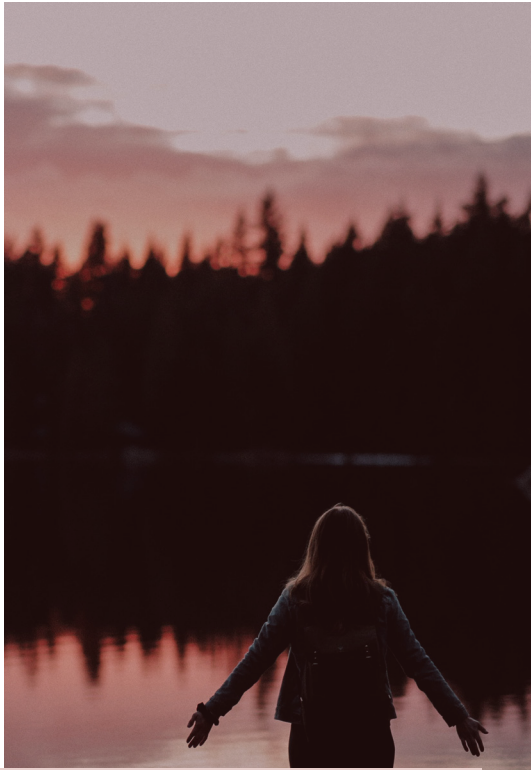


Women's Ministry Newsletter



MARCH 2022



Be still and know that I am God.

Women's Retreat: March 25-26, 2022

On March 25-26, we have an opportunity to retreat to Camp Skyline to fellowship and hear the word of God. In Mark 6:31, Jesus told the disciples, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." For many people were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. This is the way it is in our lives also... We are so busy, sometimes even doing the Lord's work, that we forget to slow down and listen to His still small voice.

We encourage as many of you that can go to sign up online (by March 15!) for our upcoming Women's Retreat. Bring a friend with you. For those who cannot go, we hope that you will find time to "retreat" where you are and be in prayer for the Spirit of God to do His work. We must all learn to stop our busyness and come to the fountain and drink.

Prayer Warriors Needed!

We need women to commit to pray for the retreat. If you would like to be a part of this opportunity, please email Virginia Saunders (vtsaunders@gmail.com). We will send you a list of things we would like for you to pray for during this time. Thank you!

March Challenge

Meditate on Matthew 11:28-30.

Think back on God's faithfulness to you. Pray for a heart of humility, and for a renewed trust in Him.

Lay your burdens at the cross of your Savior, Jesus Christ, and find rest for your soul.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30

In This Edition:

| | |
|---|---|
| Mentorship in Real Life... Walks with Diane | 2 |
| New Member Spotlight | 3 |
| Dinners Needed for the Ruth & Naomi House | 3 |
| Opportunity to Serve Teen Moms in Rome | 3 |
| 2022 Bible Studies | 3 |
| March Birthdays & Upcoming Events | 4 |



Mentorship in Real Life... Walks with Diane

by Catherine Burns

I suspect the Women's Ministry Team asked Diane Ogletree and I if we would share about our friendship because other women in our church family have expressed a desire for something similar. Often when I share the encouragement my friendship with Diane has brought to me, I hear from women near my age and younger say "I need a Diane in my life." Diane and I have been walking together on Sunday afternoons for 10 years. We have covered a lot of life's territory together. For example, my oldest child, Elizabeth, is a junior in college now and our walks began when she was entering 6th grade. My son, Toby, was in preschool and now he's wrapping up 8th grade.

There are about 20 years between my age and Diane's. We first met when I was a child but began getting to know each other well while serving together on a pastoral search committee in 2012. The committee met for many months and since we live near one another, we would carpool back and forth to the meetings. During our many drives, we began to talk about getting together to walk once the search committee was finished.

We talked through the benefits of an older woman meeting with a younger woman. Diane refers to Titus 2:3-5 when she reflects back to our early conversations. The Bible says "Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God." When we began making plans to walk together we knew that we wanted our time to reflect this verse. For the sake of clarity, I have a wonderful mom and I was not looking for another mother.

Also, I have attended many bible studies but I was not praying for another bible study. Diane has wonderful children and grandchildren. She was not looking to fill any holes in her life either. Simply, we both agreed that older women in the church have much knowledge to impart to the younger women about marriage, motherhood, friendship, life.

There are so many encouraging truths to be shared through the lens of an older woman who is firmly planted in God's word.

I am certain our partnering was the Lord's doing and only His. Diane says our friendship is "a God gift" to both of us. Diane and I have not mapped out some step-by-step plan with goals for our time together, but she is definitely better at keeping us on track and centered. We have never chosen a book to complete and discuss. We have no set rules other than our unspoken rule of no gossip. We seek to be obedient to God's word and to honor Him in what we say and do.

Diane has a gift for reciting scripture word for word. It is remarkable and she will do this often as we walk. I just love it. I would say that the key ingredients to how Diane and I have grown and maintained our friendship for 10 years is consistency, loyalty, transparency, and intentionality. Early on, about 3 walks in, I knew a true friendship was forming between us so I stopped trying to appear as if I had a perfect family to her. I stopped our walk to tell Diane I needed her to know my truth, warts and all. I trust her. Diane trusts me. Sometimes we pray while we walk. We have cried together a lot and we keep walking through our tears. We have walked 20 minutes before and we have walked for well past an hour before. All our walks have conversational depth. Walks aren't cancelled, they are rescheduled. We walk in drizzle, in heat, in freezing wind. But never early morning because I don't do that. She can find someone else for that.

