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# A look within

FBC WOMEN'S ENRICHMENT MINISTRY



# HAPPY 2021 EVERYONE!



Have we ever been happier to say goodbye to a year as much as we are to say goodbye to 2020? Whew, it is gone! So here we are in a brand new year, almost into the 2nd year of Covid 19; but, at least now there is a vaccine, and the medical community is more knowledgeable about what we need to do as we live through this pandemic. I think we can finally see light at the end of the tunnel! Can I get an amen?! YES, AMEN!

The Bible study in this newsletter was written from my confused, a bit sad and surprised heart, at what I was seeing happening around me. The conversations I was hearing, even some I was involved with, were so strange and somewhat upsetting, causing such division, such unrest, anger, bitterness, lack of trust, rudeness and confusion among believers, friends, strangers, churches and politicians like we have never seen in our lifetime, even rumors of a new civil war! What!?! When I heard that, the Spirit immediately brought to my mind Matthew 24...wars and rumors of war! Could it possibly be, after thousands of years, we are close to that glorious day when Jesus takes us to live with Him, in the light of God's very presence? For sure we are closer than we were; but, even with such signs, we don't know the day which the LORD God will choose. In fact, the Bible tells us that Jesus doesn't know either, only the Father.. The Spirit caused my heart to think about many who do not know Jesus, many who will not be in Heaven with us as we worship together in a new and perfect Heaven and earth. We should all ask God to break our hearts for those around us that will perish without knowing God. Instead of all the bickering going on over politics and such, our passion should be that of being a part of sharing the good news of Jesus to everyone around us.

In the "Discovering The Heart of God" inductive Bible study we are doing on Genesis, we had just begun to study Genesis chapter 12, when the first conversation I had with someone over the above issues took place. The Spirit reminded me that Abram was a "foreigner" wherever he traveled, even in the place God settled him to live. Abram was looking forward to a heavenly homeland, where he would be a true citizen. We are like Abraham. We are foreigners in this world, waiting for the day we will be taken up to heaven to live forever in the presence of The LORD God! This is not our home, and politics will never change that. Instead, we decided to focus on the Lottie Moon Christmas offering for missions, so that everyone will have a chance to know Jesus and have their true citizenship in Heaven. From my heart of hearts, I thank the FBC Charleston family for giving so unselfishly, in the midst of such uncertain financial times, to Lottie Moon, and giving almost double of what we gave last year! WOW! This is the highest offering in our history given to Lottie Moon and will completely support one missionary family for a year, plus almost fully supporting another. And God smiles.

Looking forward to that homeland where God abides,  
Cathy

# FBC Charleston Around the World

“I saw the love you Christians have for each other and I want that. And also when you fight, you make up, in our culture when we fight, we seek revenge”  
- a new Arab believer



## MEET *Mary and Don*

Mary and Don live in the Middle East. She grew up with her twin sister and four other sisters in North Africa and the Middle East, so early on she developed a heart for Muslim people. Her father was a pioneer in work among the Arab people, which also laid a foundation for the decision she made as a young adult. After graduating from nursing school in the United States, Mary began to wonder if God was calling her to move back to her childhood home, to work in the same hospital where her mother had been the Director of Nurses. Having grown up there, it seemed very natural to go back, and, actually, felt more like home.

After graduation, she did move back to where she had grown up and began working at the hospital, following in her beloved mother's footsteps. That is where she met Don, who was also working at the hospital. They both lived on the hospital compound; and, although they saw each other a good bit, they weren't able to date, as it was a Muslim country. The only struggle she'd had in making her decision to go back to where she had grown up was that she felt in answering God's call she would be a single girl, even though she truly wanted to be a wife and mother. In God's plan though, He brought her to the exact spot where she would meet her future husband. Her obedience and love for the Lord, in spite of the cost she could see, would actually bring her the desire of her heart. She had trusted God, followed His call as a result of her faith, and there he was! From across the ocean, on another continent, God introduced her to the husband He had intended for her all along. They have now been married for 33 years and have the sweetest gift of four children

*Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD,*

*Trust also in Him, and He will do it.*

*Psalms 37 : 3 - 5*

After their wedding in the U.S., Mary and Don lived in Dallas for four years, attending and being active in a local church. Having not grown up in America, Mary was not familiar with the culture of church life here. She learned that churches here were made up of sinners saved by grace, just like in the gatherings of believers in other countries. Even though they were actively involved in life here in America, Mary still heard the Lord's voice calling her to a career overseas with the people she had

loved her whole life, the people of Northern Africa and the Middle East. After a year, when Mary and Don were at a send off service for her twin sister and her husband, Don answered the call to return to the Middle East as well. Her father, our beloved church member, was overjoyed that his twin daughters were responding to the call he had heard many, many years before. With tears in his eyes, he was able to see his work continuing with his very own precious children.

Don was an engineer but due to a shortage of jobs at that time, he began and managed a new business which turned out to be another part of God's plan unfolding in front of their very eyes. This work prepared them both to answer the call as they returned to the Middle East to begin their work among the people God had placed on their hearts. They have raised their children in the Middle East and are still there, faithfully working among the people they love, even after their children returned to the states for college. To quote one new believer in their country, "I have been so miserable all my life and once I accepted Jesus, I finally have peace and it is worth it". Through all the trials and tough situations this precious family has been through, they would tell you "it was worth it" to see friends coming to know Jesus.

Mary shared that one of the biggest challenges for her children growing up in Arabia, was seeing friends come and go, which reminded her of her own childhood growing up overseas. She remembers that experience as being hard for her as well. The positive side of that difficulty was that the children learned to depend on each other. The hardest part of living in Arabia and the Middle East was not being close to family, not being able to attend special family gatherings such as birthdays, weddings,

continued...

births and funerals among other important family moments. She explained that the challenges and struggles their children lived with was a part of their family's spiritual journey. Mary says from a mom's experience, "that's life here."

Marriage in another country had some challenges as well, but one of the sweet experiences Mary and Don shared was being able to spend a lot of time together. Mary says that she loves working with Don; and, although they greatly missed their children when they left for college, they were able to find strength in each other and grew even closer in their relationship. They lived in one city for 23 years, and Mary really enjoyed that. When they were asked to move from Arabia to the Middle East, although they struggled with the decision, once again they remained obedient to God's call and are now working and living among the Arab people there.

Sometimes Mary struggles with knowing that if the Arab people she works with decide to choose Jesus, it will probably cost them in one way or another, including the very real possibility of death. They have also known colleagues who were killed. All of this gave Mary concern in how it would affect her children, but it became a part of their story. Because Mary and Don have chosen to spend their lives loving the Arab people of North Africa and the Middle East, many can join together with these new believers and say, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? - 1 Corinthians 15 ; 55. One day Mary and Don will be gathered together with all the other believers around the great throne of the LORD our God. They will look around and be able to see many who have come to know Jesus, the Lamb of God, because of their obedience, their sacrifices, and because of the sweet and powerful joy of their lives as they loved those God planted in their hearts.

*Then I heard again what sounded like the shout of a vast crowd or the roar of mighty ocean waves or the crash of loud thunder. "Praise the LORD! For the Lord our God, the Almighty reigns. Let us be glad and rejoice, and let us give honor to Him. For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and His bride has prepared herself. She has been given the finest of pure white linen to wear." For the fine linen represents the good deeds of God's holy people.*

Revelation 19 : 6 - 8





# WOMEN OF FIRST BAPTIST

BY: MARGARET EDWARDS

MEET

*Pat Gibson*

“God allows us to do extraordinary things even if we are ordinary people.” Pat Gibson remembers writing this quote on a First Baptist Church bulletin on December 8, 2002, and she believes the quote came from a sermon by our Pastor Marshall Blalock. Although this quote appeared in her handwriting only 18 years ago, it seems that a look at Pat’s life reflects that the same quote must have been written in her heart from an early age.

