

Joy Notes

Fruit Cove Baptist Church Women's Ministry

"Mind the Gap"



This summer I had the privilege of being a part of a women's mission team serving in London, England. It is a global city of 9 million people steeped in historic beauty with 1000 people a week from all across the world arriving to live within its city borders! At a glance, it seems like every tribe, tongue and nation might be represented by London's growing population.

The public transport system (called the Tube) is amazing, transporting 4.8 million passengers a day! It was while riding these trains every day that I heard the phrase, "mind the gap," not just once, but every time the doors opened. You see they wanted to be sure that we were aware of the gap between the platform and the train car. Why... because it can be dangerous if you get caught in the gap.

On the very first day of our trip, I got caught in-between the doors while they were closing as I was trying to get onto the train! This was my first lesson in learning to push your way onto a train...if the person in front of you decides to stop abruptly. Thankfully, my other team members took good care of me from that point on and made sure I made it onto the train.

As I heard this announcement over and over each day and was confronted with the many faces of people coming and going, I couldn't help but be reminded of the spiritual implications of not minding the "spiritual gap" that exists between lost-ness and salvation, heaven and hell.

In the Biblical account of the rich man and Lazarus, in Luke 16:26, there is a chasm...a "gap" ... that has been fixed and can't be crossed. This became a constant reminder to me of why we were there. It's why we GO, it's why we CARE and it's why we SHARE the Gospel message...so that the "whosoever" of this world might come to believe, to accept the Lord's gift and to arrive safely in the arms of Jesus when their journey here on earth comes to a conclusion. God is not willing that anyone be found on the wrong side of the GAP...and we have been charged as ambassadors to carry His Good News message of salvation to the nations.

For Him,

Linda

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Spotlight on Missions

Romania



Fruit Cove Baptist continues to grow a partnership with an amazing ministry in the eastern European country of Romania. Life Romania is currently celebrating the 10th anniversary for Camp MIA (10+ weeks of summer youth camps) and it continues to grow each year. A team of eight members from Fruit Cove had the opportunity to join the camp staff for a week in Targoviste with campers ranging in ages 6-12. Cam Boothe served as camp pastor in Targoviste, and Jason Stanland joined part of the team for a second week as camp pastor in the remote

town of Istrovat with 7-18 year-old campers.

Our team was invited to lead, assist, and encourage Romanian counselors. We participated in many opportunities such as, providing morning devotionals for counselors, singing solos during worship, introducing new games to campers, teaching craft ideas, and most importantly sharing the gospel through object lessons and personal testimonies. Campers and counselors in Romania are eager to hear the truth and grow as a disciple. Any member of our Fruit Cove team will testify that God is doing incredible work through Life Romania. Please consider joining our team next year. More information is available at www.campmia.org.

~Denise Hodges~



I had the wonderful opportunity to travel with Linda Warne to London, England this summer as part of a women's ministries mission trip. At first glance, when people hear you are traveling to London for missions...the first thing that seems to come to mind is: enjoy your vacation! England is a wonderful and interesting place, and London is alive with people...many, many people. As time went on, we would begin to see and feel why London is a mission field and why we needed to be there.

We partnered with a group of women from First Baptist Church, Cummings, GA, and became a team of 6! There are two main partners in London, the pastor of Chiswick Baptist in a London suburb, and a couple who are IMB workers serving in London. We also met a lively, full of joy, pastor who works in an area known for gangs and violence.

This is what we learned about the church in England: There are few believers. The average church size is 25-40 people and the generation gap in the church was staggering to find out...there are few young believers. Though their numbers are small, we witnessed an unwavering full commitment to the gospel and to sharing it. For one 21-year old believer, her youth group consists of her and her brother. For the young IMB workers and their elementary-school-aged children...they do not have believing families to connect with and share faith with. Their home is constantly open for the continual witness of the gospel as they host many events to share their faith and do life there. There is work to do in London!

One of the opportunities we had was to attend a mums/kids play morning. This particular group is organized by members of the church of our IMB workers. In this group of 80 women we talked to literally every tribe and nation: Japan, China, Spain, Poland, Slovakia...some of the women did not speak English very well as many are newly arrived to this country. We took part in prayer walks and Bible studies and one day worked with the pastor who works in the gang-infested area. He shared that 12 members of his community had been lost to gang violence in the past 18 months.

