

What's Happening for Women

December

3rd– Lighthouse of Hope, 7pm– 9pm
 13th– Glory to the King, Contemporary Christmas Music Program, 11:00am
 20th– Savior, Traditional Christmas Music Program, 9:30am and 11:00am
 24th– Family Friendly Christmas Eve Service, 5:30pm
 24th– Candlelight/ Lord's Supper Service, 11:00pm

January

13th– Right at Home Moms begins
 13th– The Big Dig begins– go to ubc.org to register

February

2nd– Journey to Joy Bible Study begins
 4th– Journey to Joy Bible Study begins
 26th– 28th– Spring Women's Retreat
 Look for more information coming soon.

UBC Groups for Women

Tuesdays

Journey to Joy Bible Study, 10am– 12pm, EB 226, Begins again February 2nd
 EB 101 - led by Karol Peters, 7pm

Wednesdays

Begins again January 13th
 Right at Home Moms - 9:30am-11:45am, 3rd Floor Lounge

Thursdays

Begins again February 4th
 Precepts- 9:45am– 12pm, EB226
 Crossing Cultures– 9:45am– 12pm, EB222
 Sermon on the Mount– 9:45am– 12pm, EB210

Sundays

9:30am, EB 202 -Second Wind led by Pamm Muzslay
 11 am, EB 209 - The Lydia Group for Working Women led by Angie Reeves
 11 am, EB 102 - Journey to Joy led by Debbie Hampton
 5 pm– 7pm, East Foyer - Book Club for Women; Gospel Treason led by Jennifer Broddle

Connect with us

Facebook: Women of UBC

Pinterest: UBC Women

Twitter: @ubchouston

Need to talk to someone? Contact Lora Doremus at lora.doremus@ubc.org or 281-488-8517.

Questions about programs? Contact Lisa Stiles at lisa.stiles@ubc.org.

Want to contribute to future newsletters? Let us know!

Joy

Joy:

A UBC WOMEN'S MINISTRY MAGAZINE

the next beth moore

By Jen Wilkins

If you spend any time around women's retreats or conferences, you will know that the most frequent compliment women pay to a young speaker is "She's the next Beth Moore." What they mean is that they believe the speaker is gifted, and that is a kind thing to express. But I confess that I hope there will not be another Beth Moore. I hope there will never be another like her again.

I spent the past year teaching through Exodus. It was with no small amount of intimidation that I wrote and taught the portion covering the construction of the tabernacle. Any woman who knows anything about women's Bible study knows the definitive work on the tabernacle was done by Beth Moore. It was her first study, and it was also the first study I ever participated in. Having just traded my career for new motherhood, I signed up for a summer Bible study at my church, desperate to get out of the house.

I had never heard a woman teach like that. Not ever.

Like thousands of other women, I felt awakening in me a compulsion to know this God who reveals Himself to those who earnestly seek Him in the pages of Scripture. I was hooked. Eventually I began writing and teaching my own studies, always mindful of the debt I and so many others owe her.

a sense of urgency

So when I began writing the tabernacle portion of my own study, I got down my old copy of "A Woman's Heart, God's Dwelling Place" for the first time in years. As much as anything else, I wanted to avoid unintentionally plagiarizing, but I also wanted to be reminded of the reverent approach Beth had brought to the teaching. Re-reading her words, as well as the clumsy answers scrawled in the blanks by a sleep-deprived new mom, brought back the memory of that newborn urgency I had felt seventeen years ago – that sense of my deep need to know the Bible better, that sense that I was *able*, and that someone (a woman!) was finally showing me how.

That urgency never left me. The longer I teach, the more convinced I become that Bible literacy must be reclaimed among the body of believers, specifically among women. We don't know our Bibles like we should - if there is one thing that keeps me up at night, that's it. Most days I know I'm not alone in my conviction, but I imagine that two decades ago there were many days Beth Moore felt like she was. I imagine there were many days she felt like she was shouting into the wind.

many builders

And that's why I pray there will never be another Beth Moore. I pray that the field of equipped women teachers will never again be as vacant as it was when she burst onto it with her Texas-sized hair and her preacher-sized passion. I pray that every community and church and living room would be so populated with women championing Bible literacy that our eyes would cease wandering the horizon for the next big thing. Like Moses handing over the instructions for the tabernacle to the able hands of the builders, I pray that Beth's faithful instruction would result in many able literacy-builders, eagerly constructing a meeting-place between God and women in the pages of His Word.

I pray that her work would bear so much fruit that she would teach herself into obsolescence. I pray no less for myself.

Do you teach the Bible? Work tirelessly to eliminate the possibility of another Beth Moore. Sisters, don't look to replace her voice: look to replicate her vision. Let us commit that no one voice will ever again be as loud because the need will never again be as great. Let the cry for Bible literacy be raised not through the amplification of a single voice, but through the harmonization of many voices - each with her own style of teaching, her own contribution to make. I am not the Next Beth Moore. I hope you aren't either. May Christian women know such bounty of sound female instruction that the Next Beth Moore need never arise.

Used with permission from <http://jenwilkin.blogspot.com/2013/06/the-next-beth-moore.html>

(If this article appeals to you, then the Big Dig, starting in January, is for you! See info on the next page)



The Word

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity.

