

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES AT RIVEROAKS CHURCH



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Book Club Debuts

Women in a recent Sunday School class reported that many of them are avid readers. WIC is organizing a book club to encourage fellowship over this. During this school year we'll offer an occasional discussion forum on popular books or topics under the theme of "What Everyone Is Talking About". These are secular books but the discussions will doubtless cover a Biblical view of the stories and talk about how we might be called to respond. Each gathering is an opportunity to have a pithy discussion with other women in our church.

The first book will be **Three Cups Of Tea: One Man's Mission To Promote Peace, One School At A Time**. The book discussion will be on **Thursday, November 13th at 7 pm in the church parlor**.

Dessert and coffee will be served (If you are coming straight from work, we'll help you get a meal, too).

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For anyone who can't make it or who has more to share, there will be a second opportunity to talk about the story during the following Wednesday dinner from 5:30-6:30 in the church parlor.

This American nurse's unsuccessful attempt to climb K2, the world's second tallest mountain, is a story of how a certain failure can lead to phenomenal success. Dangerously ill when he finished his climb in 1993, Greg Mortenson was sheltered for seven weeks by the small Pakistani (p.2)

Compassion and Outreach to the Inner City

During the last year some of the ministries that Riveroaks women helped coordinate have been changed. The monthly lunches delivered to New Beginnings were replaced by summertime lunches for urban youth attending training at our sister church. The City VBS program has been suspended for now. Both of these programs involved intense organization and recruiting efforts by leaders like Lacey McRae and Stari Benedict, as well as regular commitment by several others who supported the inner city work.

These changes have left an emptiness among those Riveroaks women with hearts for service to urban sister churches or inner city citizens.

ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 6TH AT 7 PM, Howard Eddings, the director of The Memphis Leadership Foundation (MLF) will be presenting to WIC and the Missions committee new opportunities to minister and witness to Memphis.

(Please see Compassion and Outreach, next page)

Book Club: Three Cups

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village of Korphe; in return, he promised to build the impoverished town's first school, a project that grew into the Central Asia Institute, which has since constructed more than 50 schools across rural Pakistan and Afghanistan. The story presents compelling portraits of the village elders, con artists, philanthropists, mujahideen, Taliban officials, ambitious school girls and upright Muslims that Mortenson met along the way.

Lisa Malowney will be our first discussion facilitator for this book, which has been on the bestseller lists for many months.



Tea and hospitality: inseparable.

Join us for a time of exploration and fellowship. **Start reading now!** The Three Cups book by Greg Mortenson is available at Barnes & Noble or Amazon.com.

Sign-up sheets will be posted on the WIC Bulletin Board across from the church library, as well as through email.

Compassion and Outreach

The MLF is non-denominational Christian organization whose purpose is to holistically meet the needs of poor men, women, boys and girls who live in urban, under-resourced communities. They seek to providing necessary resources for urban churches to strengthen their existing ministries or create new ones where needed. They serve as a conduit for urban & suburban churches as they seek avenues for valid urban missions in Memphis. Finally, MLF works to empower indigenous leadership.

MLF has a proven track record of being a proactive intermediary in responding to the needs of the urban community since 1986. Mr. Eddings will offer the Riveroaks family an opportunity to

explore several of the programs affiliated with MLF. Women's Ministries may then choose from those programs one or two ministries to support throughout the next year.

One key benefit to this approach is the opportunity to provide compassion to inner city Christians without the requirement that we organize and recruit the entire team to deliver our service. In fact, several local PCA churches have already partnered with MLF and its programs.

For women who are curious or already committed to service to God's kingdom in Memphis, don't miss this evening!

"The first time you share tea with a Balti, you are a stranger; the second time, you are an honored guest, the third time you become family"

Plan Ahead: Your Time

We will need volunteers for some brief seasonal projects. **Elaine Barnes** is recruiting a team of cleaning/organizers to help her remove accumulated **clutter** from several church closets. These women will attack the jumbled piles left from past church programs. The team will meet once or twice, perhaps on a Saturday morning when men working on the church landscape can help carry out the resulting trash. Please contact Elaine at 758-0475 or barnes49@bellsouth.net if you can help one or both times.

We need **project leaders for Christmas-season initiatives**: soliciting donations for poinsettias; organizing the choir dinner and then the congregational sing-along potluck; coordinating collections and donations to MIFA and/or the Angel Tree, etc.

If you have a window of time you can offer and would like to organize a meaningful Christmas ministry, contact Clare Jones at 755 7110 or Clare_jones@bellsouth.net

One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty .. They will tell of the power of your awesome works ... They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness. The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. Psalm 145

Plan Ahead: Your Money

Women's Ministries (WIC) needs each of you to consider donations to certain programs.

1. For our ministers' wives:
 - a. Every other year we sponsor their participation in a retreat that is just for the wives of PCA ministers. If each RRPC woman donated \$2 the cost would be covered.
 - b. Decide if you would like to join together on a Christmas gift for the pastors' wives. Riveroaks has traditionally given a gift to the pastors and their families, but women of the church have also sometimes wanted to give a separate gift to these special sisters.

Donations will be collected at the morning and evening women's Bible study groups, or they can be left in a labeled envelope in the WIC mailbox at church.

2. The Women's Retreat is coming at the end of January. The cost to our church will be \$50 to \$70 depending on overnight stay. We'd like to make sure that everyone who is interested can attend, regardless of cost. Thus, in addition to your own retreat expense, we are asking for donations to a "Retreat Scholarship Fund" to help others attend.

Watch for details as Kim Benson and Shan Fite roll out the annual weekend plans.

FOR QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR
ANNOUNCEMENTS contact
Clare Jones, WIC President
at 755 7110 or clare_jones@bellsouth.net