The final and main event of our trip was to conduct a women's retreat for the women of Chiswick Baptist. We studied the movie "War Room" and had five sessions on prayer where our women shared, friendships were built. Prayer requests were shared. Walls came down. Women opened their hearts. We left there bonded. A vision was also cast for the people in England. They need God! They need transformation. They need Jesus.

As a final testimony...the owner of the manor house lived on the third floor of the house we used for our retreat. We sang gospel songs on Sunday morning...a harmonious sound to our great God! The manor house lady came to one of the leaders and said: I have searched the world over, even traveled to India to find peace... I still haven't found it. You people seem different...like you have peace. What is it that you have? Well, let me tell you about a man named Jesus...and so it happens one person at a time!

~Bridget Martin~



“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?

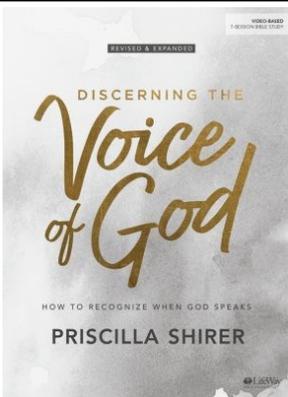
You can do either one. We often have ladies wanting to join a table, so hosts are needed. Sometimes tables have openings.

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~



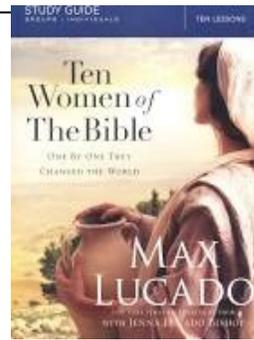
Discerning the Voice of God

Mondays
Beginning
Sept. 10th

10:00am, ROC-202

Through this study discover the root to clear and daily communication with God—humble obedience. Learn how surrender unlocks His many blessings intended for us!

Facilitated by Peggy Weeks
No Childcare



Ten Women of the Bible

Tuesdays
Beginning
Sept. 25

9:30am, ROC-FH

These women lived in a different world than our own, but we find ourselves facing the same issues they faced. Yet, they can show us there is a God who sees us where we are and loves us for who we are.

Facilitated by Ricki Marshall
Childcare by Reservation



Verse Mapping

Acts: Feasting on the Abundance of God's Word

Wednesday, Beginning Aug. 15th @ 6:15pm
ROC-Gameroom

Facilitated by Kathryn Tokar
Childcare Provided

&

Tuesday, Beginning Aug. 21st @ 6:30pm
No Childcare

Facilitated by Lisa Hess in A-106

Let's be honest— does anyone else have difficulty understanding Scripture? Do you want to do more than just read— you actually want to research and apply what's in the Bible to your life today? If this is you, then this Bible Study is for you! If you are looking for a time to learn, explore and map the Word of God with other ladies, then join one of these.

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

The cost for the study books is \$13.

Support Groups

JEWELS Journey

Jewels-Journey Ministry, a widows support group dedicated to helping other widows through care, understanding, empathy and God's Word. We did not choose to be widows, to be alone or to raise our children without their father, but we can choose to make things better for ourselves with the help and support of other widows as well as God's constant love.

This group meets once a month on the fourth Saturday of the month @ 9:30am in Bldg. A. After sharing brunch, they enjoy a time of sharing testimonies, guest speakers, and always find a way to laugh even though their common bond was a time of sadness.

Questions? Please call Ruth Hartley, 904-536-9648



Single Moms Support Group

Begins Wednesday, August 15th

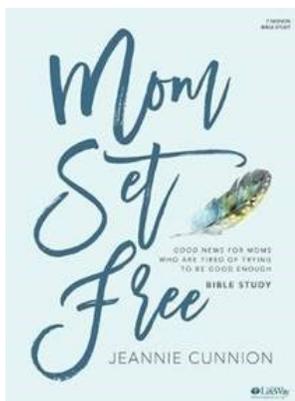
6:15 pm, Bldg. 3, Room 3

Facilitated by Denise Hodges

Childcare Provided

Join us as we discover how the gospel message can empower you to parent in the freedom of God's sovereignty.

