

What's Happening for Women

June

2nd– Working Women's Luncheon, Bay Oaks Country Club, 12pm– 1pm
 9th– Sack Lunch Stories, 3rd Floor, 12pm-1pm
 13th– Vacation Bible School, 8:30am-12:15pm
 29th– Summer Dig Begins, EB 226, 10am-12pm

July

14th- Sack Lunch Stories, 3rd Floor, 12pm-1pm
 14th– Dominican Republic Teacher Trip leaves

August

21st– Promotion Sunday
 24th- Sack Lunch Stories, 3rd Floor, 12pm-1pm

UBC Groups for Women

Wednesdays

Right at Home Moms - 9:30am-11:45am, 3rd Floor Lounge. Begins June 22nd– August 10th. **She's Got Issues:** Seriously Good News for Stressed-Out, Secretly Scared Control Freaks Like Us by Nicole Unice.

Summer Dig– 10am– 12pm, EB 226, June 29th– July 20th.

Sundays

9:30am, EB 202 -Second Wind led by Pamm Muzsly
 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

Girls Night Out

Sept. 22nd, 6:30pm– 9pm; cork pumpkins
 Nov 17th, 6:30pm– 9pm; food gift mixes

Working Women's Luncheon

Join us at Bay Oaks Country Club from 12pm– 1pm on the first Thursday of every even numbered month. Next lunch June 2nd.

Sack Lunch Stories

Bring your own sack lunch and listen to personal stories of faith presented by special guests. Tea and water will be provided. No RSVP is required. On the 3rd floor, from noon to 1 pm.
 June 9 - Holly Sincox—a personal story of trusting God through difficult times
 July 14 - Lora Doremus, Director of Women's Ministries - personal testimony
 August 25 - Angie Reeves—a personal story of reconciliation and healing

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

June 2016

Joy:

A UBC WOMEN'S MINISTRY MAGAZINE

F.A.I.L.

By Candace Griffithe

I sat in a room with hundreds of others. My heart was racing and my palms were sweating. I had wanted to be a lawyer since I was a teen. My senior year in high school I had so many credits my second semester, that I was able to go to school half the day and worked for a law firm the other half. My major at A&M was in Political Science – a good pre-law degree. I had waited years for this day. Law school had been very difficult for me, though. I had always made good grades, but in law school I was among the best of the best. Plus, I did not like it. I struggled through and finished and now I was sitting for the Bar Exam – a three-day test to determine if I had learned anything in the past three years of school. I failed.

Sparing you the details of how devastating this was for me, I will not keep you in suspense – I took it a year later and failed again. I joked that it was God's way of saving me from a huge malpractice suit. To say that my time during law school was stressful is an understatement. I cannot even describe it except to say that it challenged me in every aspect of my life up to that point. It challenged my faith, my integrity, my desires, my tenacity, my intelligence, my wisdom, my drive, and my ambition. And yet, I did not really work that hard at it. I hid in it. Law school was my idol. However, I can point back to this time as the most significant time in my life. Because I believe this is when my story really began. It was during law school that I became a Christian. God met me right where I was. One day, I was invited to church by a "friend of a friend." Honestly, I do not remember the sermon. But I knew what Christians believed because seeds had been planted. Something must have been said from Scripture that created in me such an emotional response that I knew that once I got home, at that moment sitting on my couch, with my law books surrounding me, that I wanted – I needed – to ask Jesus to be my Savior. Praise the Lord for the new life I found that day in him.

F.A.I.L. – Faith always interprets losing. Our faith always interprets how we perceive losing. If I am going to be honest here, I can tell you my newly born faith in Christ was tested. Here I was a new Christian, and I had failed at the biggest challenge I had yet faced in my young life. I felt so lost, discouraged, hopeless. I did not lose my faith; it just was not very deep yet. But, God opened doors for me in non-profit work. I started doing fundraising for politicians, then social services, then in a university setting, and finally volunteering at UBC in fundraising. All through these years, I went from having a weak faith to having a stronger faith.

Faith always interprets losing. I always wondered what it would have been like if I had become a lawyer – if I had taken the bar that one last time and passed – if I had not quit. Most lawyers make more money than those of us who worked in the non-profit world. I would not have to explain to everyone, "Yes, I have my law degree. No, I can't practice law because I failed the Bar Exam – TWICE." But as my faith strengthened during my walk with Christ, I looked at this failure a different way. Not only was God saving me from a malpractice suit, but he was also pointing me in different direction – a way better suited to how he had made me. One more aligned with my gifts - my love for helping people.

Recently, Dr. Laufer gave a sermon about Moses. In Exodus chapter 2, we learn that Moses grew up in Pharaoh's palace as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. God could have easily used Moses' position in the palace. Yet, Moses' killing of the Egyptian could not ruin God's purpose for his life. Whether or not it was a good decision or mistake to stop trying to take the Bar Exam, God's purpose for my life was not going to be thwarted. He would still use me for his purpose – for his glory. This revelation is the reason I can write this.