I wish I had the magic formula to share for how to pair up with the perfect mentor. My formula is only what I can control on my behalf and what I bring to friendship. Diane brings the same. Commitment and honesty. We are marathoners in this journey together. This isn't a sprint. We share the mutual understanding that our time together is a precious gift from God for His glory. We are thankful for the challenges and triumphs life brings and the opportunity God has given us to hold one another up through it all.

I would encourage you, young and old, to pray for such a friendship if it is your heart's desire. After praying, gather the courage to start a simple conversation with another woman who shares the pew with you. A suggested conversation starter would be, "Would you be interested in going for a walk sometime?" Then see where the Lord takes you.

New Member Spotlight

Mrs. Betsy Berry came to us from Briarwood Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, AL until her job moved her to Atlanta and she met her husband, who was Baptist. They moved back to Rome 20 years ago and now she has returned to the Presbyterian faith and fell in love with our beautiful sanctuary. She lives at the Renaissance where she has several friends from our church. She likes to read. One very interesting fact is that she worked for American Meter Company and they manufactured the 1996 Olympic torch. The prototype was in her home until she gave it to her son to keep when she downsized.

Julie Blankenship and her husband, Jacob, started attending FPC when they moved to Rome last May. While Jacob is a Rome native, Julie was born and raised in Tulsa, OK. They met and married while attending seminary in Louisville, KY. In October of last year, Jacob and Julie welcomed their first born, Knox Chesterton. Their little family was blessed by the women's ministry with a food train as their son was in the NICU. Julie is currently a stay-at-home mom navigating motherhood and homemaking, and serves as a small group leader in the senior high ministry.

Mary Win Brock is originally from Mobile, AL. She is a graduate of Auburn University with a degree in Architecture. Mary Win and her husband, Bennett, lived in Atlanta while he was in Medical School. While they were in Atlanta, she worked for an architectural firm there. They then moved to Kansas City, MO for a year before moving to Rome this past year. Mary Win and Bennett have two boys, Ellis who is 4 years old and Cashel who is a year old. Currently, aside from being a mom, she works remotely from home with the same architectural firm she worked with while living in Atlanta. She enjoys running, and loves to draw and paint in her spare time. She is very grateful for the warm and loving welcome they have received from our church family.

Dinners Needed for the Ruth & Naomi House

REMINDER! FPC has committed to take dinner for the Ruth & Naomi House, a shelter for women and children, every 3rd Thursday of the month. Delivery is between 5:00 - 5:30 PM. You can do this alone or with a friend!

| | |
|----------|-----------|
| April 21 | July 21 |
| May 19 | August 18 |
| June 16 | |

Please contact Chris Morgan (chris@romemorgans.com or 770-608-2121) to sign up or get more information.



Opportunity to Serve Teen Moms in Rome

YoungLives is a local ministry reaching out and supporting teen moms, and we welcome your help! We are looking for people to help provide meals for our meetings, help with childcare and also we need mentors to walk alongside these moms. Do you want to make a difference in the life of a teen mom? Please contact Wendi Combes at 404-694-0777 or wendicombes20@gmail.com.

A few physical needs as well are \$5 gift cards to places like 5 Below, Taco bell, Old Navy, Ulta, and Starbucks as we give those for Scripture Memory.

2022 Bible Studies



CONTINUING STUDIES

- » Isaiah - Amanda Davidson
Tuesdays at 8:00 AM (Van Dyke Room)
Tuesdays at 1:30 PM (Hardy Classroom #1)
- » David - Anita Smith & Barbara Allen
2nd Monday of every month at 10:00 AM (CLC #203)
- » Women of the Bible - Mary Holcomb
2nd Monday of every month at 6:30 PM (Fellowship Hall)
- » Jonah - Joan Brock
Mondays at 9:15 AM (Hardy Classroom #1)
- » Psalms - Stacy Pardue & Katterra Cochran
Wednesday Nights (CLC #204)
- » Mentoring - Amy Davis & Mandy Williams
Wednesday Nights (CLC #203)

NEW STUDY - BEGINNING MARCH 1ST

- » The Power of Knowing God - Bethany Johnson
Tuesdays at 7:00 PM (Hardy Classroom #1)



March Birthdays

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| | | 1 Bobbie Garrett | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 Pam Gates Mary Win Brock |
| 6 Patti Maffett Susan Speed Stacey Pardue | 7 Sherry White Megan Grimley | 8 Sarah Cline Sandy Lester | 9  | 10 | 11 Natalie Doss Frances Edwards | 12 Gus George Julie Barnes |
| 13 | 14 | 15 Evelyn Storey Ruth Ann Cox Jeannie King Jeanie Hogan | 16 | 17 Linda Sturdivant Gina Clevenger | 18 | 19 Megan Watters Daina Abbott |
| 20 | 21 Kathryne Ledbetter | 22 Georgia Doss Callee Peek Melinda Brown | 23 Jennifer Naddy | 24 Jill Graham | 25 Judy Roebuck | 26 Frances Ann Graham Teresa Puckett |
| 27 Sadler Davis Jordan Orr Gina Robinson | 28 | 29 Callie Maffett | 30 | 31 Grayson Green | | |

Upcoming Events

Women's Retreat
 March 25 - 26 at Camp Skyline
 Register online by March 15!

"And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord..."
 2 Corinthians 3:18



101 E. Third Ave.
 Rome, GA 30161