So that you can breathe deeper, walk lighter, and enjoy your children-and the parenting journey-more than ever before!



Mom to Mom



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, September 6th

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, August 15th

6:15pm, BLDG. 3, Room 1

Childcare Provided

Facilitated by:

Cecille Hammond & Butch Bentley

A Journey from Mourning to Joy

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

904-287-0996 or drema@fruitcove.com



2018-2019 Outreach Opportunities

Diaper Drive

The month of September is designated to supply diapers for the Florida Baptist Children's Homes.

Give A Gift to Give

Christmas, 2018

Providing gifts for the women and children at Trinity Rescue Mission

Baskets of Love

February, 2019

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

Baby Bottle Boomerang

April 14 - May 12, 2019

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

Month of September



Bring diapers of all sizes for use in our Florida Baptist Children's Homes!



In His Image Ministry Planting Hope

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

Meets first Tuesday of every month @ 6:30pm.
Beginning Sept. 4th in ROC-202

For more information regarding this ministry:

- ♦ Barbara Campbell at barbara.inhisimage@gmail.com
- ♦ Church office @ 904-287-0996
- ♦ Childcare available by reservation



Thank You!

Our church gave \$9,573. to First Coast Women's Services in the Baby Bottle Boomerang!

This was \$2500 above last year's gift-the largest growth of any participating church!

"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





We are so excited to introduce Kelley Warne as our new Women's Ministry Blogger! Check out our new blog page by going to www.fruitcove.com/womens and then click BLOG link.

And while you are there....check out our NEW Women's Ministry page! You'll find Bible Studies, Current Events, and Ministries Opportunities as well as our Blog page. Just click and browse!



Getting to Know...Mary Stout

Mary Stout, an only child, was born in Atlanta, GA, but moved from there at the age of 6 weeks, as her father studied for his doctorate. He was a mathematician and became a teacher at Duke University and the family lived on campus. One of the things Mary remembers was the 2000 white rats living in the basement of their campus home—there on purpose, of course—for educational reasons! Her father worked for the Pentagon during the war. While living in the Maryland area, Mary met Mr. Rex Stout at the Naval Academy. They married and traveled to Jacksonville on their honeymoon. Having moved a lot as a child seemed to prepare her for life in the military. She has lived in Hawaii, Seattle, California, Boston—while Mr. Stout studied

for 2 years at MIT, Florida, Virginia, and finally retired outside of Washington D.C. Her father was teaching at Jacksonville University at the time, and talked her children into going to school here in Jacksonville...and the rest is history! Mary has 4 children, 2 sons and 2 daughters. She is also a grandmother and great grandmother! She has a son who lives in Maine, a daughter on the West Coast, and a son who lives in Murray Hill—and actually works on our church organ! Her daughter, Cheryl Hurley, is a member here at Fruit Cove and lives in the area. The Stouts came to Fruit Cove in 1990 or 91. As she was becoming a part of Fruit Cove, she wanted to serve the Lord through the church, and said she at first felt that she had to volunteer for everything going in the church, but found she was not comfortable being out in front or visiting door to door. She met someone who was making items for babies, and knew she not only could do that, but would enjoy using her skills as a ministry. She began making baby quilts for newborns in the church family. The first year she made 3 quilts. All of her early quilts for the new babies were hand-quilted, but as Fruit Cove grew, and the number of new babies each year began to increase, she began using her machine to quilt. They are all beautiful and so treasured by new moms. One of her joys is knowing that she is now giving a baby quilt for a new baby whose mother also received one of her baby quilts as an infant.