Pat was born in July 1940 in a rural area of Richmond County, Virginia, referring to herself as a “country girl.” Her father died when Pat was only four years old; and so her mom took over running the country store they owned, working hard to take care of her and her brother. Their house was close to the store and was rented out for extra income during the war years. Pat started working at age 12 to help out, but remembers that they never worked on Sundays. “Mom and some of our aunts made sure to get us to church on Sunday,” Pat says. Pat also remembers that at age 12 she gave her life to Christ during Vacation Bible School thanks to her mother’s influence and to wonderful teachers. “I recall hearing these words: ‘I have a plan for you and so trust in Me and I’ll show you the way you should go.’” She adds, “When I walked down the aisle that day, I felt like I was floating, and I have never forgotten that.”

Pat and her husband Merv became members of First Baptist Church in 1965, and Pat has been busy serving the church ever since. Pat sings in the Sanctuary Choir, was on the Church Tour Team, and served as chair of the Ad Hoc Church Renovation Committee. She has served as a deacon and as chairperson of the Personnel and Finance Committees. Pat has also co-taught Sunday School for Grades 3-6, and led the Conversational English Ministry for seven years.

In addition to actively serving her church, Pat has also been extremely involved in her community. Pat has a M.Ed. in Reading from The Citadel and a B.A. in English from Mary Washington College of the University of Virginia, and she has taken post-graduate courses at the College of William & Mary, the College of Charleston, and the University of South Carolina. She was involved in education in both her professional and volunteer life for over 40 years as a teacher, trainer, mentor and program developer. The last 25 of those years were spent at Trident Technical College (TTC); she retired as Dean of The Learning Center there in 2006. Pat has a special place in her heart for all people who experience barriers to learning such as language differences, reading difficulties, or other challenges. Pat says, “I believe that access to education is the key to opening other doors of opportunity for our multicultural community and to developing the competencies needed to live successfully in a globally interdependent world.”

Thanks to Pat, there's a huge community resource available that you may not realize she founded: it's called Trident Literacy (an entity separate from Trident Technical College). Two experiences helped shape her path toward founding this important service. The first was when an older man asked her if a greeting card said the right thing for his grandson. The clerk later thanked Pat for helping the man, saying "He is in here all the time buying cards, but he can't read them." On another occasion, while at the Voter Registration Office in 1965, Pat watched a clerk hand a woman an index card and told her that to successfully register she would have to read the card. The woman turned the card over, upside down, studied it, then placed it back on the clerk's desk and left. She could not read the card, and so she could not register to vote.

These experiences planted the seed that helped launch Trident Literacy. This tremendous grassroots effort by service clubs, literacy councils, and churches first identified students and volunteer tutors around the state. Eventually, Pat focused on Charleston, her home territory. Her first office consisted of a shoebox full of index cards that matched students with tutors. From that small shoebox, Trident Literacy has grown into an award-winning adult education program with locations throughout the tri-county area. Approximately 1,000 students each year benefit from the literacy instruction. Since its inception, tens of thousands of adults have improved their skills, earned their GED, learned English as a second language, gone on to higher education, qualified for jobs, and changed their life course for the better.

One of Pat's favorite ways to spend her time is gardening. She earned her Master Gardener Certificate from the Clemson University MG program in 2014 and volunteered weekly at the Urban Demonstration Garden until the pandemic forced that effort to cease until further notice. Pat enjoys gardening as well as nature and has a love for and broad knowledge of Monarch butterflies. When working in the garden, pulling weeds for example, she says, "That's a great time to pray my way through

the church prayer list," an idea she culled from Brother Lawrence, who prayed while washing dishes. She also enjoys reading and cooking, and especially, reading cookbooks! "I read cookbooks like others read novels," she explains. She and Merv also enjoy traveling and have enjoyed numerous trips abroad, including a 15-day Viking cruise on the Danube, Main, and the Rhine rivers in 2019.

When it comes to Bible study, Pat says she reads the verse and/or chapter for the day on her phone, and reaches for other study materials and favorite devotional books she keeps on hand. As for Scripture verses, she counts the 23rd Psalm, Psalm 100 and Psalm 139 as her favorites.

The person who most inspires her? "Lucile MacLennan, because she unapologetically tries to lead everyone she meets to Jesus, and often uses her garden to help do so." Pat also is thankful for her high school teachers who inspired and encouraged her.

What has been Pat's toughest challenge? "The death of my brother in 2017," Pat recalls. "That's been the most difficult thing to accept. Also, my Mom dying from ovarian cancer. But God has seen me through it all."

