

Joy Notes

Fruit Cove Baptist Church Women's Ministry

Wisdom —A Gift of God

Going back a few years, remembering what it was like raising teenagers, I recall telling them as they left the house—"be safe", "be home on time" and on many occasions "be wise" or "make wise choices".

My hope in adding in the "be wise", was that they would think about where that wisdom would come from, hopefully with the realization that it didn't originate from within them—or from me—which in their minds, at that age would add little credibility.

The Bible has lots to say about wisdom. Solomon, who was the wisest of all men, in his Proverbs, places great emphasis on seeking wisdom. We can acquire knowledge but all wisdom comes from God and therefore must be sought after.

He tells us that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of all wisdom and knowledge of God is where that wisdom originates (Prov.9:10). Without an intimate relationship with God through Jesus, we can't possess true wisdom. We're told not to be wise in our own eyes (3:7) and that humility often accompanies wisdom. (11:2)

We also learn that the Lord gives wisdom and from His mouth come knowledge and understanding. We can't be wise apart from God, but we are wise when we seek Him and His wisdom.

So, how do we get His wisdom? We ask Him for it, yes, we just ask. "If anyone lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." (James 1:5)

"Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding for she (wisdom) is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her." (Prov.3:13-15)

Are you starting to see the benefits of wisdom? It starts with us finding our life in Christ, then along with wisdom comes knowledge, understanding, humility, discernment, discretion, sound judgment and so much more.

When the prophet Isaiah spoke about the promised Messiah listen to what he wrote, "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of Wisdom and of Understanding, The Spirit of Counsel and of Power, the Spirit of Knowledge and of the fear (awe-filled reverence) of the Lord—and he will delight in the fear of the Lord." (11:1-3)

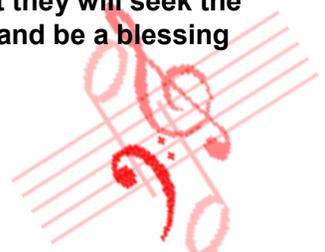
One of my greatest prayers for my children was that they would come to know God as their personal Savior. And now, my prayer is that they will seek the gift of God's wisdom because in doing so they will be blessed and be a blessing to others.

Merry Christmas,

Linda

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“they broke bread in their homes and ate together...with glad and sincere hearts...!”

~Acts 2:46~

What is an IF Table?

The vision is to gather, equip, and unleash women to live out God’s calling on their lives. If God is really asking us to live out His calling, then what does that look like? What is our response? The ministry is based on Acts 2:46:

6 Ladies

4 Questions

2 Hours

1 Simple Meal-Once a Month

What do you do at an IF Table?

Build community, friendship and discipling relationships, by sharing a simple meal together and having Christ-centered conversations.

When do you meet?

Tables meet once a month. Table times are based on what works best for each group.

What are the IF questions?

These are topics/questions provided each month. Here is an example of a question from November: What have you learned about hospitality from Jesus’ life on this earth?

Do I have to host or can I just participate?

You can do either one. We often have ladies wanting to join a table, so hosts are needed. Sometimes tables have openings.

How do I join?

If you have other questions or would like to participate, call, text, Facebook message or email our IF Table Coordinator (see information below). We would love to have you!

Phone or text: 904-540-8341; email: jcschmitz@bellsouth.net

~Joyce Schmitz~



Give a Gift to Give *what*

Help us provide Christmas joy to children at the Trinity Rescue Mission and other outreach missions by bringing a new unwrapped gift for **ages 3-12**.

where

Bring your gift to the Women's Ministry table at the Building B courtyard.

collection dates

Nov. 26-Dec. 17

gift ideas

Toys, games, stuffed animals, dolls, hair accessories, books, sports items, backpacks, clothes, etc., as well as wrapping paper and accessories.

questions

Call Peggy Weeks at 704-7653

2018 Bible Studies



Mondays

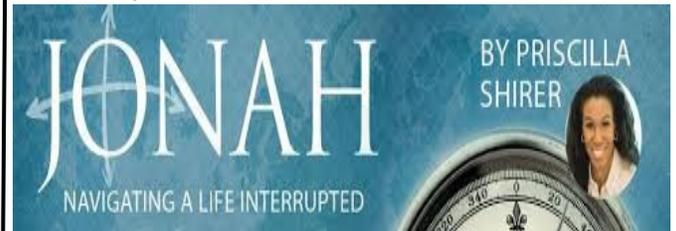
Beginning Feb. 5

10:00am

ROC-202

Facilitated by Peggy Weeks

No Childcare



Tuesdays

Beginning Jan. 23

9:30am

ROC-FH

Facilitated by Ricki Marshall

Childcare by Reservation



Wednesdays

Beginning Jan. 10

6:15pm

ROC-Gameroom

**Facilitated by Linda Warne &
Katheryn Tokar**

Childcare Provided



Tuesdays

Beginning Jan. 23

6:30pm

Bldg. A-106

Facilitated by Lisa Hess

No Childcare

For Childcare Reservations, please contact Drema in the church office:
drema@fruitcove.com, or by phone, 287-0996

The Cost for The Quest Study Book is \$15, Jonah Study book is \$13.