Mary enjoys reading, sewing, knitting and she belongs to a quilter's guild. She used to love to garden, but now spends most of her time doing needlework. It has grown into a real ministry. Mary opens her home for our needlework ministry. The ladies meet the 1st Thursday of every month. They usually bring a lunch, and it is a very flexible time, with the ladies always free to give as much time as they want—whether it be for the entire morning or just an hour or two. They bless others in many ways. Here are some of the things they are doing now: Angel gowns are being made for mothers who have still-births or whose babies die in infancy. What a special ministry of love for a hurting mom. They make baby caps for newborns at Wolfson, and recently made 134 new baby caps for Baptist South! They also make fidget aprons for Alzheimer patients, cover-ups & bibs for elderly patients, padding for seat belts for breast cancer surgery patients. They make “ouchie” bears for babies getting shots. The list goes on and on...afghans, pockets for walkers! What began as a way for Mary to give to the Lord has become a ministry of love to so many!

Usually, we say, stop by and meet this lovely lady, but this time I am going to say, You are invited to come join the needlework ministry! Cindy Warner and Judy Parrish have helped Mary in keeping up with the many beautiful babies born to our Fruit Cove family! They need more help and even people to transport their finished product to the hospitals and nursing homes! There are so many ways to help and the bonus is meeting Mary!

~Vicki Denney~

Women's Ministry
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Current Resident or

Lessons Learned...

As I write this I am looking forward to and dreading at the same time, my high school class reunion. We were a very small class, and when we walked across the stage to get our diploma and go our separate ways, we felt like we were leaving family. In spite of the closeness and bond at that time, we have only met one other time for a reunion —5 years after graduation. So...lots of changes have taken place and we have lots of catching up to do. In many ways, I can't wait to see my former classmates and hear about their lives, all of these years later. But yesterday a classmate of mine came into the Historical Society in my hometown (now, if that doesn't tell you how long it has been since I graduated...nothing will)! He had no idea when he walked in and asked for a

Shopville High School yearbook, my mom would be the person there to help him. He told her that his class was having a class reunion and he wanted to look at our yearbook. I guess he wanted to refresh his memory on who he would be seeing at this reunion. She told him I had graduated from that class and when she told him who I was, he immediately said, "Wow...Vicki Mize!" "She and I were voted Most Likely to Succeed"! When Mom reminded me of that, I immediately had these thoughts of, "oh no, they will surely wish they could vote on that again" But then, what is success? How do we measure it? I know with the world's measuring stick, I have surely missed the mark, and I admit there are certainly things in my life I wish I could do over! But when I think of the things that really measure a full life and a life of joy, I know I am on my way to succeeding! I am learning that the world's measuring stick of "stuff", prestige, material things, and worldly accomplishment is shallow and fleeting. I know that only a personal relationship with Jesus can bring true peace and contentment. I know that a husband and family that love and care for me can only be counted as immeasurable. I am a part of the Family of God here at a church I love, and on and on, I could go. So, we will probably get together and each of us wonder how we look in the other's eyes? Physically, we all will look different than when we roamed the halls of our school—time seems to do that to us! I do look forward to hearing the life stories of the paths our lives have taken. I pray that there will be many stories that tell of the faithfulness of God and how He never changes and how He has filled our lives with blessings beyond measure! He is a good, good Father!

~Vicki Denney~

Coconut Macadamia Nut Pie

- 1 homemade or refrigerated ready to roll piecrust
 - 1 can (15 oz.) cream of coconut
 - 2 boxes (3oz. Each) cook-and-serve vanilla pudding mix
 - 1 3/4 cups milk
 - 1 jar (4 oz.) macadamia nuts, coarsely chopped (about 3/4 cup)
 - 1 1/2 cups heavy cream
 - 3/4 cup shredded coconut, toasted
1. Heat oven to 450. Place piecrust into 9-in. pie plate and crimp edges. Bake at 450 for about 10 minutes or until golden brown. Cool completely.
 2. Reserve 3 TBS. of the cream of coconut. In a medium-size saucepan, mix remaining cream of coconut, pudding mix and milk. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture comes to a full boil and is very thick, about 18 minutes. Take off heat and stir in half of the nuts.
 3. Pour filling into the cooled piecrust and refrigerate for 2 hours.
 4. Whip cream and reserved 3 TBS. cream of coconut to stiff peaks. Spread over top of pie. Top with remaining nuts and toasted coconut. Refrigerate at least 3 hours or overnight.

~Pat Busby~