How has God's grace provided for Pat? "As a child of a single parent, having my mom's Christian influence along with my aunts helped to guide me. And the opportunity to attend college and graduate school, and to be so involved with education and literacy and my church. God has given me many opportunities to use the gifts He has given me to serve others. I've tried hard to follow His leading."

What has been Pat's greatest joy? "Honestly," she replies, "it has been my family and my First Baptist Church family. I have enjoyed every opportunity to serve and have worked alongside so many wonderful folks. Singing in the choir, serving on committees, it's all wonderful. And I really love and miss teaching."

# WOMEN OF FIRST BAPTIST

BY: MARGARET EDWARDS

MEET

*Sara Wallace*



Sara was born in Arlington, Texas, in 1978 and lived there until age 11 when her family moved to Boulder, Colorado. She has an older brother and two younger sisters. Her dad is a retired geologist and her mom was a physical education teacher and started a home daycare business.

Sara grew up in a Christian home. Her mom was Catholic, but they transitioned to a non-denominational church. Sara remembers accepting Christ when she was 7 or 8 years old, while sitting on the living room sofa at home with her dad.

Sara graduated from Abilene Christian University in Texas, then moved to Midland, Texas, where she worked as a news producer for a TV station there. That's where she and husband Justin, an on-air sports anchor, met. They married in Fernandina Beach, Florida, in 2004. When they moved to the Lowcountry, Sara and Justin joined First Baptist Church in 2005, and Sara was baptized. They have two children, Brooks, 10 and a half years old, and Carly, aged 9.

Even though she grew up as a Christian, Sara said she felt her true relationship with Christ actually started when she and Justin were called to serve in Guatemala. Says Sara, "It was just about doing what God asked us to do, to trust him completely." Even though they left their jobs, their way of life,

and their families and friends behind, Sara says, "We had no worries. We knew that God would take care of us, of everything."

Their call to the mission field started with sponsoring a young girl in Guatemala through a drive held by Compassion International. Sara said Justin started researching the area, found out that a lot of expats lived there, started looking into how families lived there, what the education and healthcare was like, and other vital information. The couple made arrangements to go for a visit in November 2015. In December, they made the decision to become missionaries to Guatemala; and, in March of 2016, they took their kids for a visit. After that, they began raising funds for their mission and moved to Guatemala in September of 2016.

Sara says, "God is so faithful! The first week we were there we ran into a couple on the street who invited us to come to a Bible



# IN THE KITCHEN

## *Mom's Coffee Cake*

*from the kitchen of Donna Flake*

### Ingredients

- 1 stick salted butter at room temperature
- 4 large eggs at room temperature
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 box "Butter Recipe" yellow cake mix
- 1 small box French vanilla pudding (instant or cook)
- 1 cup pecans, coarsely chopped

### Filling

- ½ cup sugar
- 2 Tablespoons cinnamon

### Directions

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Grease and flour a 10-inch tube pan.
- Add butter to the bowl of an electric mixer and cream until light.
- Add eggs, one at a time, and mix until just blended.
- Add sour cream and mix until just combined.
- Add cake mix and pudding, mix until just combined.
- Finish the batter by stirring in the pecans with a spatula.
- In a separate bowl, combine the sugar and the cinnamon.
- Spoon half the batter into the pan and spread it out.
- Sprinkle half of the sugar-cinnamon over the batter.
- Spoon the remainder of the batter into the pan and spread it out.
- Sprinkle with the remaining sugar-cinnamon over the batter.
- Bake 50 - 60 minutes, until a cake tester comes out clean.
- Let cool on a wire rack for at least 30 minutes.
- Recipe freezes well.



# WEM BIO'S

MARIANNE ALLEN



I am Marianne Allen; and my husband, Clyde, and I have been members of First Baptist Church for twenty-three years. I am privileged to have been a part of first Baptist for an even longer period as a second grade teacher at First Baptist School from August 1991 through May 2017. Our three children also graduated from the school. In both the church and school we have been blessed to serve and work alongside so many with a heart for the Lord and a desire to love and minister to others.

