

What's Happening for Women

September

8th- UBC Women's Ministry Kick-Off and Pie Baking Contest, Chapel, 6:30pm
 13th- Journey to Joy Bible Studies begin
 15th- Journey to Joy Bible Studies begin
 15th- Sack Lunch Stories- Angie Reeves, 3rd floor, 12pm-1pm
 22nd- Girls Nite Out, Chapel, 6:30pm-9pm

October

6th- Working Women's Luncheon, Bay Oaks Country Club, 12pm-1pm
 31st- Fall Festival

November

3rd- Tapestry Dinner, 6pm- 9pm
 10th- Weekday Mini Bazaar, Fellowship Hall, 8:30am- 2:30pm
 11th- UBC Date Night, 6:30pm- 9:30pm
 17th- Girls Nite Out, Chapel, 6:30pm- 9:30pm, Fabric Ornaments

UBC Groups for Women

Tuesdays

10am- 12pm, EB 226, 1 Peter by Jen Wilkin, Beginning September 13th

Wednesdays

9:30am-11:45am, Right at Home Moms- study will focus on having a Biblical marriage, 3rd floor, Beginning September 14th
NEW Wednesday evening study for Women!!
 6pm- 7:30pm, Crazy Love by Francis Chan, Beginning September 14th

Thursdays

Beginning September 15th
 9:45am- 12pm, EB 210, 1 Peter by Jen Wilkin
 9:45am- 12pm, EB 226, Precept Upon Precept: Acts of the Apostles
 9:45am- 12pm, EB 222, Crossing Cultures, Prayer, An Adventure with God by David Healey

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; bath salts
 Nov 17th, 6:30pm- 9pm; fabric ornaments

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 October 6th.

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.
 September 15th- 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!



Happy New Year!

By Lora Doremus



The Word

I don't know about you, but I've always thought of the first day of school as more of a New Year's Day than the first day of January. If you've got kids in school, or if you are associated with organizations that plan around the academic calendar, THIS is the beginning of the real year. But how will it go this year? Will you stay on top of things or will the year run over you like a train?

I love planning, but yesterday my 25 year old son said something profound. He said, "Planning is the easy part. The actual doing is the hard part." Who raised that kid? We can get so caught up in thinking about what we'd like to do that we never get around to actually doing the work. That's why we need each other. All of us are way stronger than one of us.

I remember one year, I had a kid in elementary school, a kid in junior high and a kid at the high school. It felt like kids were leaving for school all morning and arriving home all afternoon. Then there were the sports, music lessons, gymnastics, and on and on and on. My husband actually told me one day, "You know, Lora...dinner seems to kind of take you by surprise..." Without a plan I was sunk.

As a follower of Jesus I know that it starts with Him, first thing in the morning. So I made an agreement with my sister that I would get up at a certain time every morning. If I was not on my feet by 5:45am then I had to pay her \$10. I was serious about this! We kept that bet going for years. I was on the honor system, so I kept track of all the times that I attended the early service at St. Mattress. I gave my sister little boxes of ten dollar bills for Christmases and birthdays...it felt like I was handing her money every time I saw her. She loved it! But lo and behold, something happened to my body. I eventually began waking up before the alarm clock. I got tired at night and went to bed relatively early and began to feel great! I get up early now whether I want to or not. At around 5:00 I wake up...BING! But those early morning hours in the dark have become a sanctuary for me. I pray. I read the Bible. I do some devotional reading. I journal. I drink coffee...lots of coffee. Sometimes I light a candle and spend time just reflecting. God meets me during those morning hours. He teaches me and encourages me. He loves on me, and sometimes He rebukes me. I wouldn't miss it for the world now. I love that time alone with God.

But during these early hours I also plan. I plan the week, the day, my goals and my task list. I love Omnifocus software on my iPad and iPhone. That's the one that works best for me. I call it my "brain". (If you ever want to chat about productivity software, let me know. I'm very evangelistic about it!) Sometimes New Year's Resolutions need a little kick in the pants. Find someone who will hold you accountable. Ruthlessly! And find a good system that will help you keep your life in order. And especially, prioritize that time with Jesus. It will change your life. Happy New Year!

