \$27.00.

### He Speaks to Me: Preparing to Hear from God

by Priscilla Shirer

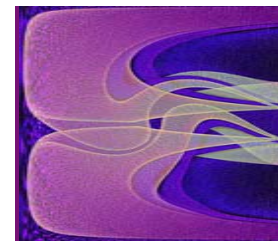
In this video series, Priscilla Shirer leads participants on an exciting adventure in discovering how God spoke to the boy Samuel, how in the Old Testament he responded, and how God speaks to believers today. 6 sessions, \$13.00 for workbook.

### Scriptural Salve for Your Soul

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, we will learn how to be braided with God in the loving purposefulness of pain and hardship in our lives. We will learn how to use the current, past or future trials of life to bring glory to God and therefore, grow in peace, rest, hope and joy. Limited group size. 16 weeks, no cost. For information or to pre-register, call class secretary Catherine Aday at 230-2279, Catherine@adayfam.net.

### The Lord's Table

This 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. 15 weeks. Evenings only. There is limited room, so please reserve your space quickly by calling Christine Schievink at 217-0615. \$17.99 for materials.



# The Purple Thread

To keep the women of Christian Family Chapel informed, connected, and involved.

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

### About Our Name

Our newsletter name, **The Purple Thread**, was suggested (thanks, Naomi Gillis) with the thought that thread, when used with skill, will seam together parts to make a whole. It can be used to repair tears, patch holes, sew the simple or extravagant. The Proverbs 31 woman sewed with purple.

A thread is known in the internet as something that links people. The intent of this newsletter is to connect the women of CFC to one another and to what is happening in our church and community that pertains to women and women's ministry. We hope the thread will extend to you, and connect you in a significant way.



### From Cindy's Desk

"I didn't know that was happening! Where are women serving in our body? How can I help? How can I get connected?"

These are just a few of the questions and statements we regularly hear from the women of CFC. Our lives as women are so very busy, that we sometimes feel like we are just treading water. **The Purple Thread** is the result of an idea by our Women's Ministry Team to help answer a few of those questions and help YOU feel connected to other women in our body. It has been a labor of love to gather information, articles, and stories that we believe you will enjoy reading. We pray the material will inform, inspire and encourage you. I hope that each of you will kick off your shoes, grab a cup of coffee, and read our first issue from front to back.

This is **your** newsletter and we want to hear from you. We are planning to publish it 3 times per year: fall, winter and summer. If you have suggestions or ideas for articles, please feel free to call me (262-3000) or Carol Hayes (230-3148). We would love to hear from you. Please join us as we grow and serve together.

*Resting in His Amazing Grace,*

*Cindy (Director of Women's Ministries)*

# CFC Women of God United in

## Praise • Prayer • Purpose

### Wednesday, August 20th

**Dessert in the Courtyard at 7:00 p.m. • CFC Sanctuary from 7:27 to 8:30 p.m.**

Are you feeling stretched or overwhelmed with life these days? Are you running non-stop - or just got the blahs? Be refreshed!! Ladies, come on the 20th for **P3** (Praise, Prayer, Purpose) and join the women of CFC for a time of encouragement, fellowship, and energizing worship.

After enjoying dessert together in the courtyard, we'll move into the sanctuary for a praise time led by Matt and women from the CFC worship team. We will pray together, hear testimonies from women who have experienced God's great grace, and lift you, dear sisters, to the God who loves you beyond measure.

Whether you have been at CFC for years, or just a few weeks; whether you are connected and active, or just wondering where you fit in, we invite you to come, be refreshed, re-energized, and ministered to within the loving community of CFC women.

## Meet Linda Arnold

Many of us know the friendly voice and smile of our church receptionist, Linda Arnold. Let's take a moment to learn a little bit more about this woman who represents the face of CFC to our community.

Raised in the country near Buffalo, NY, Linda accepted Christ at age of 6 during an altar call. Though she continued going to church with her family, Linda's real growth would come later as an adult. At 17, she met the love of her life, Bob Arnold, and they were married when she was 18. (They are still married now, 36 years later, PTL!) After living briefly in Florida, Linda and Bob moved to his hometown of Port Angeles, WA, where their three children were born. At this juncture in Linda's life, she saw her need for Christian growth. She and Bob began attending a church where he was saved, and Linda entered intensive discipleship.