I became involved with Women's Enrichment Ministry many years ago when Cathy Blalock asked me to be a part of the team that the Lord had given her a vision to begin. We began by offering Bible study for women on Wednesday nights. The Lord has continued to grow our ministry into other areas, and I have been enriched beyond measure by all of the women that I have come to know through Bible study, retreats, Book Club, prayer events, fellowship events, etc.

Some of my favorite verses in the Bible (and there are many) include Paul's description of Jesus, our Savior, his supremacy, and what He has done for us in the letter to the Colossians 1:15-22 and Jesus's prayer for all who have believed and will believe in Him in John 17. Some of my favorite music includes old hymns like *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* and *Amazing Grace*, new hymns like *In Christ Alone*, and new worship songs like *Lord, I Need You*, and one that we sang at our last retreat entitled *We Turn Our Eyes*.

Some of the books that I have read recently include Women of the Word by Jen Wilkin and The Attributes of God by A W Pink. I love our current inductive Bible study where we dig into the scripture verse by verse to discover the heart of God through the study of Genesis. One of my favorite topical studies over the years has been that of prayer. This love of getting to know the Father through prayer, learning to listen to His voice, and learning how to intercede for others began in my 20's through a study called Prayer: Life's Limitless Reach by Jack Taylor. It has continued through many other studies including our last retreat study: Becoming a Woman of Prayer by Cynthia Heald. Sometimes my seasons of prayer are rich and full and other times are lacking because of the pace of life, but God is always faithful and He is worthy of all our praise and gratitude. I hope if you have not had a chance to participate in Bible study or some of our other activities that you will join us as we work to deepen our relationship with the Father and with each other.

# WEM BIO'S

CATHY POWELL BLALOCK



I am Cathy Blalock and I just wanted to let you know a little bit about me. First of all, I am a “dear child of God” (Ephesians 5 : 1.) Don’t you just love that God thinks of us as His “dear” children? In the midst of our chaotic world, I can take comfort in knowing that no matter what changes, my identity in Christ will never change, I will always be God’s “dear child.” I am also Marshall’s wife, mother of Christopher Marshall, Andrew Davis and Cathryn Weldon, mother-in-law of Dorothy, Kelly, and Philip and grandmother of Tommy and Hope. If you don’t know any of my children, I hope you can one day. They truly are the treasures of my heart. All of you know my husband, your pastor, but I would like to tell you how we met in 1981. Yes, we will have been married 39 years on May 15, 2021! Wow! I can hardly believe that myself! What a grand adventure we have traveled. I never would’ve been able to even dream it in 1981!

After I graduated from Auburn University in 1979 (War Eagle), I immediately began my career as a National YMCA Aquatic Director. I was doing very well in my chosen field and loved coaching swimming and gymnastics and teaching aerobic dance classes daily. But in the summer of 1981, I felt a strong pull to go to seminary, and I did. I began classes at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in the fall of 1981; and, that is where I met him, R. Marshall Blalock. He was so handsome and dark from cutting grass everyday in blazing hot Ft. Worth, TX, and he was 6 feet tall! I said to myself, "Well, I have found my tall, dark, and handsome stranger , even though I had to go to the desert to find him." Our first meeting was hilarious! I had never heard anyone talk with such a strong Charleston accent, so I called him a Yankee,

“Who you are  
determines  
what you do”  
Gene Wilkes

continued...

can you even imagine? He decided I was spacey, so we were off to a great start! But, there did come a day when I knew that I had fallen in love with him. We were supposed to go to lunch that day, and I was to meet him at the Rotunda at seminary. When I got there, he told me he couldn't go to lunch with me as he had not had his quiet time with the Lord and would need to do that first. When he chose to spend the time with God that he needed over time with me, I knew that he was just the man I wanted to marry. And we did! We met in the fall of 1981 at SWBTS and were engaged by December 1981. I went home and taught school for five months, and we married In May of 1982! What a whirlwind! And it has been an incredibly wonderful journey. The most joyous time was when we became the parents of our children and later their spouses. And now we have two grandchildren! What blessings!