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
 (Matthew 5:16)

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another --and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
 (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your true and proper worship.
 (Romans 12:1)

Redeemed Ministries

Redeemed Ministries, founded in 2005, is a faith-based non-profit 501 (c) 3 incorporated in the State of Texas. We are composed mostly of volunteers with our people serving from a wide variety of church backgrounds with our unity found in serving Jesus our Lord and Savior. Because we have seen and understand the problem in our community, we have set our core competencies to include Outreach, Aftercare and Advocacy giving churches and their congregations the opportunity to network and find their place in the fight against human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. Being a faith-based organization, it is our desire to share our passion and to bring unity to the whole church body and giving them the opportunity to engage as they feel led and called to use their gifts and talents in partnering with us to provide holistic care.

Outreach

Our Outreach is handled by our Field Ministry Group. This group is responsible for prayers, direct contact work with women in the commercial sex industry, and research.

Aftercare

Our Aftercare is managed by our Survivor Resources Group. This group is tasked with identifying resources, networking with pro bono service providers and churches, providing care needed by survivors to have a fresh beginning. This group is also responsible for our safe house operations and host family support.

Engagement

Our Advocacy Group provides a voice to the voiceless. This group empowers individuals and communities to seek changes at all levels of government and engage the church in its mission to work with the "least of these."



Testimony: Dominican Republic Teacher Trip

In July, we returned to the Dominican Republic for the fifth time to continue our work with South Texas Children's Home Ministries. Our team of preschool, elementary, and secondary teachers from all over Houston put on two conferences for Dominican teachers. We served thirty-five teachers at Colegio Bautista de la Gracia in Santiago and eighty teachers at Iglesia Bautista Quisqueyana in Santo Domingo. Teachers in the Dominican Republic are often inexperienced and rarely receive professional development, so the instruction that we provided was incredibly valuable. The teachers attended sessions on classroom management, lesson planning, learning styles, music, crafts, games, and more. Every teacher who attended one of our conferences also received a bag full of school supplies to help them start the school year.



This year we also got to spend two afternoons at an orphanage in Santiago. We took books, play dough, bubbles, chalk, jump ropes, beach balls, art projects, and paper airplane supplies to spend some time loving on the children. There are a lot of children in the home and very few workers. We are looking forward to returning to the orphanage to train the workers and spend more time with the children in the future.

By Kimberlee Allen

Women's Groups (cont.)

Working Women's Fellowship: Sharon Morris

Bay Area Working Women's Fellowship seeks to provide opportunities to empower, equip, and enable women from all walks of life to network and connect in genuine relationships. We provide support for living out our faith in our working environments and community, and to encourage one another through the challenges we face in our careers, families and ministries. The Women's Fellowship meets the first Thursday of each even number month for a luncheon. Starting in 2017 we will offer an evening meeting on the first Thursday of each odd numbered month. In addition, we host socials and fun activities through out the year. Contact Sharon Morris at sharoncochranmorris@gmail.com for information.

Upcoming Events

Sack Lunch Stories

Thursday September 15th

12:00pm– 1:00pm

3rd Floor



Share a meal with a co-worker or friend in a meaningful way! 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.

This month Angie Reeves will share her story of reconciliation and healing.

Tapestry Dinner

Thursday November 3rd

6:00pm– 9:00pm

The annual Tapestry Dinner is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to UBC to share a beautiful evening of food, friendship, fun and an incredible personal story of God's love and presence in one woman's life.

This year Women's Ministry is excited to welcome Rachel Norris back to UBC to share her incredible testimony, complete with her story and her potter's wheel.



Women's Retreat Coming Spring of 2017

Save the date!!

