



Dear Women of Northside,

Winter is such a blessed time for us as we begin making preparations to celebrate our Savior's birth. I hope you and your family have a very special Christmas, one that is overflowing with CHRIST. I pray, too, that the new year will come as a wonderful gift from our Lord, a wonderful NEW BEGINNING! He is the God of new beginnings. As the prophet Jeremiah said in Lamentations 3:22-23, "His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness!"

I just want to tell you how much I love working in this church on your behalf! Every day I thank God for the privilege. It is such a joy to watch the Lord changing women from the inside out! So many times I have watched Him work in a woman's life and change her completely: from a shy, insecure, worldly woman into a strong, confident woman who lives her life according to God's Word! I most often see this happen to women involved in weekly Bible study. Why not make a New Year's resolution and make attending Bible study a regular part of your life?

Women's Ministries has lots of opportunities for you this winter. Our goal is to always draw women to the Savior – we simply use a variety of venues to help women arrive at that goal. Won't you join us and bring an un-churched friend along too? You will be blessed. We have awesome women in this church who long to be your friends.

God's richest blessings!

Cheryl Johnson
Cheryl Johnson, Ministry Director of Women

INDEPTH STUDIES (continued)

Gospel of John, Joy of Living - lessons 10-22. You may join this study in progress as they take a verse-by-verse look at this incredible account of Jesus' life by the beloved apostle John. Tuesday mornings only.

Revelation, Joy of Living - lessons 10-24. The Apostle John saw and recorded amazing events and sights as Jesus revealed the end of times to him. You may join this group as they explore verse-by-verse this last book of the Bible. Tuesday mornings only.

2 Corinthians. (Tuesdays 1pm-3pm) Join an amazing group of senior women as they continue verse-by-verse. This book is as relevant today as it was to the 1st century church.

Our study groups are small groups of 8-10 women who meet every Tuesday, either from 8:45am-11am or 6:45pm-8:45pm. We all meet together in the Children's Center for a time of worship and refreshments then go to our discussion groups. \$20 registration fee includes workbook.

Childcare is provided for pre-registered children for \$2/child/wk, max of \$5 for a family with more than 2 children. Questions? Call the Women's Ministries' office 559.323.9675 ext.132.



Saturday, December 12th

Northside Christian Church Women's Ministries 4th Annual Christmas Home Tour & Luncheon

Join us in celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, the Greatest Gift, at our annual Home Tour and Luncheon! Don't miss out on this women's event that always sells out! What a wonderful way to celebrate this Christmas season with your girlfriends! Get inspired decorating ideas by touring four lovely homes that are sure to be all decked out for Christmas! Then return to the Northside Children's Center for an exquisite lunch & silent auction. Home Tour - 9:00am - 12:00pm, Luncheon & Silent Auction - 12:30pm - 2:00pm. \$17.00 per person. Tickets for sale during weekend services, or call the Women's Ministry office.

Taco Soup

by Shelly Mueller

- 1 lb. seasoned taco meat
- 2 cans tomato soup
- 2 cans stewed tomatoes with chiles, undrained
- 2 cans pinto beans, undrained
- 2 cans corn, undrained
- 2 cans diced green chiles, undrained (optional)
- 2 cans sliced black olives

Add all ingredients to crockpot and heat on low for 4 to 6 hours. Garnish each serving with grated cheddar cheese, tortilla chips and sour cream.



The Honor Quilt Ministry is looking for experienced quilters to help honor our Fallen Heroes. Interested? Contact Rebecca Wilson @ 559.292-6509.

"Surviving the Holidays" December 12th

Saturday, 9am to 12noon at Northside

DIVORCECARE: "SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS" is a helpful, encouraging seminar for people facing the holidays after a separation or divorce. Child care is provided. There's no charge for this event.