We all have failures. How does your faith interpret yours?



The Word

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:13-14)

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. (Isaiah 43:18-19)

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:22-24)

Pinterest Corner: Fruit Infused Waters

Stay hydrated with these great tasting waters.

**Combine all in a large mason jar or jug and drink immediately or let sit in fridge for 1-4 hours to soak in additional flavor.*

Orange-Kiwi Infused Water

2 cups of water or sparkling water
2 cups of ice
1 orange, sliced
2 kiwi, peeled and sliced

Raspberry-Mint Infused Water

2 cups of water or sparkling water
2 cups of ice
1 cup raspberries, whole
handful of mint

Blueberry-Lime Infused Water

2 cups of water or sparkling water
2 cups of ice
1 cup blueberries, whole
1 1/2 limes, sliced

Lemon-Cucumber Infused Water

2 cups of water or sparkling water
2 cups of ice
1 lemon, sliced
10 thin slices of cucumber

“The Everything” Infused Water

2 cups of water or sparkling water
2 cups of ice
Mix together each of the above ingredients for a super-fruity infused water



<http://www.sheuncovered.com/2015/05/fruit-infused-water-6-ways/>

Testimony: Michelle Smith

Serving in Penitas

This past Spring Break, I went with my family (husband, 4yo, 7yo, and myself) with a small group from our church down to a town called Penitas, in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas. Penitas is a kind of town, word used loosely here, more like a community, called a colonia. A colonia is a residential area that lacks basic services and is within 50 miles of the border. They often have no running water, no electricity, unsafe housing, no city services (like trash or bus service), and no street lights. Houses are small, if they are actual houses at all. Most of them are old RVs with porches and rooms built on to them with scrap wood and metal.

In Penitas, they are lucky. They have water, most have electricity, and many have septic systems. Most houses contain what we consider ordinary family units, with a husband, wife, and their children. The average income per household there is below \$10,000 a year. Crime is very low. This is a community of hard-working people who want the same things you and I do: a decent life for their families.

We worked with [Buckner International](#), which has a community center there called the Family Hope Life Center. There they provide education classes and resources for families who want to make their lives better. Our group was part of a pilot project to offer a Business 101 class to people who wanted to start their own businesses or had micro businesses they wanted to expand. For people who had already established business, a mentoring program was set up for particular needs, like marketing, accounting, and employee management.

My team had a more domestic spin. Many of the residents of Penitas have gardens, but neither the freezer space nor means to preserve their food once it ripened. To help the families combat these issues, we taught a canning class for three days, in the morning and afternoon.

This trip reminded me that there are families who desperately need help in our own region. Our call as people of God is to boldly love others, serving them and enabling them to then go serve others in turn. My time in Penitas rooted that mandate firmly in my heart.



Summer Website List

Try out these podcasts and website recommendations from the UBC Women's Leadership Team.



Jennie Allen

<http://www.jennieallen.com/>

I'm always inspired by Jennie Allen. Her online Bible Studies are wonderful and her blog is definitely worth the time to read.



Mary Jo Sharp

confidentchristianity.com

Mary Jo was our latest Tapestry speaker. Her website is loaded with videos, Q&A's and articles about how to defend the faith with gentleness and respect. She includes many reasons why women should study apologetics.



Ann Voskamp

aholyexperience.com

Ann Voskamp is a farmer's wife, mother of 6, and a Christian author/speaker. Inspired by scripture, her website provides relief from everyday struggles through articles, guest posts, and "Multivitamins for Your Weekend." Her work is enhanced by beautiful photography portraying real life.



Daily Audio Bible

dailyaudiobible.com

Daily Audio Bible gives you the opportunity to listen to God's Word while accomplishing your daily tasks like cooking, cleaning and running errands. Each day there is a passage for you to hear that will make you stop to consider, repent, or worship.



Blue Letter Bible

blueletterbible.com

I use this website for Bible Study almost exclusively. It's intuitive, user friendly and includes concordance, Strong's numbers, commentary (visual and audio) and word studies and meanings.



Ravi Zacharias

rzim.org

The ultimate apologist. I have learned so much from Ravi over the years. He offers online courses, podcasts and discussions that are full of a loving heart for intelligent people who have deep questions.



Fair Trade Friday

Fairtradefriday.club

Fair Trade Friday exists as an avenue for women to empower women. We are tackling poverty through job opportunity and empowerment rather than enablement in Jesus' name. 100% of the proceeds support the artisans, thousands of women and their children around the world. FTF is a ministry of [Mercy House Global](#), a non-profit organization.



ifgathering.com

"We exist to gather, equip and unleash the next generation of women to live out their purpose." This inspirational website gives women opportunities to connect through Bible studies and If:Gatherings. It includes blogs, a downloadable app, and an If:Store.