February 24th—26th

At Camp Allen in Navasota, Texas

Women's Ministry Groups

Crossing Cultures: Merlyn Brown

Crossing Cultures is a dynamic group of women from diverse cultures and countries around the globe. We meet throughout the year on many occasions and have Bible Study on Thursday mornings during the school year at UBC. Our aim is to develop friendships and to share Christ's love and become a family of belonging. This past year we have enjoyed teas, cooking demonstrations, craft sessions, playdates for the children, baby showers and restaurant visits. Most of our members are from abroad and married to Americans, others are here for work or education, and some are Americans who want to support and help others new to our shores. Please join us or invite others who need a friend or helping hand to navigate our culture. You may contact Merlyn Brown at mbsbplace@hotmail.com or Sujata Vogel at tanimilli@gmail.com.

Lydia Group: Angie Reeves

A couple of years ago I made the transition from stay at home mom to working woman. I had been very involved in women's mid-week Bible study which provided not only for me spiritually, but also emotionally through the relationships that were easily available with other women. Once I began working that changed dramatically. I suddenly lost the time I formerly had to study the Word and I lost the relationships with other women. I had taken both of those for granted. Starting the Lydia group has been a life-saver to me. Lydia was a working woman that Paul spoke about in Acts. She was an integral part of his ministry. Working women are an integral part of God's ministry. Composed of primarily working women, we come together every Sunday and look at God's Word and how it practically works in our lives. We laugh a lot, cry a little and talk frankly about what is real to us, and how God wants to be a part of all of it. I love these women with all my heart and am so thankful God has brought us together.

Girls Nite Out: Allie Demers

With the kids back in school, it is a good time to celebrate motherhood with some time away from the kids! This may sound odd, but I do think that we can be better moms when we take time out for ourselves. Girls Night Out (GNO) was created for this reason, but also to provide a venue for women to develop lasting relationships with other women that are already connected here at UBC as well as those in the community.

At each GNO event, instruction is given to create homemade consumables (such as bath salts and edible jar mixes) or home décor items. I have enjoyed seeing women that are not normally "crafty" by their own accord create beautiful items that shock and impress themselves. Some ladies have chosen to keep their creation while some have given their creation as a gift. I especially love when this has happened because isn't giving to others one of the shining attributes of Christ?

This GNO we will be making bath salts and decorative origami boxes for these items to go in. They will be perfect to use when you need to find your own relaxing escape or to give to teachers, friends, or loved ones. These items are pretty easy to make so I hope some ladies will go on to teach their friends or favorite teens.

The cost of the event is \$10 and includes the materials as well as light snacks and refreshments. Please RSVP on the UBC app under the Events tab. You can also RSVP to lisa.stiles@ubc.org. Bring a friend or two or three. Space is limited so reserve now so you don't miss out!

Crisis Pregnancy Center: Diane Fanning

The Beltway 8 South Crisis Pregnancy Center has had dramatic and overwhelming support from UBC since its beginning over ten years ago. Many hands and feet from our church have worked many hours to make B8S CPC the success it is. These volunteers have been: those who constructed the center, board members, client advocates, staff members, Bible study and life education teachers, fundraisers, blessing room helpers, etc. etc. Many thanks go to UBC for your commitment to the center! Confirmation of the center's excellence includes state and national recognitions and hundreds of lives saved physically and spiritually. If interested in volunteering, contact Don or Dianne Fanning 281-488-5305. You will be blessed!

Right at Home Moms: Terri Greer

Right at Home Moms is a family ministry of University Baptist Church designed to support mothers of infants, toddlers and preschoolers who are modifying their work schedule or leaving the workplace to stay home and raise their children. Our goal is to help new moms find practical Bible study, genuine encouragement, time to refresh their spirit, and a network of Godly friends in a similar phase of life. We believe that motherhood is the hardest but most fulfilling work you'll ever find!

Join us for "come as you are" fellowship on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:45am. Our fall study, *The Indestructible Marriage by Jimmy Evans* begins September 14 – November 30 (no meeting Nov 23). Large group study is followed by small group discussion and prayer. Kingdom Care (childcare) is limited and available by reservation only. Returning members cost is \$60 and includes all materials and childcare. If you're new to Right at Home Moms, we'd love to offer the Fall Session to you at no cost!