Support Groups



It's a challenge to be a military wife. You wave good-bye to your husband as he heads out on deployment and then you try to keep the home fires burning. It's hard and there are times you feel all alone. That's where the Military Wives support group comes in. Here you will meet other wives going through or who have gone through, the same struggles and you'll realize, you are not alone.

We will be studying

Tour of Duty

By Sara Horn

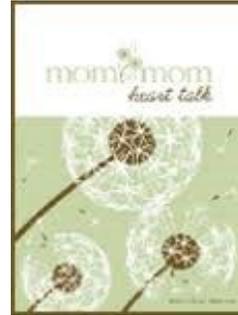
Starting January 17th and meeting every third Tuesday of the month, Military Wives will meet in ROC-201 (tallest building on campus)

9:30-11:30AM

Please feel free to invite other military wives. You do not have to be a member of FCBC to come.

Childcare is provided by reservation.

Questions?? Contact Debra Stoutamyer,
904-230-8413 or 904-687-8374



Mom to Mom Heart Talk

By Linda Anderson

A biblically based parenting program designed around the Titus 2:4 concept of older women teaching and encouraging younger women. This curriculum is designed to take a close look at what God's Word has to say

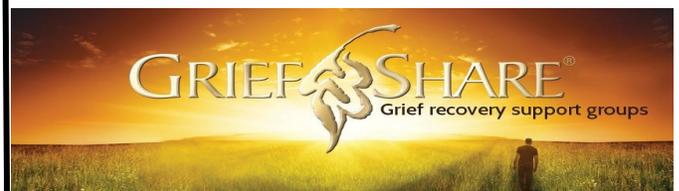
about our mission as moms and wives and what that looks like for 21st century women. As we explore God's Word together, we will gain godly mom-confidence in a confused world, learn to create contagious Christian community amidst a chaotic culture, and grow in our ability to build Christ-like character in our kids.

Begins Thursday, January 11th

ROC-FH 9:30-11:45 AM

Childcare Provided by Reservation

Cost of Book \$10



If you've lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend, you've probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel.

GriefShare is a friendly, caring group who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. Many GriefShare alumni tell us the program helped them move from deep grief to peace and a sense of joy again. If this is a need in your life or if you know someone who is walking through grief, please encourage them to join us!

Begins Wednesday, January 10th

6:15pm, BLDG. 3, Room 1

Childcare Provided

Facilitated by:

Cecille Hammond, Alicia Davis & Butch Bentley

Childcare Provided

A Journey from Mourning to Joy

Single Moms Support Group

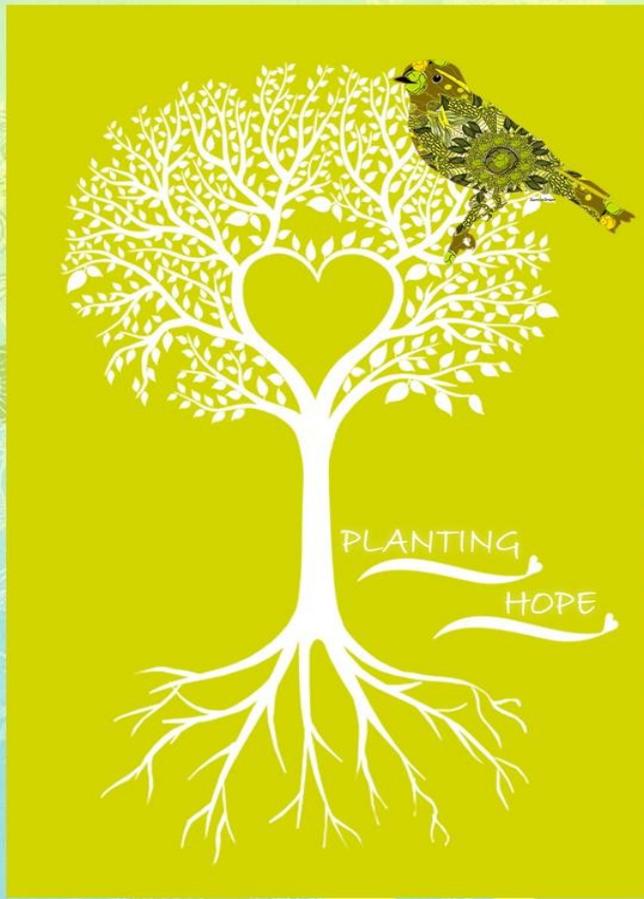
Begins Wednesday, January 10th
6:15 pm, Bldg. 3, Room 3
Facilitated by Denise Hodges
Childcare Provided

Prevail

...breaking through
and moving forward

For Childcare by reservation, please contact Drema in the church office:

904-287-0996 or drema@fruitcove.com



In His Image Ministry

Planting Hope

A Faith-based support group for families with special needs children.