The "Surviving the Holidays" seminar features practical suggestions, guidance and reassurance through video interviews with counselors, experts in divorce-related care and people who have experienced the holidays after separation or divorce. Topics to be discussed include "Why the Holidays Are Tough," "What Emotions to Expect," "How to Plan and Prepare," "How to Handle Uncomfortable Situations" and "Using the Holidays to Help You Heal."

Those who attend will receive a free book with over 30 daily readings providing additional insights and ideas on holiday survival. Call Northside at 559.323.9675 to register.



Very soon the holidays will be upon us, followed by the winter doldrums. That's why it's never too early to think about a "Breath of Fresh Air" this spring, the theme of our 2010 Annual Women's Retreat, at Wonder Valley Ranch.

In addition to the fresh air and wonderful scenery, we have a phenomenal guest speaker on board, Nancy Nelson, Minister to Women at First Presbyterian Church in Salinas, California. I've heard her and she will inspire you!

You'll enjoy long walks in the beautiful surroundings, workshops, great food, a climbing wall and many other activities, there is something for every woman! We are also thrilled to have back the wonderful all-woman worship band, Tapestry, to engage us in worship through their gift of music! Look for great fun, friendship, and fellowship at a great new low price! Submit your \$50 deposit soon to secure your early-bird rate!

Let God minister to you in a fresh new way! Sign up now for a Breath of Fresh Air! Are you interested in serving on our Retreat Planning Committee? If so, please call Mary Itskoff at 559.431.1124.

Women Of the Word (W.O.W) Winter Highlights

Sunday Mornings at the Willow House: 9am

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 - SUNDAY DECEMBER 13
"Surprise Series" - each Sunday during these 5 weeks there will be a new study topic and different discussion leader. There is no workbook to buy - just bring your Bible and join in. This is the perfect time to drop by and check out this group!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20
Christmas Brunch at the Willow House. A great opportunity to meet some new people, have some yummy food and find out more about the group.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10
New study begins! *Psalms: Authentic Worship for Today's Women* by Sue Edwards. This is a 12 week study. The cost of the book is \$10.00.

WOW is an ongoing LIFE Group designed for women who come to church alone. We meet every Sunday at 9 am in the Willow House living room. Any questions? Call Bonnie Hippenstiel at 559.434.4938.

- Early-Bird Rates (prior to Jan. 15th)
- \$200 Double - two twin beds
 - \$185 Triple - three twin beds
 - \$175 Quad - four twin beds
 - \$140 Dorm - sleeps six, bunk beds

- Rates after January 15th
- \$225 Double - two twin beds
 - \$200 Triple - three twin beds
 - \$190 Quad - four twin beds
 - \$155 Dorm - sleeps six, bunk beds

Northside Library The weather has turned crisp. I long to curl up on a couch and read a good book. I make a trip to the Church Library after service and marvel at the choices. Maybe I'll choose a novel that whisks me away to an Amish village and I witness a young couple's courtship. Or perhaps, I'd rather take a journey in the footsteps of Moses. Or, Abraham. Or, Jesus! I could also follow along in the life of a modern day Christian with biographies from varied times, places, and styles. Even better, I could grab a Bible in a different translation than my normal one and read the passages that have become common place to me. When I get done with that, I might try my hand at an in depth book on the Bible or even a Bible Study. They're all here. Books full of questions. Books full of answers. Books full of drama. Books that are truth. Books to make me think. Books to make me laugh. I pick a book and make notes to come and pick another one. There are plenty of crisp days ahead to curl up and enjoy a good book.

“I first moved to the Fresno area when I was six months pregnant with twins.”

At that time I prayed that the Lord would bring me ‘mommy friends’ that I could relate to; people I could plan play dates with, vent to when times were difficult, and swap survival stories with. Once the twins were born, I felt housebound by necessity. My only social interaction was that of my husbands’ coworkers, most of which were either single or newly married without children. My husband and I eventually became members of a local Clovis church and began serving in the high school youth group. While working with youth provided me an endless supply of babysitters, it did not further my goal of finding friends my own age with young children. I felt so desperately alone, I began seeking out friendships, anywhere and everywhere. I would practically accost women with children in the grocery store, library, or the local park. Nothing ever seemed to come of these chance meetings. I even tried a moms group once, and attended one of their evening events. I drove home in tears; not one woman had welcomed me, every conversation I had attempted failed, and I ended up sitting on the floor alone. I came home crying to my husband, wondering what in the world was wrong with me!

