



EVERY WOMAN, EVERY HEART, MORE LIKE JESUS



SOUL FOOD

Scriptures that nourish our soul

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.
—Matthew 11:28-30

Dear Oakwood Sisters...

As I look out the window today, I see leaves falling to the ground, trees bending with the wind, and dark clouds gathering in the sky. I know it's chilly out there, but in my home it's warm and cozy with a wonderful apple cinnamon smell and music softly playing. OK —I'll be honest and confess that there's no apple pie in the oven -- just a scented candle in the bedroom -- but it's all I need to feel safe inside when the weather outside is cold and forbidding.

Isn't it the same with the Word of God? When we are surrounded by troubles and basically overwhelmed with life, we can open our Bible and hear God speaking words of comfort and even joy.

Sometimes, that's all we need to feel safe and loved.

And sometimes it's nice to put a face on God's Word through Christ-centered friendships. In other words, godly girl friends can be God's love for us.

That's where women's ministry can help. The purpose of Oakwood's One Heart Women's Ministry is to accept and love women of all ages; to encourage and equip them to grow in Christ, and to serve in their families, church, and community.

On December 2nd, there will be plenty of friendly smiles, cheerful greetings, kind words and compassionate hugs at the Christmas Brunch. I encourage everyone to come and be

accepted, encouraged, loved, and equipped. Why? Because we all need something to feel safe inside when the world outside is cold and forbidding.

The Christmas Brunch is FREE but **reservations are required** so be sure to sign-up in the church lobby during the month of November or call the church office 248-628-6388.

You can also sign-up to:

- Be a table hostess
 - Bring a sweet treat
- In the spirit of Christmas giving, please consider making a donation towards the purchase of a vacuum cleaner for the Women's Program at Grace Center of Hope

See you at the Brunch!

—Fran Maddock



Simplify ... A Word from Deb Mantel

We all long for a simpler, saner approach to life. But where do we begin? The key is figuring out what's most important in our lives and then making room for what we've decided is important. Sounds easy, but it takes effort and focus. And for most women today, our lives are so crowded and busy that we don't have the space we need to evaluate our lives at all.

Let me encourage you to begin planning some "slow-down" times so that you can catch your breath and begin to look at your

life honestly. Often the most helpful thing we can do when we feel overwhelmed is STOP and take some time to THINK about what is going on and why. As women, we are very complex, and several different areas of our lives can contribute to how we are experiencing life in general. Consider which areas are especially challenging. What is working well and what is not?

It's never too late to make changes and to head in a different direction. Consider this an opportunity to begin living a

life of purpose and passion. Being proactive is always more work than being reactive, but it is so worth it!

DEB MANTEL is the guest speaker for this year's Christmas Brunch on Saturday December 2nd 10am–1pm

- *Scrumptious Buffet*
 - *Irresistible Hot Cocoa Bar*
 - *Inspiring Message & Music*
- RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**



One Heart Wings Christmas Party

As you may know, we are blessed to have a group of awesome Oakwood sisters that minister on Friday nights once every month in the Women's Shelter at Grace Centers of Hope. We call them the *One Heart Wings*!! We are so grateful for their outreach ministry.

This Christmas, our *Wings* are going to be throwing a special Christmas party for the women

(and their kids) at the Shelter. There will be music, food, games and activities, gift bags, etc. The Christmas party will be on Friday night, December 15th from 6:30–9:00pm. They will leave the Oakwood parking lot at approximately 5:30pm.

Would you like to participate? There is room for up to 15 additional women to help with the party. We can also use

donations of money toward the party supplies.

If you can help assemble the gift bags, meet Vicki Allison at the church on Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 11:00am.

Please contact Patty Meixell or Cheryl Bongiorno for more information or to be Included.

pattym@johnburtrealty.com

cheryl@oakwoodcc.org



The Gatherings Are For All Women

The Gatherings are informal opportunities for women to connect and get to know one another in a casual atmosphere. Julie Jackson and a team of dedicated women have something planned for every month! Mark your calendars for these upcoming *Gathering* dates. Then make plans to join the fun and get to know more women who attend Oakwood Community Church!

Friday, November 17, 2017

Oakwood's Lobby 6:30–8:00pm
Fellowship, Food, Fun with an easy craft (no artistic ability required!). Childcare available.

Thursday, December 7, 2017

Off-site (location TBD) 6:30pm
It's a field trip to view some beautiful Christmas lights. Look for details on the One Heart Bulletin Board!

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Oakwood's Lobby 6:30–8:00pm
Childcare available

Monday, February 5, 2018

Red Knapps in Oxford 11:30am

Thursday, March 8, 2018

Oakwood's Lobby 6:30pm
Childcare available



Forum: Equipping Every Woman for God's Call

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord's work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

1 Corinthians 15:58 (CSB)

On November 8–11, fifteen women from Oakwood will be traveling to Nashville, TN for the *2017 Lifeway Women's Leadership Forum*.

Please pray for Vicki Allison, Cheryl Bongiorno, Lindsay Collins, Julie Gleason, Melisa Hall, Angela Hasman, Julie Jackson, Meg Knauf, Melody Kyle, Jeannie Leech, Fran Maddock, Patty Meixell, Pam Michalski, Cheryl Nalian, and Wendy Penzien.

What is Women's Leadership Forum? Women from across the nation gather with other women

to challenge one another, hear teachings from God's Word, and walk out equipped to lead wherever God has planted them. They will sit under the teaching of today's top ministry leaders and authors, experience worship with women on similar journeys, share ideas, and learn strategies.



Everyone Needs Encouragement

Sometimes, a cheerful hello and reassuring words can brighten a woman's mood

when she's feeling low. So don't be surprised if you get a call from Vicki Allison —

she's sharing encouragement on behalf of *One Heart Women's Ministry*.