We meet for fellowship outside the church walls as well. Mom's Night Out, children's play dates, October Pumpkin Patch, summer fun, and family gatherings are enjoyed throughout the year.

Real Stories: Redeemed Ministries

I often hear the numerous labels the women in our program have slapped on them and more often than not they are hit with very negative labels – labels that make my negative labels look pretty good. I'll gladly take "spoiled", "brat", "poor", "pathetic", even "witchy-poo" over what these women have been labeled. They carry words in their heads and in their hearts that sounds like "unwanted", "burden", "neglected", "molested", "foster-kid", "adopted", "neglected", "abused", "run-away", "drop-out", "teen Mom", "CPS case", "Child Prostitute", "drug addict", "alcoholic", "Hooker", "Ho", "Bitch", "Bottom", "Criminal", etc. etc. The list goes on and on and on. One of our goals while working with the women God places in our path is to begin to replace the negative labels with positive ones and then to ultimately watch them walk into the ONE label we all really have – "Child of the One True King". Sometimes people label with hurtful labels without meaning harm. For example – often people who mean well talk about the "great work" we do with the "prostitutes". Our staff and volunteers are usually quick to correct that these are not "prostitutes"; they are "prostituted women". One of the highlights of living with and working with women in the safe house is watching them walk out of their old identities and into new ones.

I don't suppose I'll ever forget the day one of our safe house sparrows came bouncing into the living room after attending one of her college classes. She had her back-pack flung over her shoulder and a big smile on her face. "Guess what Ms. Bobbie! I got elected to the student body today! I am my class Senator!" Without thinking I replied "AWESOME! I'm so proud of you! Look at you – a few months ago your labels were stripper, hooker, bitch and now you're student, class senator and precious daughter of Jesus!" She just beamed "Yup!"

Our safe house program is broken up into quarters. First quarter women focus on "Who Am I?" Second quarter they focus on "Who Is God?" and the third their focus is "How Has Christ Named Me?" Throughout their time at the house we are praying they begin to identify differently. We understand it isn't until they completely change their identity that they will be at less of a risk of relapse. Until they shed the labels they grew up with and picked up along their journey in commercial sex they won't be able to step into their God-given identity. When people ask us how we are able to persevere in such a tough ministry where so many women relapse we talk about the small successes along the way – the times they step into a new identity even if it's cook for the night or devotion book reader or bible study participant.

We've had women embrace a new identity as a sparrow and we are warmed when they do – when they want to buy trinkets for their room with birds or jewelry with sparrows or artwork with birds. But we celebrate with the angels when they step into their identity of child of God – precious daughter of the Most High – Child of the One True King.

Can you join us in prayer every single day that the ladies we serve will step daily into new, positive identities and take on new, godly labels? Pray they will look in the mirror and see beauty as the ashes blow away. Prayer is the REAL work and an identity grounded in Christ is the REAL identity – it only makes sense that your prayers will help send these precious women in the right direction of claiming their true identity. And as we all go through life let's try to be people of God who will bless with our words and thereby change the words of that old saying that will send people in our lives off saying "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words can ever bless me!"

NEW Fall Bible Study Groups

Daytime Groups

Tuesdays

10 am to 12 pm

Starts September 13

1 Peter: A Living Hope In Christ

By Jen Wilkin, Led by Kathy Bailey

Our inheritance through Christ is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. In 1 Peter, a man of faith and flaws and eyewitness to the life of Christ challenges us to look beyond our current circumstances to a future inheritance. He shares his concerns on big picture issues for the early church, describes believers' true identity in Christ, and ultimately helps readers discover what it means to experience the Living Hope they have in Christ. Key themes of humility, submission, and identity in Christ guide the study of 1 Peter as participants are challenged to read the book in its entirety each week.