Meets second Tuesday of every month @ 6:30pm.

Beginning Jan. 10th

For more information regarding this ministry:

- ◆ Barbara Campbell at barbara.inhisimage@gmail.com
- ◆ Church office @ 904-287-0996
- ◆ Visit our website @



2017-2018 Outreach Opportunities

Give A Gift to Give Christmas, 2017

Providing gifts for the women and children at Trinity Rescue Mission

Baskets of Love

February, 2018

Honoring our local Fire & Police men and women, Community Organizations and specific individuals with baskets of baked goods

Baby Bottle Boomerang

April 15-May 13

Collecting money for First Coast Women's Services in support of Life!

Thank you

We want to say "Thank You" for your generosity in blessing others this year through two specific opportunities:

Our church collected 5767 Diapers and over 15,000 wipes for the Baptist Children's Home in the annual Diaper Drive!

We also gave \$6,701.48 to First Coast Women's Services in the Baby Bottle Boomerang!

"And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'"

~Matthew 25:40~ NLT



**spotlight on
MISSIONS**

This has been a “banner” year for mission teams leaving Fruit Cove and traveling to a country to support and participate in the work God is already initiating there: Cuba, Haiti, Montreal, Romania and twice to Guatemala. We’ve also sent teams to Miami and New Jersey to partner with church plants. The Singles department actively participates every year in Operation Christmas Child, traveling to Atlanta to volunteer in the processing center. And we shouldn’t forget our own Vacation Bible School. Every year scores of children invite Jesus into their hearts.

Our Mission committee oversees many of these efforts in helping new team leaders prepare. Once they lead and invest in learning about the country they have been led to by the Lord, they transition into seeing God’s vision for that city, town or village. Team members will return again and again because the seeds they planted on an earlier trip will have begun to grow, and speaking from experience, you just become so captivated by God’s presence in that place, you feel a re-charging of your own spiritual “batteries”.

This year instead of having our usual banquet, Jonathan wanted to extend the emphasis to a weekend event, entitled MOVE. All the members of the committee caught his vision and literally worked on it for months with the target date of October 21-22. With Jonathan spearheading the event, it was very organized with each mission committee member assuming a segment of the MOVE weekend event.

There was so much excitement planning this event, we prayed to spread some of that excitement to our members, so they would consider praying about joining a mission team in 2018. I believe the last remark I’d like to make regarding the missions’ emphasis at our church is that the teenagers and adults experience the last words of Jesus in Acts 1:8: “And you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses in all Judea, and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.” All disciples of Jesus have the Holy Spirit, so we can respond with the same words of Isaiah in chapter 6 to the question, “whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” He said, “Here am I; send me.”

~Suzanne David~

Getting to Know...Gwen May



Though Gwen is an active part of our church and women’s ministry...she has never been our “getting to know you” person...so, Meet Gwen May!

Gwen says she was born a Baptist...even born in a Baptist hospital...here in Jax. She is the oldest of 6 children, with 4 brothers and 1 sister. She is a graduate of Ed White High. Music has always been a love of Gwen’s and she sang her first solo...”Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star in a school play at the age of 5! She sang in

Jr. High and Senior Chorus as well as being a cheerleader in High School. Gwen sang with a Christian group of about 12 people during her college/early career years. The group, Joyful Noise, actually sang in a concert at a little church in Saint Johns County...a church named Fruit Cove Baptist in 1981!

Having grown up in her church, Parklane Baptist, Gwen does not remember a time when she was not in church—every Wednesday evening and twice on Sunday—everytime the door was open! She joined the church and was baptized at an early age. But while attending Hillcrest Baptist with her brothers years later, she heard a sermon about the White Throne of Judgment and about becoming a New Creation (2 Cor. 5:17) and realized that she needed a real and personal relationship with Christ and on June 30, 1985 gave her heart to Christ. Gwen came to Fruit Cove in 1998 to hear the Christmas Musical and that night decided...this is the choir I want to be in! This is the church I want to belong to...and the rest, as they say...is history! That’s a Win-Win— For us and for her!