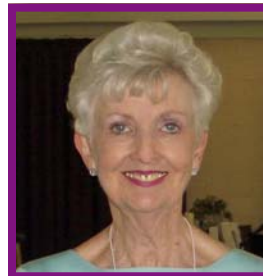
The Arnolds moved to Canada in 1988 while Bob studied Theology at Prairie Bible College. Linda worked in the campus bookstore. She also became quite a gardener, once harvesting 500 lbs. of pota-



atoes in one summer. Though Linda and Bob wanted to be missionaries, the Lord directed them to raise their family stateside and in late 1994 they moved to Jacksonville. For six years, Linda worked with Bob as owner/operators of a semi truck.

Linda got her GED at age 27. She took Bible and Music courses while in Canada, earned her AA Degree in 1997 at FCCJ, and drove to UF for a year to take pre-med courses. Linda views herself as a cracked pot, a broken vessel whom the Lord has molded into His new vessel. She is honored to be a part of his plans for CFC and still longs to be used, with Bob, as a missionary overseas. Linda is the proud grandmother of six.

What is it exactly Linda does for CFC? She answers phones, greets visitors, does the bulletin, and assists staff in a myriad of other ways including helping the pastoral care team. Linda's spiritual gifts are encouragement, faith, hospitality and helps, and her passions include encouraging people and discipleship. We are blessed to have Linda on staff and part of our body of women at CFC. - Carol Hayes



## Carolyn's Corner

As Minister to Women, it is my privilege to meet one-on-one with women in the body who want to be all they can be in Christ. Often, our walk is not without difficulties and we need others to come alongside for a season. My heart is to offer a safe place for you. If you desire help in your journey one-on-one or in a small group setting there is a place for you. Please call me at the church (262-3000) to set up a time we might get together.

## Mending Hearts

Mending Hearts is a Biblical community with the focus on experiencing the grace, mercy and love of our Father through one another. Leaders of these groups are people who have been on the grace journey and therefore are able to share the love and faithfulness of our Father with those who have experienced emotional, physical and/or mental pain in their lives. These groups meet weekly for 12 weeks, beginning the first week of September.

Contact Carolyn Phillips 262-3000

## Training to Be a Ninja

Seen the TV show 'The Biggest Loser' or 'Made'? While I'm not outwardly a big reality TV fan I find myself reluctant to change the channel at times. I'm intrigued at the willpower of a person to decide that they are no longer going to be a certain way. As I watch the show I sometimes forget that it is the trainer who is instructing them and pushing them to be what they are. They show them everything to do but the person has to follow through, many times denying their normal behavior to form new habits. The entire show the trainer is giving all their time, effort and encouragement so that the person can change. The trainee wants to change but struggles to put forth the effort, especially in the beginning, they have to deny their wants, they complain, thinking that the task at hand is too hard, they want to give up. The trainer doesn't give up - they continue to push them, showing them the truth (albeit difficult) and giving them the opportunity to grow. They endure because they trust the one guiding them; they are the expert in the field and committed to the transformation. In the same way Christ is committed to me and my transformation. As his child he wants me to be more like him. He wants me to rest in His instruction daily. In doing what he has already instructed in his Word and listening to the Spirit guide I will become the child He created me to be. The trainee has to practice, to fail even but to keep going in order to be transformed. As we are instructed - are we giving up too soon? Who are we becoming? What are you being instructed to do or to be? Ask for it, seek it, persevere and sweat for it. But most of all enjoy and rest in Jesus walking alongside of you, hand in hand, encouraging you every step of the way because He is committed to you.

- A. Dorothy King



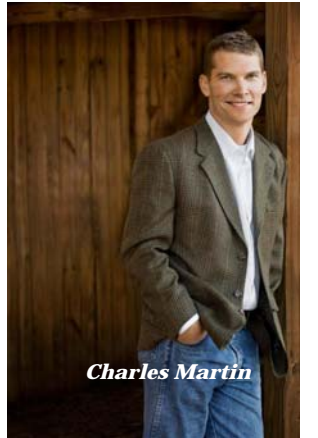
## Women's Christmas Outreach Dinner • December 12, 2008

"Fun! Friendly! My neighbors enjoy the night out. The speakers, the music, the skits, the food, the decorations, and the atmosphere all make for a wonderful introduction to the holiday season!" These are a few comments from women who have attended past Women's Christmas Outreach Dinners.