A few little favorites of mine. I love, love, love studying God's written Word! I also like watching fireworks with my family, especially the white, sparkly, falling diamond ones! Riding in the boat with Marshall is so much fun, especially in light stormy weather! My sanctuary is the beach and finding treasures in the sand as dolphins swim by. God speaks more clearly to me at the ocean than anywhere else, and my identity verse is Galatians 1:10. My favorite color is lavender blue, and I love gardenias, magnolias and white roses. Currently my favorite album is "The Worship Project" by Jeremy and Adrienne Camp, and my current favorite song is "Child of God" by the Bonner family. I could listen to music by Chris Tomlin, Matthew West, Lauren Daigle, Nicole Mullen, Selah and the Auburn University Marching Band any time, as well as a little Doobie Brothers. Beethoven is my favorite classical composer, and my favorite fiction book is "To Kill A Mockingbird" because of what it stands for. Many a day you can find me driving Freedom, my amazing convertible that Marshall gave me. In fact, you should take a ride with me! It has been my joy to love and serve you alongside Marshall for 23 years. Thanks for reading!



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## B A B Y D E D I C A T I O N

Campbell Elizabeth Graves was dedicated to the Lord on October 4, 2020. She is the daughter of Tyler and Sarah Graves



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 19:14

## G R O U N D B R E A K I N G C E R E M O N Y



Psalm 127:1  
Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.



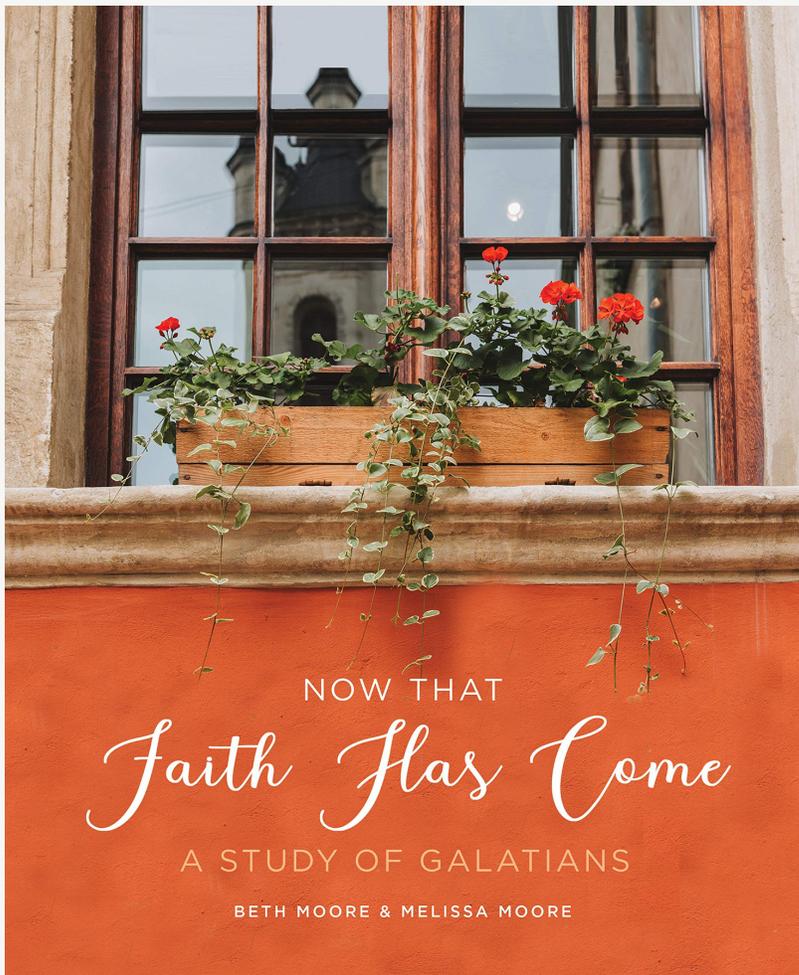
# DISCOVERING THE HEART OF GOD

*Tuesday Morning &  
Wednesday Evening  
Bible Study*

## *Bible Study*



The Tuesday morning and Wednesday evening Bible Studies are inductive style studies in Genesis with connecting New Testament passages written and taught by Cathy Blalock. The name of the Bible Study is Discovering The Heart of God. We meet via Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 10:00. The Wednesday evening group meets via Zoom at 7:30. Please contact Martha Thigpen for the morning study [thigpenmartha@comcast.net](mailto:thigpenmartha@comcast.net) and Sarah Rickman [srwp29455@gmail.com](mailto:srwp29455@gmail.com) for the evening study. They will send you the worksheets and zoom connection weekly. We have a great group of women in different stages of life and ages. Hope you can join us!



