

What's New This Year?

January is the beginning of a new year and often a time to make resolutions. Typical resolutions are to lose weight, exercise more, spend less time at work and more time with family....the list goes on. But what if you were to ask God what He wants you to change, improve or begin this year?

Women Ministries desires to connect women across the conference more regularly. That's what this e-letter launch is all about. Looking for a new idea? Want to know more about what other women are doing? The Leadership Team's prayer is that your group will be inspired by the stories of others.

The news from you....

Sarnia, ON

Lighthouse continues to grow and we've been delighted to welcome a number of young families. As a women's team we will seek creative ways to help this quickly growing group get to know us and one another and become meaningfully involved in each others' lives. We enjoy games nights for connecting in fun and breaking the ice. To connect on a deeper level we presently have two groups studying Beth Moore's "Jesus the One and Only". The third group (the one I was in) has completed the study already. I highly recommend this video series. We also love to share in meeting needs. I'm amazed and encouraged as one quick email request resulted in great generosity flowing to a young woman and her children who find themselves in the throes of a separation. I love that God gave women such nurturing as well as fun loving hearts and really look forward to all that's ahead of us in 2009. ~Trudy McIntosh

Durban, Manitoba

WM is looking forward to getting together in the new year when it's warmer. It has been bitterly cold so many are spending their time at home. The women would like to share that they have helped with the food bank, adopted a family for the Christmas Cheer Hampers from Swan River. They also sent smaller hampers to 3 single mother families. We had Christmas coffee with a Scottish theme at seniors housing and a family potluck at the church on the 28th.

Junction, BC (Nelson)

We've got 3 women's bible study groups on the go right now. In the fall, a couple of us put together a "Shop Til You Drop" clothing swap, and later, a Bulk Food Sale. We hope to get an organized women's group started.

Hope Covenant (Strathmore, AB)

Our hope for the coming year would be to marshal some good leadership, and new enthusiasm. Right now, the younger women don't want any more meetings to attend, or responsibilities! They are busy with their families, Children's ministries, Kidergy, hockey-you name it. Now and then we get a burst of enthusiasm and plan an event, whether it's a breakfast to support our SIM, Granny's Sleepover, or Tapestry. Other than that, we monthly roll bandages for Dr. Manno's clinic in Haiti. Most of the bandages travel with our mission team that yearly goes to Haiti. Many of our ladies also knitted baby caps for

the clinic, a project promoted by a member of one of the mission teams. For an explanation of terms:

Granny's Sleepover was an night for ladies and any age girls to dress up like their grandmother and come to the church for a sleepover. We had a "tea" with rolled sandwiches, beverage, and served with bone china teacups. We gave opportunity to talk about life in our grandmother's day, watched DVD's of *The Walton's*, giggled a lot, slept on air mattresses, and were treated to a delicious breakfast served by the men.

Tapestry is a once a year event when the members of the church are welcome to show their crafts, hobbies, visual arts, or perform for a program. This is a well attended event, followed by dessert.

This June is Hope's turn to provide the meals for the Ladies Retreat at Covenant Bay Bible Camp, and we hope to get many more women involved in this opportunity to go to the Retreat. Every year is such fun.

Melfort, SK.

We are doing many of the same things with our group this year as in previous years. We have only 4 or so evening get-togethers. They usually have a theme and sometimes a speaker but it's pretty much just a chance for us to get together and fellowship. For example this fall we did have a lady from the Salvation Army Family Services come in and share with us what they do in their community and what their needs are. This is one thing we want to be more intentional about is helping those in crisis in our community and it seems people automatically think of the S.A. and so we want to help them in any way we can, food donations, more Christmas hampers, etc. Many evenings though are just fun and fellowship. We will take our turn with Meals on Wheels again, a January birthday party for our local nursing home, a February Ladies Retreat, and we also serve at the funeral lunches, send gifts to those who are hospitalized, away on a mission trip, first year college students get a care package in the fall, supply food to those who are unwell due to surgery etc.. We also have a bursary we give to first year bible school students. We will make up goodie trays for our shut-ins at Easter and Christmas. We also keep our kitchen stocked. We want to try to help our community more; to reach out. This will probably be through the S.A. Our goal is fellowship and service. -Darla

Prince Albert, SK.

1. Our WM annual meeting has been postponed (since some of our members are on holidays), so we haven't yet outlined our plans for the coming year. Your input may give us some new ideas.

2. Our annual ladies' retreat is scheduled for the end of February. It is now being planned and organized with help from an enthusiastic, *younger* gal. We look forward to this new input. In November we had a "ladies night out" at a restaurant where we enjoyed Chinese food, a good time of fellowship, a devotional, and a very short business meeting.

-Sharon

Minnedosa, MB

We are slow to get going this New Year, but have our first meeting on the 17th. January is our recruitment month as we try to bring new ladies into our Leadership team. The

focus for our group is outreach and we always seem to come up with new ideas to invite the community into our church.

Balfour, BC

Pauline Lessard shared 3 ways their WM is trying new things:

1. Beth Moore (video) in-depth Bible Studies. Those who participated and completed the assignments in their workbooks were blessed beyond words. There were copious amounts of scripture to be read each week. They not only got to know the Heavenly Father on a deeper level they also got to know each other better through honest sharing.
2. One of the ladies hosts a Women's Breakfast in her home every month. The hour includes a wonderful breakfast, short inspirational homily along with a prayer, and the opportunity to meet neighbours and get acquainted with the new women in their church.
3. A yearly Ladies Retreat is held at Dutch Harbour Bible Camp with women from all 4 congregations participating. Women find they are truly inspired and challenged.

Erickson, BC

While it's more comfortable to do the familiar, tried and true, doing something new gives the women an opportunity to be creative and search for new ways to reach out and connect with other women. This month we will host a Caribbean Tropical Party complete with beach, sun umbrellas, beach towels and inspiring thoughts "Down by the Sea." The evening will begin with a Caribbean buffet followed by zany games and finished with a devotional by one of our new women.

While those fun times give opportunity for women to get acquainted, Women's Bible Studies have provided deeper exchanges. Through 12 Bible characters "To Run and Not Grow Tired" is helping participants see how God cares about every problem. The women have so enjoyed this study by Fran Sciacca that they will be doing another one of his published Bible studies (NavPress).

The news from Canada's WM team...

We'll start with some introductions ☺

Coordinators: Korleen Stapleton & Pattie Peterson

Secretary: Judy Nelson

Equipping: Jeramie-Lee Nelson

CM&J: Natasha Westerhoud

Global Ministry: Faith Campbell

Gretchen Johnson: Liaison to Denominational WM

Canada WM has a website! Check us out on

www.canadacovenantchurch.org/womenministries. Our latest newsletter (Fall '08) and monthly e-letters will be available with a lot of other information for you and your local group!

Our theme for the February e-letter will be "From the Heart". We'd 'love' to highlight updates on any recent or upcoming missions projects that the ladies in your group are

involved in. We also look forward to hearing how your group is supporting "Break the Chains".

Reminder: February 12 is WM Sunday. *Break the Chains Canada* will be focusing on Southeast Asia. WM Chicago has sent out the DVD for Project 2009 – look for it in your church mail!

WM Canada is also working with ECCC on a promotional brochure for IJM (International Justice Mission – Canada) that will receive receipting from ECCC.