Two years later I was driving by Northside Christian Church and noticed the MOPS sign out front. I had never attended Northside but I decided to put myself out there one more time. My first MOPS meeting was amazing! Everyone was so welcoming and kind. After that very first meeting I was invited over for play dates, phone numbers were exchanged, and new friendships

Better Moms Make A Better World



were born! Encouraged and restored, I realized this was the place for me.

Since that first meeting, I have joined the leadership team. I want each and every woman that passes through our doors to feel special; to know that someone cares about them, their children, and their parenting journey.

Nowadays, I still accost women in the grocery store, but it is for a very different reason: I want to tell them about the incredible group of women that I have the pleasure to know. I want to tell them that they are not alone; there are ‘mommy friends’ out there just waiting to be found at Northside’s Mothers of Preschoolers! - Kamra Conn, Publicity

MOPS (mothers of preschoolers) meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month from 9am to 11am. In December we will only be meeting on December 10th. For a complete schedule, visit www.northsidechurch.com and click on the Women’s Ministry button.

Women’s Ministry

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Senior Pastor - David Rutherford
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Winter 2009 - 2010
northside christian church
women’s ministries

Spring Bible Studies Begin January 12th!

We are excited to offer a variety of studies – hopefully one of them will seem interesting to you and will meet your needs at just this time in your life. Please read through these descriptions and then stop by the women’s table in the Worship Center foyer in early January to preview these amazing choices and to register for Bible study!

INTRODUCTORY STUDY

Deepening Your Root’s in God’s Family. Plant deep roots in Christ to become a stronger, more fruitful Christian. With the help of this workbook, you can learn to stand strong through the hard times of life. This study follows “Growing Strong in God’s Family,” however it is not required that you take “Growing Strong” first.

INTERMEDIATE STUDIES

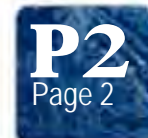
Captivating: Unveiling the Mystery of a Woman’s Soul by Stasi and John Eldridge. Every little girl has dreams of being swept up into a great adventure, of being the beautiful princess. Sadly, when women grow up, they are often swept up into a life filled merely with duty and demands. Many Christian women are tired, struggling under the weight of the

pressure to be a “good servant,” a nurturing caregiver, or a capable home manager. “What Wild at Heart” did for men, “Captivating” can do for women. This groundbreaking book shows readers the glorious design of women before the fall, describes how the feminine heart can be restored, and casts a vision for the power, freedom, and beauty of a woman released to be all she was meant to be.

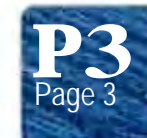
Intimate Issues by Linda Dillow and Lorraine Pintus. You want to be a godly and sensuous wife. You desire God’s best for yourself and for your husband. But, you have questions. This study answers 21 questions about sex most frequently asked by Christian wives.

INDEPTH STUDIES

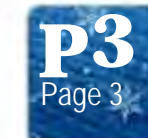
Esther: It’s Tough Being a Woman by Beth Moore looks at the Old Testament story of Esther as a profile in courage and contains many modern parallels for today’s woman. Going up against heavyweights bent on her destruction, Esther trusted God and landed a blow that saved her people. Esther’s destiny can be yours as you know more deeply the God who is in your corner. (continued on page 2)



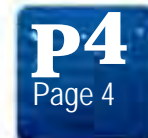
Christmas Home Tour & Luncheon



W.O.W Winter Highlights



2010 Spring Retreat at Wonder Valley



MOPS article by Kamra Conn