Our desire is that the **December 12** dinner will be an inviting and safe place for you to bring your friends who might be seeking the truth about Jesus. We hope that each CFC attendee will bring at least one seeking friend to this outreach. **Please begin praying now about who you will invite!** Tickets always sell out quickly, so it is important to have your plan in place by November 16, when tickets go on sale at the Women's Cart.

This year **Chef Jessica** will be coordinating our delicious meal (and she would love your help... see "Service Opportunities" for more info). Our guest speaker will be author **Charles Martin**, and **Matt Russell** will lead a worship team (how fun, since they went to college together!). Charles is married to Cindy Harby's sister, Christy. They are Jacksonville residents and have three sons. Charles has written six novels: *Chasing Fireflies*, *Maggie*, *When Crickets Cry*, *Wrapped in Rain*, *The Dead Don't Dance* and his most recent July 2008 release, *Where the River Ends*.

Charles shares about himself on his website saying, "Readers often ask me why I write the stories I do. Why these themes? As I get older (I'm 38) and life dings me more, I wake up to find that hard places, sort of like fish scales, have calloused my insides. Mainly my heart. I'm not alone in this. At the end of the day, I hope my stories circumnavigate the hard places and touch what is still tender. Cause someone to feel something they haven't felt, love in a way they had forgotten or hope for something that pain had caused them to scratch off their list. If I can do this, then I will have done what I set out to do. And if I'm really honest, I do this as much to reawaken the numb places in me as in other people." <http://www.charlesmartinbooks.com/>. We hope that you and your friends will join us for a wonderful evening together! - Kristin Friend



## Service Opportunities

### Cooking Demonstration Outreach 10/24

Helpers to set up, assist Mary Holmes in kitchen, serve, and help clean up.

Contact Leslie Jones, 262-3000.

### Christmas Outreach Dinner 12/12

Helpers for set-up mornings of December 11 and 12, assisting Chef Jessica in kitchen Dec.12, 4 pm - 9 pm, and a fresh clean up team needed for afterwards.

Contact Kim Harmon, 220-3420.

### Hands, Feet and Heart

Anyone with a desire to bring a meal to someone in need, make a meal to leave in our church freezer, help clean our kitchens, or help with women's functions.

Contact Helen Jones, 642-2098.

### Hospital Visitation

Anyone interested in visiting CFC women who are hospitalized.

Contact Debbie Brackett, 829-9649.

### MEMS Volunteers

Childcare help needed one or two Tuesday mornings a month.

Contact Leslie Jones, 262-3000.

### New Mom's Visitation

Anyone interested in visiting with new moms in our body.

Contact Kim Harmon, 220-3420.

## Women's Prayer Group

Have you checked out the women's webpage recently? Go to [www.christianfamilychapel.com](http://www.christianfamilychapel.com), then click on "Women" under the ministry section at the top of the page. You will see the latest news for women, be invited to sign up for the women's email network, and you can click on the monthly prayer guide (written each month by Margaret Davis). This is great to print and use in your quiet time. If you are interested in praying with other women during the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> hour one Sunday a month, contact Margaret Davis at 260-4389.

## Women's Sunday School Fellowship

Jane Mixer leads this fellowship for women on Sunday Mornings in D3 at 9:30 a.m. If you are interested in plugging into a Sunday school class and have not yet found one, we invite you to join us.

## Mother's Connection

**MEMS** (Mothers Encouraging Mothers) was founded on the belief in God's love for mothers of preschoolers, a love that fully affirms the identity and value of each mother. The program provides opportunities for friendship, creative outlets, and spiritual emphasis as well as a program for the children. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues. of each month, September - May. We have added an optional monthly Bible Study on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month. Contact Tricia Murphy at 262-8363

**Are You a Homeschool Mom?** The LIGHT (Living In God's Holy Truth) Group meets weekly at CFC during the school year. Contact Ashli Lee Crawford at 260-5328

**Mothers Who Care** - prayer groups for mothers of students.  
Mandarin High School - Contact Barbara Hightower at 262-6570 or Muffet Rhyne at 381-1936  
Creekside High School - Contact Leslie Jones at 673-9816 or e-mail [lesspepper@yahoo.com](mailto:lesspepper@yahoo.com)