

Women's Ministry Makes a Change

A change has come to Women's Ministry. Since the start of Women's Ministry at Emmanuel Bible Fellowship in 2004, Jan Zachary has done a wonderful job as our Women's Ministry Team Leader. But this spring when Jan felt the need to step down to make more time for family considerations, she began praying for the Lord to lead her to just the right person to step in and take on the leadership role. Our Lord is faithful and He led her to Yuki Taylor, who agreed to become our new Women's Ministry Team Leader.

Many of you probably already know Yuki. She has been active among our women for several years, serving as a Mentor Mom in MOPS, and both leading and participating in Wednesday morning Bible studies. Most recently, she joined the Women's Ministry Team and headed up planning and organizing our last two Women's Retreats. It is a delight to welcome her now as the new Women's Ministry Team Leader.

For those who may not know Yuki well, let me share a little about her. Yuki grew up in the military as the middle child of an American father and Japanese mother. She spent her first fourteen years in Japan, and her high school years on Okinawa. It was there in her Algebra class that she became friends with a Christian girl who invited her to church. She felt the Lord drawing her to Him but was hesitant to go forward in church at the invitation. After speaking with her friend about her conviction and gaining reassurance that going forward in church to pray and receive Jesus was the right thing to do, she did so at the next opportunity and put her faith in Jesus Christ. That was January 27, 1990. She was baptized the following week.

After her high school graduation Yuki moved to Washington where she soon met David Taylor. They were married a year later. David and Yuki have three children: Yumi, 17, Danielle, 12, and Everett, 9. David serves EBF by managing the sound system, and their children are involved in church youth activities.

As a young mother and wife, Yuki realized early the

struggles that come along with these roles. She began to understand women's need to build relationships with other women not only for friendship, but also for support. Needing the fellowship of other women propelled her to also desire to come along side others in their need for relationship.

As Yuki takes on the role of Women's Ministry Team Leader, she sees serving in this ministry as a growth experience. She realizes that it must be done in God's strength and power. She



became aware of this recently through her service as Women's Ministry retreat coordinator. A few weeks before the last retreat, her plans were interrupted by a family crisis. Her retreat team stepped in to fill the gap, which showed her the Lord's provision through his people. Yuki says that as the new leader of



Women's Ministry, she hopes to bring the vision of the team to fruition, seeing that each component of Women's Ministry is cohesively serving the needs of EBF women. Yuki encourages individual women to discover where their gifts and talents lie, so they might know where they can most effectively serve in the church. Art Cosgrove, our Pastor of Community Life, gives a Spiritual Gifts class periodically that can aid those who may feel unsure in this area. Women's Ministry

is always looking for women who are inclined to enjoy helping in practical ways, particularly with the Christmas event and annual retreat. Yuki would like to have suggestions from EBF women about how they feel Women's Ministry can serve them. She says, "Women's Ministry is not just about recruiting workers, but also about serving women."

So change has come to Women's Ministry. As we welcome, and praise the Lord for our new Team Leader, Yuki Taylor; we also wave goodbye, and praise the Lord for our past Leader, Jan Zachary, as she steps down. Change must always come, and how wonderful it is for us as Christian women to know that the Lord is our Provider in times of change.

Thank you, Lord, for leading Women's Ministry in the past, and for promising to continue to lead us as we step into the future.

Open Hearts Ministry

A new ministry has begun at Emmanuel Bible Fellowship. It's called Open Hearts and was introduced to EBF by Marty Cosgrove. So far, two Open Hearts Journey Groups have met at EBC, and a third will soon begin. Each group meets for approximately 12 weeks.

Joni Wheeler is one of the new leaders in the Open Hearts Ministry, and she is enthused about her experience. Joni knows that many people have wounds that started in childhood and affect how they respond in relationships later in life. Nothing is a quick fix for these wounds, but Joni feels that Open Hearts has helped her find a safe place to share, consider, and work on things in her life that have held her back. Joni has been learning how self-protective measures from her early years carried over into adulthood, and how these have affected her relationships. She is willing to share a little of her story and involvement in the Open Hearts Ministry to encourage others.

Joni was raised in Southern California where her family attended a Bible believing church regularly. She put her faith in Jesus Christ at the age of nine, and at fifteen, she recommitted her life to Christ at a Billy Graham Crusade. Because of the strong Biblical teaching she received in her earlier years, Joni was able to endure trials that came later in her life knowing that through them the Lord was with her.

After her marriage in 1976, she and her husband moved to Washington where they joined Emmanuel Bible Fellowship. They became parents to a lovely daughter, Sarah. In 1984 Joni went to work at for the Department of Transportation, where she is now a human resources consultant. But sadly in 1990, tragedy struck. Her husband committed suicide. Joni found herself a widow with a ten-year-old daughter to care for alone. Following this devastating trial, she sought to heal from the wounds her heart had experienced in her marriage by attending counseling and other programs. These were helpful in getting her through the immediate trauma, but did not bring her to the point of true healing.