(Proverbs 3:1-2)

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

(Isaiah 9:6)

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

(Romans 15:13)

Home for The Holidays – Is Your Family Changing? By Grace Johnston

I looked at my sisters gathered around our table at the UBC Tapestry dinner and thought how blessed I am to have a new church home and the fellowship of such amazing women. My new life in the Clear Lake area has given me an opportunity to do personally what I do professionally – making transitions from living in one home to another.

At this time of year we all have that opportunity to assess how we and our families are doing in our daily living. Gathering for the holidays offers families opportunity to assess changing needs. I watched my mom and dad, who always hosted us for Thanksgiving and Christmas, become willing to be our “guests”. That was a huge transition for them and for our family.

There are many insights that come when families join together for the holidays . . .and opportunities for conversations, and some of them can be hard. Subjects can be: How are the kitchen appliances working? Are stairs becoming an issue? Are bathrooms safe places?

One year we purchased a new bed for my parents because mom had difficulty with the height of the mattress. And then there was the year the dining chairs became too heavy to move! My parents had a strong church and neighborhood community. There was always someone checking in and ready to help. That was a great blessing to our family living at a distance.

At Thanksgiving and Christmas I am grateful for the memories, the opportunities, and the blessing of transition.

When Home for the holidays:

Pray for eyes to see and ears to hear.

Observe how daily life is being carried out – are there needs for assistance or modification of the home environment. Who will do this?

Try to have conversations about what transitions will look like.

The Big Dig

We all know we should study the Bible. We also know it's not easy. Busy schedules mixed with the Bible's long genealogies and mysterious prophecies can leave the most well intentioned girl feeling buried under an impossible mountain. Yet our souls are longing for its richness. And our families, communities - our world - desperately need to hear the truth it contains. So how do we start? Where do we begin?

This January, the UBC Women's Ministry invites you to take part in **The Big Dig**: three workshops designed to equip you to dig deeper into your study of Scripture. Led by our Women's Ministry Discipleship Team, each session will:

- provide clear methods you can use to begin unearthing God's truth
- give you an opportunity to excavate deep scriptural truth with friends
- send you home with supporting passages that will help you dig even deeper!

The Big Dig will be offered both Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings in January, so all who want to participate can. Childcare is available by reservation. **Regular women's Bible studies will resume in February.**

Cost: \$5 per person

Wednesday's (Jan 13, 20, 27) 6:30 - 9 pm
Great Room

Thursday's (Jan 14, 21, 28) 9:30 am - 12 pm
3rd Floor

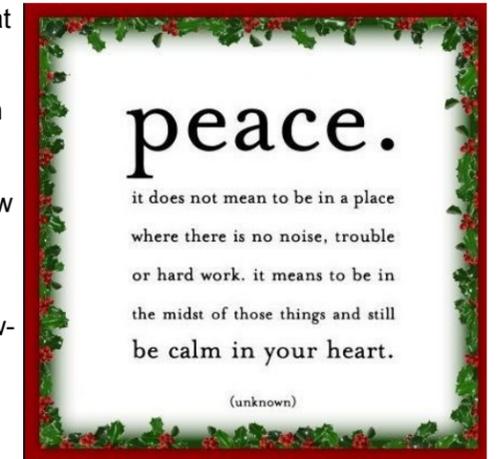


Being the Peace of Christ to Family at Christmas

The holidays seem to either bring out the best or the worst in people. Stress levels are running high and some people are great at managing the stress and embracing the spirit of the season, and others simply aren't. Unfortunately one of the major sources of stress for people centers around the prospect of spending time with their family.

I'm sure at this point most of us have seen the articles telling us how to safely navigate potential land mines in conversations that can come up during the holidays with family members who have very different, sometimes uninformed, sometimes hurtful opinions about current events or other topics. The fact that we seem to need a how-to guide on how to speak to the ones who we are supposed to love the most and who are supposed to love us unconditionally, without resulting in anyone leaving the gathering having resolved to never speak again is so disheartening.

This season I'd like to challenge each of you to resolve to see those in our families, or others that we encounter, through the eyes of Jesus. Let us look at people with love and compassion, and let them look on us with love and compassion. Let us be understanding, and let us be understood. Let us forgive the hurts done to us, and let us be forgiven. And let us remember that political figures, current events, and scandals will ebb and flow, but division is hard to overcome. Let us remember that we are united in Christ and called to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Let us respond in love this season in response to the hope we have as a result of the birth of a baby who was born to bring peace. May you have peace and be a peace-bringer this Christmas season.



Christmas Events at UBC

Christmas is a special time at UBC. Join us in celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.

Sunday, December 6th

5:00 pm- **Praise Kids Christmas Concert**, Chapel

6:00 pm- **Look Who Just Checked In**, Worship Center

Featuring:

Children's Ministries Chorus Kids and

Children's Handbells

Student Ministries: Shout Choir and Carillon Handbells (IS), Highlight Choir and

Alleluia Ringers Handbells (HS)



Sunday, December 13th

9:30 am- **Traditional Worship Service**

11:00 am- **Glory to the King: A Special Christmas Program**, Worship Center

7:00 pm- **Service of Lessons & Carols** (Chamber Singers Concert), Worship Center

Sunday December 20th

9:30 & 11:00 am- **Savior: A Modern Oratorio** (UBC Choir and Orchestra), Worship Center

Thursday December 24th

Christmas Eve Services

5:30 pm- **Family Friendly Worship Service**, Worship Center

11:00 pm- **Candlelight Service** (traditional candlelight service & observance of the Lord's Supper),
Worship Center

No WBS on Sundays, December 27th and January 3rd
(Preschool Ministries will be available)