

The Buzz

Mission- What Mission?

By Wende Bristow Barrett

In the past several years, we the women of the Women's Ministries Board have been having Conversations that Matter with women all over the region – and we have been listening. Here is what you told us. We (the region) have lost our focus and have been wandering about in the desert. We want to let you know that the wandering is over and we are getting down to business. That business being the business of Women's Ministries!

New Mission Statement

We have always been about women, but our purpose has kind of been under -wraps so to speak. So through a process of discernment, we have come to voice a mission statement that says to everyone, who and what we are and hope to be:

As Disciple Women of the Upper Midwest Region we aspire to be a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world through Advocacy, Education, and Mission to help all women find their voice!

We hope that you find this statement inspirational and forward thinking. Our focus should be on all women! Yes I said All! Not just women in your congregation or the ones that attend your group, but the young, the home-bound, the under-utilized, the widowed, the affluent and the poor. And we also want to help You find Your Voice! Let all the women you know, know what we are all about!



A Message from the Women's Ministries Board!

Hi, we wanted to introduce ourselves to you. You have probably passed us on the street and didn't recognize us. We are women just like you who feel called to empower women. We are a strictly volunteer group from all around the region. If you feel similarly called, we want to hear from you! Ideas for women in the region- or future articles, concerns, questions, mission trips and opportunities, whatever. You can email Wende at jwbarrett@q.com. If you would like to be in a leadership role in the region, we would also like to hear from you! We just want to hear Your voice and share the Good News from your area!

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Blessing Boxes: Tools for a Spirit Filled Life
And - Girl and Teen Power!!

Let's Hear It For the N.F.L!

What does the N. F. L have to do with Women's Ministries? Well I want to introduce you to the Noelridge Fellowship Ladies...the NFL... get it!

The ladies from the Noelridge Christian Church in the Cedar Rapids area of Iowa have really stepped outside the box in re-inventing their Women's Ministries and we wanted to showcase them for you. These ladies are not your typical Study/Worship kind of group. They do some of that but with a twist. They leave the church and have something called Margarita Mondays and go out to eat. I believe adult beverages are consumed and they have a great time! They also plan theme events. For example at Easter they had

a resurrection themed potluck meal and a study. They are also actively reaching out to women who don't normally attend their monthly functions. These women are thinking big.....did this give you any ideas?

Do You Know Someone We Should Know?

Please let us know those groups and individuals that are really being creative and thinking outside the box. Your ideas that are shared just may create a spark in someone else!

Getting Connected!!!!

I hope that you are reading this newsletter! I am not sure how you received your copy. Did you get an email, an email from a friend? Did you get a hard copy....did someone print it out for you? However that happened I am glad you are here!

We live in a society that is trending more and more toward computers. However some of the women in our region are not connected to the web and have no desire to be. That is ok, but they still need to have access to the type of information that will be coming to you via this newsletter. And we need to be good stewards of our resources at the regional level; so by sending these newsletters electronically we realize that we may miss some of our women. This is where you come in! You can be a Technology Buddy! Yes, imagine the satisfaction that you will get when you print off a copy for those that aren't able to see this valuable information!! Get connected with those in your congregations that aren't on the web. Maybe your teenage daughter can be a tech buddy to several ladies and teens. Be sure you forward this to the ladies that may not have seen this. You can contact us via email to sign up to receive your copy hot off the presses, and they can sign up as well. Send an email to jwbarrett@q.com today...and start receiving yours as they are published! Thank you for your assistance!

Women's Retreat Opportunities Around The Region

Silent Retreat – Conference Center in Newton September 23rd

SHHHHH! Can you hear yourself think? Can you hear God speaking to you? If you are like most ladies you are multi-tasking up a storm most of the time. This retreat time will allow you to concentrate on the silence! Janet Lott and Sue Prins are your co-leaders and will take you on a journey of silence! For more information or to sign up for the weekend you can contact the Conference Center or email Connie Derby Dicks at ccdumw@gmail.com.

Women's Fall Retreat In Minnesota at Lake Koronis September 30 – Oct 2

I found myself at the Fall Retreat in Minnesota! I always wondered why I needed to go all the way to Minnesota, in the woods, by a lake, and then get up and watch the sun come up over the water! But I did! And I hope that you do too! This event is not to be missed! You will experience Worship, Laughter, Sisterhood, Campfires, Hiking, Reflecting, Song, Inspiration, Love, Silliness, Holiness, Fun, Frivolity, Prayer, and a whole lot more! This is an event for ages 16 (with sponsor) to 116. There are activities for all age levels and physical abilities. Give this weekend a try! Bring a friend! Meet new friends! Please contact Becky Barkley for registration information at beckyrab2@mchsi.com.

Breaking News!!!!!!

Quadrennial 2014

Atlanta or Bust!!!!

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