Not only did Gwen find a choir, and a little later, a job—a few years later, she met the love of her life, Bob May. He had spotted her from his seat in the “balcony” and decided to move up a bit and with a great line... “Is this seat taken?” began a real love story! They dated 1 year and were married in September of 2007 and a year later, their world turned upside down. Bob became very ill and Gwen spent the next 1 1/2 years researching his illness, and being his caregiver. Bob passed March 3, 2010. This time in Gwen’s life became a real faith builder for her— learning to trust God with her unanswered questions, relying on Him for her every need. Out of dealing with several losses in her life—a brother, grandmother, grandfather, father and now her husband, Gwen began going to GriefShare and now encourages everyone who is dealing with the death of a loved one to attend a GriefShare class—it is the most healing thing she has done to help her walk through grief—to “grieve well”.

Gwen has a degree in Fashion Merchandising and loves decorating, fashion and many aspects of creativity. But after working in banking for 20 years, she wanted to find another source of income, she learned that Fruit Cove was looking for a receptionist...she thought, “I can do that!” She began working at Fruit Cove and later also became the assistant to Linda Warne, our Women’s Ministry Director. Her job changed again and she became the administrative assistant for both the Women’s Ministry and our Music Ministry—the two great loves in her church life—Women’s Ministry and Music!

Gwen also saw the need for a younger ladies Sunday School class—and learned that if you see the need—you might just have to become the leader...so Changing Lives Sunday School Class was born! She is now very active in the Singles Ministry of our church and a member of the U-2 Class. She has participated and enjoyed several mission trips—Belgium, France, Turkey, Luxemburg and Dubai have been destinations for mission trips with Fruit Cove—all of these using music as the open door to sharing Christ.

Gwen has two children, Victoria & Clint and now her favorite title, “Gigi” to three year old, Maximus—the joy of her life! If you get a chance to meet and get to know Gwen—you will have a great friend! She’s fun, loyal, patriotic, talented and “Gwennie” to us!

~Vicki Denney

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Lessons Learned...

Another year...wow! It must be true, the older we get the faster they go! It just seems like yesterday that we were celebrating the arrival of 2017. For me, it has been a year of finally facing some realities that I have avoided. The final shocker came just a few days ago when, as I have done for the last 17 years of living here in Fruit Cove, ventured down to the Southern Women's Show. Each year I look forward to going, I rarely buy anything, but have always enjoyed walking around just looking at the exhibits, seeing the "stuff I don't need" and of course wishing... But this year was different, first I had to convince my husband I was "up to it", and with a promise that I wouldn't push my limits—which in our house is laughable, I took off! Close parking was full, so after walking pretty far across a grassy parking lot—which is a hazard for me to begin with, came the trek to the Convention Hall. This year a new feature was added...all purses opened and examined to enter, so that meant standing in a long line just to get in, even though the show had already been open one hour. I finally made it in only to realize a mass crowd and my mobility were not good matches. So, I stayed maybe 20 minutes only to begin my trek back to the car and the journey across the grass lot. If you know me, you know giving up is not in my vocabulary...(my husband calls it stubbornness). It was hard for me, but as I took each step of that pity party, it was with the realization—I can't do this again by myself. I know what I think my husband has known for some time...there are some things I must decide—either, lay down that pride and get a cart or use a wheelchair—or just stay home! I don't plan on giving up... there is still much to do. That would not be an expression of thankfulness for all that I am able to do. I know sometimes our mind set as we get older is to stop doing...take an attitude of "I've already put my time in"...but I really believe

that if we are still here on this earth, we are to keep on, keeping on. I love Jill Briscoe and her motto is becoming mine.

"Give what you've got until you're done"!

Merry Christmas &
 Happy 2018! ~Vicki
 Denney~

*Go where
 you're sent
 stay where you're
 put, unpack,
 and give what
 you've got until
 you're done.
 -Jill Briscoe-*

Betty Park's Congenial Salad

1 lg. can crushed pineapple
 1 cup sugar
 2 envelopes unflavored gelatin
 Juice of 1 lemon or 1 TBS. RealLemon
 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese
 1/3 cup milk
 1 16 oz. sour cream (salad) or
 1 lg. Cool Whip (dessert)
 1 cup chopped nuts (toasted is best)
 1 10 oz. bottle maraschino cherries, chopped
 (Drain for white salad—use just enough
 cherry juice to lightly color for pink salad).
 Heat undrained pineapple, sugar and gelatin
 to boiling point. Remove from heat and break
 up cream cheese into pineapple mixture and
 stir well to melt. Add lemon juice and milk.
 Add sour cream or Cool Whip. Add pecans
 and cherries. Pour into 9x13 pyrex dish or
 any large mold and refrigerate. (overnight,
 preferably) Enjoy!
 ~Pat Busby~