

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES AT RIVEROAKS CHURCH



1665 GERMANTOWN ROAD SOUTH, GERMANTOWN, TN 38138 Phone: 755 7772

Each Woman's Ministry

Women in our church family have responded to the Holy Spirit's call through an array of ministries and missions. In fact, there are so many that we can't keep track of them! Some ministries are in the home where mothers are training up young children; others are in the inner city; other women write notes of encouragement and sympathy.

In an effort to help women join, reinforce or explore ministries, we would like to collect a full inventory of individuals' services. With your permission, we will create a directory so that your sisters can contact you directly when they seek information or want to offer to join you.

Several articles in this newsletter provide examples of the ministries of women in the Riveroaks congregation. As you read about these sisters, take a moment to think about all the

Many Women, Many Ministries

Have you ever wondered how new sign-in sheets are on the pew pads each week? Wondered if Riveroaks does anything with that information? How Sunday School classes get teachers when the primary teacher is sick? How volunteers show up at the nursery? How is choir music re-filled? Wonder how nametags for Pastor Class attendees appear for them each week? How closets get cleaned out once a quarter? How bulletin board notices are removed after events? How flower vases are cleaned after use? How are non-

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ministries and missions you have served and want to serve in. Then let others know what you are involved in at home, work, church, school and elsewhere.

"All saints...have communion in each other's gifts and graces..and are obliged to the performance of such duties, public and private, as do conduce to their mutual good, both in the inward and outward man."

Westminster Confession

perishable kitchen supplies always available? The answer in *every case is a woman considers this her ministry in service to the Riveroaks family.*

Every week Elaine Barnes and Mary Babin make sure the pew pads are ready for the worship service. Elaine sets out nametags and information for some women find nearly all of their ministry opportunities right in the Riveroaks and its home programs. Stari Benedict and Lisa Terry step in as substitute Sunday School teachers. Lettie

(Please see Ministries, page 3)

New Start: Combining Compassion and Career Skills

Debra Newsom has worked as a pediatric nurse at LeBoneur Hospital for years. After much prayer and planning, Debra is leading a community outreach program for young mothers. It is under the umbrella of New Beginnings and will meet at the Emmanuel Center, in the heart of Clayborne-Foote Homes community. They will be meeting Wednesday mornings at 10:30 A.M. starting November 5th.

The program targets mothers-to-be, mothers and grandmothers who care for kids up to 5 years old. Drawing on her nursing and parenting experience, Debra will teach the women how to care for their children. She points out that children don't come with manuals and no one is born knowing all a child needs. Every parent benefits from learning all she can about raising precious little ones.

The class discussions cover many areas of a child's life- growth and development; nutrition; what to do when a child is sick; safety inside and outside of the home and many other topics. These practical parenting lessons may lead attendees to meet New Beginnings members and to explore that church family more.

Debra seeks support from our congregation. First, pray that God works through this program and guides Debra's steps. Second, Debra would like to collect donations for handouts: toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, hand sanitizer, lotion, tissue, vaseline, digital thermometers, travel-size toiletries, crayons, coloring books and baby wipes.



Ministry in the Home: One Homemaker's Service

Kim Benson has chosen a home-focussed ministry for this stage of life. She is married to Chris Benson and has two children, Samuel (6 years old) and Lucy Mae (4). Chris works at Shelby Systems, a church software company. He manages the support department. They enjoy the many extended family members live in town, too. While Chris is at work Kim homeschools Samuel as a kindergartener. Lucy Mae joins in for reading, Bible, and Spanish.

The family's church activities are geared to the children and take advantage of Riveroaks' children's education programs and ties to other families in the church. Kim attends Women's Bible Study on Tuesday mornings so that both Samuel and Lucy Mae can be in the children's class. On Wednesday nights the kids go to Heart and Soul while Kim participates in the 2:42 group. Bensons also go on regular field trips with other Riveroaks families. Finally, Lucy Mae is taking ballet for the

second year in a class taught by Riveroaks member Carrie Jean McDonald.

While Kims spends most of her time raising her children, she last year took up the project of organizing the women's retreat. Kim locked in the location and speaker many months before the annual January event. Once these were established, Kim worked with the speaker to set the topic and develop a brochure and registration forms. By December she was advertising the upcoming event every week, encouraging women to sign up early so that she could finalize commitments and prepare enough materials. In the few weeks leading up to the retreat Kim worked with a core team to assemble notebooks, nametags, decorations and gift bags.

Now planning her second retreat, Kim says that she looks forward to the project!