10 weeks

\$20 (cost includes materials and childcare)

Room EB 226

Thursdays

9:45 am to 12 pm

Starts September 15

1 Peter: A Living Hope In Christ

By Jen Wilkin, Led by Jenny Verghese

Our inheritance through Christ is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. In 1 Peter, a man of faith and flaws and eyewitness to the life of Christ challenges us to look beyond our current circumstances to a future inheritance. He shares his concerns on big picture issues for the early church, describes believers' true identity in Christ, and ultimately helps readers discover what it means to experience the Living Hope they have in Christ. Key themes of humility, submission, and identity in Christ guide the study of 1 Peter as participants are challenged to read the book in its entirety each week.

Precept Upon Precept: Acts Part 1 (Chapters 1-12)

Jesus' Witnesses, Empowered by His Spirit

Led by Shirley Owens

Luke's first account was his Gospel in which he recorded all that Jesus began to do and teach. His second account we call Acts, or the Acts of the Apostles, in which Luke recorded what happened after Jesus' ascension to the Father. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, empowering the apostles to testify to the power of God in salvation and in living every day for the gospel. Learn how God spread the gospel through witnesses of Jesus' death and resurrection, and from their examples, how you too can witness to others. Stand in awe of the power of God in believers to endure persecution and suffering for the cause of Christ and embrace His power in your life. Be encouraged by the results of faithful servants holding forth truth in a dark world; watch as the church grows numerically, geographically, and culturally.

10 weeks

\$30 (cost includes materials and childcare)

Room EB 226

Crossing Cultures

Prayer: An Adventure with God

By David Healey

You pray for your own needs and for the needs of others. You pray in the face of conflict, and you pray for forgiveness. You pray to pour out your heart to God and to gain a glimpse of God's heart for you. As the author takes you through the prayers of men and women in the Bible (Mary, Abraham, Moses, Daniel and more), you will gain new insights into why, what and how to pray. And you will experience more fully the adventure that prayer can be.

10 weeks

\$20 (cost includes materials and childcare)

Room EB 222

Crossing Cultures is a diverse group of women who study the Bible together and embrace each other in the love of Christ despite differences in geographic, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds.

Weekday Home Groups

League City

Meets each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.

Children of the Day by Beth Moore

For more information, contact either Heather Reeder at reederfam5@comcast.net, or Beverly Beard at beverly-beard@yahoo.com.

Evenings

Tuesday

7 to 9 p.m.

Starts September 13

James: Mercy Triumphs

By Beth Moore, Led by Karol Peters and Lisa Richardson

Bible scholars compare James to the prophet Amos. In other ways James more closely resembled the book of Proverbs than any New Testament book. Come along with Beth Moore on a journey to get to know both the man and the Book of James. You will never be the same again.

Topics in this study include: joy, hardship, faith, reversal of fortunes for rich and poor, wisdom, gifts from above, single-mindedness, the dangers of the tongue, humility, and prayer.

8 weeks

Cost: \$20 (includes materials)

Room EB 101

To sign-up for this group, email karolpeters@petersdentalassociates.com

Wednesday

6 to 8 p.m.

Starts September 14

Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God

By Francis Chan, Led by Holly Sincox

Does something deep inside your heart long to break free from the status quo? Are you hungry for an authentic faith that addresses the problems of our world with tangible, even radical, solutions? God is calling you to a passionate love relationship with Himself. Because the answer to religious complacency isn't working harder at a list of to do's and don'ts – it's falling in love with God. And once you encounter His love, as Francis described it, you will never be the same. Because when you're wildly in love with someone, it changes everything.

10 weeks

Cost: \$20 (includes materials and childcare)

Room EB 210

New! Fellowship Breakfast every Thursday 9am-9:45 this fall

Spend some relaxed time with friends at breakfast every Thursday morning before Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall. Feel free to bring along a home made item if you'd like to share.

Bring the kids along and let everyone enjoy them as well before dropping them off in Kingdom Care at 9:30.

If you would like to sponsor a breakfast with a donation, please designate funds to Women's Ministries. Any amount is appreciated and used for the meal and childcare.