*Coming  
Soon*

Coming Soon: A new Wednesday evening Bible study will begin on April 7th. We will be studying "Now That Faith Has Come, A Study of Galatians" by Beth Moore and Melissa Moore. This will be an in-depth look at Paul's letter to the Galatians and what it truly means to be saved by faith. More information coming soon!

Women's Enrichment Ministry is excited to announce a new ministry opportunity in which you can participate with us. Currently, there are several women connected with our church who are serving overseas sharing the gospel with the nations. These women are ministering to people every day and often taking care of their own families as well. We would like to offer them a little encouragement by sending them an e-gift card on their birthdays. Donna Flake, one of our WEM team members, will be communicating with them on a regular basis and will be able to share prayer requests with us. If you are able to make a donation from time to time, you may make an online donation or mail a check to the church. Please note that it is for the Missionary Wives' Birthday Fund. If you make the donation online you will see Missionary Wives as a category in Realm. I know that each woman will be so blessed to know that FBC is praying for her regularly and remembering her on her birthday.



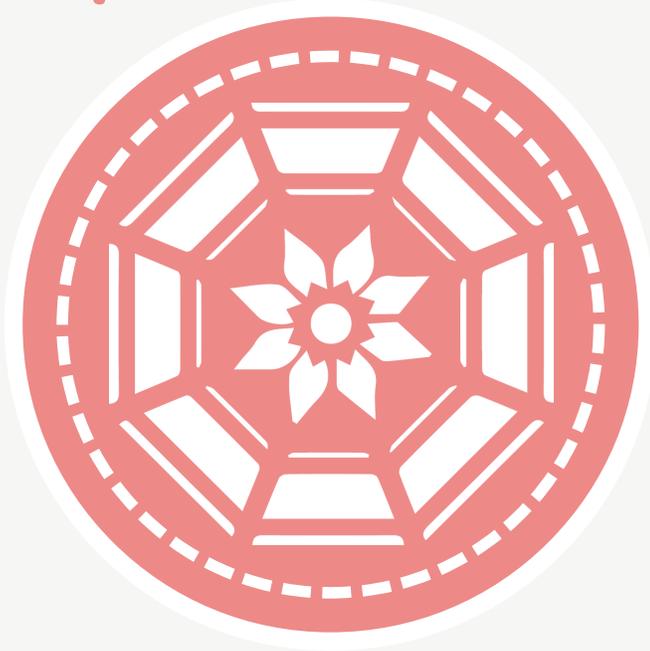


WOMEN'S MINISTRY IS  
EXCITED TO INVITE YOU TO:

*Let Us Pray!*

Ladies, please join us for a prayer ministry kick-off on Saturday, April 17, at the James Island campus. Activities will begin at 10:00 and conclude at 3:00. We will begin with get-acquainted fellowship followed by teaching by Cathy Blalock. There will be time for corporate prayer as well as specific prayer interest groups such as adoptive parents, young mothers, singles, career, etc. We plan to meet outside as at our last retreat unless the weather does not permit. The auxiliary gym will be the alternate place. Please watch for more details coming to the enews soon.

*Upcoming*





## TEACHING SESSION 19

# *Discovering the Heart of God Foreigners*

Covid...will it ever go away? Will our world go back to the way we knew it to be before? Can we travel again? Will we be able to hug and greet each other the way we were created to? Will we get to worship together without social distancing, will we be able to breathe freely without masks? I have seen several different responses to Covid lately that really puzzled, sometimes frightened, but, most of the time, reminded me that we are only foreigners in this world. We are not home yet...and the Holy Spirit led me to this little study of God's Word of Truth, right out of the life of Abram, soon to be called Abraham, friend of God.

Genesis 12 : 1 -4

v. 1. What does the LORD say to Abram?