In 1996, Joni and Scott Wheeler married, and both are active in the ministry of EBF. Joni serves the Lord in the Jail Ministry and is excited about her new involvement with Open Hearts. Joni said she was drawn to the Open Hearts Ministry immediately after she heard about it. She attended a Journey Group in 2010, and co-facilitated one in January 2011. Last May, she and Kendal Keating attended the Open Hearts training in Michigan



where they experienced the twelve-session Journey in five days. Both Joni and Kendal were deeply challenged through this intensive Journey experience.

Joni says her experience with Open Hearts has helped her make progress in finding freedom from a lifetime of lies she believed about herself,

which have affected her relationships. It is in relationships that we can be hurt, and in relationships that we begin to find healing for our wounded hearts. Joni says that through the Journey she has opened up and allowed room for Christ to heal her heart-wounds and grow her faith. She states the experience gave her tools that help her recognize wrong attitudes she has harbored. This in turn has helped her gain greater courage to speak up rather than shut down. Through this process, she looks forward to building stronger relationships with others.

As a leader in the Open Hearts Ministry, Joni hopes to help participants look at the damage to their own hearts by providing a safe environment for them to open up and share, and loving them through the process. Jesus Christ is the ultimate wound healer, and He alone does the work of healing any persons' heart. The Open Hearts Ministry provides a wonderful vehicle for that process of healing to begin.

If you are interested in participating in this ministry, look for opportunities to join Open Hearts Journey Groups as they are advertised periodically in the church bulletin. Also Joni would be glad to speak with anyone interested in gaining more information.



Spiritual Spa Day

A Spiritual Spa Day Is Planned for October

Have you ever experienced a day at a spa where you've been given the works (scrubbed, massaged, moisturized, and oiled)? Personally I haven't, but recently I heard a brief recounting from Kendal Keating who, along with Deanna Henry, did just that. Kendal said it was quite the physical experience... a bit unnerving and humbling, fading into hilarious, but in the end satisfying. Interestingly, it also gave them inspiration!

Based on their experience at the spa, Kendal, Deanna, and Carol Pratt have planned a "Spiritual Spa Day" for EBF women, on Saturday, October 15, 2011, from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. Because it's an all day affair, a light breakfast and lunch will be served compliments

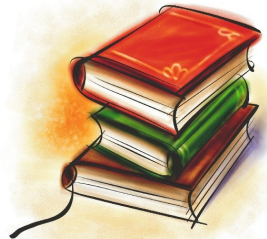
of Women's Ministry. The agenda will not have the physical components of a spa, but rather spiritual counterparts. Kendal, Deanna, and Carol will take us through the book of Ephesians while comparing the journey to a spa experience. They have some interesting activities to make this an interactive time of discovery and sharing together. And as an additional bonus, you'll get to hear their infamous "spa" story.

A sign-up sheet will be available at the Welcome Center. So set aside Oct 15th on your calendar...line up a sitter for the kids if you need to...and plan to join with other EBF women for a day at the "Spiritual Spa". You'll be glad you did.

Lamplight Readers

Have you thought about joining a reading group? If you have, fall is a great time to start. The Lamplight Readers will be having their next meeting on Saturday, September 17, 2011, at 9:00 am at Panera Bread in Lacey. We have been enjoying two books that we will discuss at our meeting: *Heaven* by Randy Alcorn, and *Heaven is for Real* by Todd Burpo. Our new book will also be introduced at that time.

If you would like more information, contact Donna Morse. Hope to see you there.



Girlz Getaway 2012

It's not too early to start planning for the 2012 Women's Ministry Retreat. Did you know that if you set aside five dollars a week from now until the retreat time, you will have the entire retreat paid for? In our strained economy, that makes good sense.

We're looking forward to going to SAMBICA again this year. Last year the facility provided a wonderful place for fellowship and enhancement of relationships both personal and spiritual. Our speaker will be Kristina Stepper, a professional woman who has experience in several areas of management in addition to being the Women's Ministry leader in her church. We'll share more later as plans unfold. But in the mean time, start saving up so you can be part of this special event.

EBF Women's Ministry Calendar

September 17, 2011, Saturday – Lamplight Readers Meeting, 9:00 -11:00 am

October 1, 2011, Saturday – Baby Shower for Cristy Buczko, 2:00 pm

October 15, 2011, Saturday – Spiritual Spa Day, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm

Baby Shower Ministry

A baby shower is being planned for Cristy Buczko.

- Sunday, October 1, 2011
- 2:00 pm.
- It will be held at the church.

Cristy and her husband, Keith, are looking forward to welcoming a new son. So mark your calendars and plan to join the celebration.