1

2

v. 2. List the 3 promises The LORD God makes to Abram.

1

2

3

v. 3. What does God say about other people that Abram will come into contact with?

1

2

3

v. 4. What does Abram do?

Genesis 12 : 10

How is Abram described here as he settles in the land of Egypt?Genesis 17 : 8

How is Abraham described here?Hebrews 11 : 8 -19

Hebrews 11 : 8 -19

v. 9 Even when Abraham has arrived in the Promised Land, how is he described?

v. 10 What is Abraham looking “confidently” forward to?

v. 13 How are the descendants of Abraham described?

vv. 14 -16 What were these descendants “obviously” looking for?

So, even though Abraham did make it to the land God had promised, he still considered himself a “foreigner” as did his descendants. They looked forward to the day they would be in their forever home.

Philippians 3 : 20

Where is our citizenship?

Ephesians 2 : 19

Who is invited to become a citizen of Heaven?

Matthew 24

v. 3 What sign were the disciples asking about?

vv. 4 - 8 How does Jesus define the times before His 2nd coming?

VV. 9 - 11 How does Jesus describe the life of people during those days?

v. 12 What will be rampant everywhere?

v. 13 What will happen to those who endure?

v. 14 What will happen before the end of this world comes?

vv. 21 How is the world described during this time?

vv. 32 - 36 What is Jesus telling us about here?

vv. 37 -39 How are these last days going to be similar to the days of Noah?

*And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send out His angels with the mighty blast of a trumpet, and they will gather His chosen ones from all over the world: from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.*

John 14, 15, 16 and 17

John 14 : 1 -4

What seven truths does Jesus tell us in this passage?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

John 14 : 27

What does Jesus leave us with?

John 15 : 18 -21

How will the world treat us?

John 16 : 1 -3

Why does Jesus tell us the truths of John 14 and 15?

John 16 : 33

What does Jesus want us to know?

John 17

vv. 1 - 5 Who is Jesus praying for?

vv. 6 - 19 Who does Jesus pray for?

vv. 20 - 26

Who was Jesus praying for 2,000 years ago?

What was He specifically praying for us?

#### Revelation 21 and 22

Here we read of our new home, our true citizenship in our final homeland. We will live forever with God, in His presence, with no more tears...the old things, the old world that we knew will be no more.

*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying "Look, God's home is now among His people! He will live with them, and they will be His people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eye, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."*

Revelation 21 : 1 -4

We need to do all we can, all that God asks of us, to keep this country a place where we can safely live as believers, as followers of Jesus. At the same time we shouldn't be fearful, we should be aware that one day it will get worse, because even the USA that we grew up in is not our final home. Our true citizenship is in Heaven, the homeland that Abraham so looked forward to, the home Jesus is completing for us even now.

The day we chose citizenship for Cathryn, here in the USA, is a day I will never forget. From that day forward, she will be protected by our military, live in freedom to worship as she pleases and will be recognized as an American citizen wherever she goes, even though she wasn't born here. But even greater is this, she is now a citizen of Heaven since she has asked Jesus to be her Lord and Saviour. So it is with us, our true and final citizenship is in Heaven, no matter where we were born. Jesus did for us what INS did for Cathryn to be a U.S citizen, except that Jesus paid for our citizenship through the shedding and pouring forth of His life blood.

In all the places we have traveled to in the world, to Buddhist Temples, Hindu Temples, holy rivers, Muslim Mosques, Protestant Cathedrals, as well as other places of worship, I am always thankful and proud to be a U.S. citizen with the freedom to worship The LORD God and His Son, Jesus the Christ. I will do all I can to keep our country the way I know it was founded to be, establishing freedom of religion in our constitution. BUT, I look forward, as did Abraham and Jesus' disciples, to living forever with God in Heaven, the new Heaven and earth that John tells us about in Revelation. I will be so thankful to be through with the days and years of suffering and trials and wickedness that will finally end. We will go home to our true homeland and dwell there forever with our LORD God and with Jesus who sits at His right hand.

The answer sheet will be on the WEM website [www.fbcharlesston.org/wem](http://www.fbcharlesston.org/wem)