



Women's Connection Purpose Statement

We want to know Jesus Christ through the study of His Word

To love and serve God and one another

To make Him known in our community and throughout the world

A Note from Linda

I am so thankful that you have picked up this brochure. I trust that you will find within its contents information that will encourage you to get involved where God is at work. I believe God is at work through the ministry of Central Christian Church and Women's Connection. We have prayed and worked together as a ministry team to provide opportunities for us all to grow in our relationship with Christ. There are studies, places to serve, and ways to support and encourage one another in the months ahead.

I hope that each one of you will join a small group study. I don't know how to survive the circumstances of life without the direction and encouragement that I receive from the Word of God.

There is a story in 2 Kings 22 and 23 that tells of a high priest who found a lost book that contained God's written Word. He took the book to the king. The book was read to the king who realized that he and his people had neglected to follow God's Word. They had forgotten about it while it was hidden away and lost for who knows how long. They had not been following God's ways and laws. The king was devastated and tore his clothes (a sign of sorrow and mourning) because they had not done according to all that was written in the book. Wouldn't it be a different world if we all responded to the Word of God with such sorrow when we have not followed His Word, and how would we know unless we read it and study it?

The Book has been made available to us. We need it to survive the circumstances of daily life so that God will be honored by the way we live and love.

We have a variety of study opportunities available to us this year. Everything that we do in the ministry of Women's Connection is built around these studies. I pray that you will find friendships and places where you can use your gifts. I trust that this will be a great year for you. I am looking forward to seeing God at work in our lives.

Linda Prather

Women's Connection Director



Study

Wednesday Mornings

All Wednesday morning studies will meet in the Worship Center for worship and announcements before dividing into their small groups for study and discussion. This year we have several options from which you may choose. A Children's Program will be offered (see section on Childcare for more information).

A Woman's Heart: God's Dwelling Place

Beth Moore

Through this in-depth study of the Old Testament tabernacle, explore the fascinating account of the building of the tabernacle, the significance of its intricate design, its pivotal role in God's eternal plan, and its variety of meanings for women today.

Pam Snodgrass, 274-8620

Living Beyond Yourself

Beth Moore

This powerful study will equip believers to come to know the freedom of a life filled with peace, joy, gentleness, and other positive characteristics. By encouraging you to develop and maintain an intimate relationship with the Spirit of God, this study will help you to nurture and cultivate the fruit of the Spirit in your daily life.

Pam Snodgrass, 274-8620



Alpha

Alpha is a study for women interested in investigating Christianity and for those who would consider themselves beginners in the Christian faith. Alpha addresses questions real people want to ask such as: What's so great about the Bible? Who is this Jesus and why did He have to die? Who is the Holy Spirit? If you are interested in exploring with friendly, non-judgmental people where you can ask any question without feeling uncomfortable, Alpha might just be the place for you.

Lindy Fonseca, 722-3812

Tuesday Evenings

Our evening Bible studies are on Tuesday nights this year. Because so many of our ladies (and leaders) are working women, we meet every other Tuesday night instead of weekly. We hope that this will make it easier for our busy working women to set aside these dates and still work in all of the other tasks that have to fit into their schedules. A Children's Program is offered (see section on Childcare for more information).

The Patriarchs

Beth Moore

Plunge into the heart of Genesis, to God's remarkable pursuit of relationship and to the unfolding of His earthly plan: that through one nation—and ultimately, one man—all people on earth will be blessed. Many of the most profound and enduring concepts in the whole counsel of God's Word are initiated in this marvelous book of beginnings.

Anita Stanfield, 943-9768

Arming Yourself in the Age of Seduction

Beth Moore

With 1 Samuel 12:20–25 as a guide, Beth Moore shows Christian women how they can arm themselves against temptation and learn how to help other fallen believers. The study serves as a warning to believers, a resource for preparing for the attacks of the enemy, and a guide for those who have been ensnared and want to return to intimacy with God.

Jackie Davis, 718-8928

Childcare

Childcare is available for newborns through age 12 during our Wednesday morning and Tuesday evening studies. Grade school children (home schooled and off-track) who come on Wednesday mornings must bring 1 hour of school work or a book to read. Infants may remain with their moms in Bible study until 4 months of age.

You can have confidence in our childcare staff. Everyone who works with your child has been fingerprinted and had a background check.

Our Children's Program is not just childcare, but a small preschool experience for your little one with story time, a craft, a snack, and lots of love. Children's Program registration fees vary according to the study or activity you choose.

Kim Baywood, 949-9930



More Study Opportunities

Living Beyond Yourself

Sundays at 11:00 am

This powerful study by Beth Moore will equip believers to come to know the freedom of a life filled with peace, joy, gentleness, and other positive characteristics. By encouraging you to develop and maintain an intimate relationship with the Spirit of God, this study will help you to nurture and cultivate the fruit of the Spirit in your daily life. This is the same study offered on Wednesday mornings.

Pam Snodgrass, 274-8620

TLC - The Lighter Connection

Mondays at 6:30 pm

TLC is a group of committed women who meet for Bible study, support, and accountability in weight loss. We focus on replacing unhealthy habits with new ones that will draw us closer to the Lord as we learn to discipline our bodies and minds and to give Christ first place in our lives. Areas of accountability include: Bible study attendance, memorization of Scripture verses, exercise, prayer, daily Scripture reading, encouragement, daily Bible study lessons, and food journaling.

Our study is "Making Wise Choices" published by First Place. We will learn to distinguish wise choices from unwise choices, to seek God's will in decision making, and to learn how to face the consequences of our choices.

Remember, you don't have to go it alone! With the support and fellowship of others, you are more likely to succeed. Please join our group for a good source of accountability and a supportive environment of fellow Christians who share in and understand your struggles and needs.

Lisa Diaz, 718-8210



Friendship Bible Coffees

Basics of Christianity

We plan to provide opportunities for those who would like to take a 6-week study on the basics of the Christian faith. These studies, produced by Stoncroft Ministries, require trained guides. Carolyn Beuder will provide training for those who would like to learn to lead one of these studies. This is easy to do and rewarding to those who learn more about the fundamentals of Christianity. These are excellent choices for a short summer study. Let us know if you would like to become a guide or hostess or to participate in a Friendship Bible Coffee study.

Carolyn Beuder, 722-2250

The Girlfriend Connection

The Girlfriend Connection is a part of the Women's Connection here at Central that serves women of all ages—women who are interested in building new friendships and enhancing the cherished relationships of long standing in our lives. We are all about fun! The Girlfriend Connection offers a time for just “girlfriends” to get together, relax, and enjoy each other's company while participating in a wide variety of planned activities. Come join us, and be sure to invite your friends along for a fun time of friendship!

Debbie Sullivan, 270-1922

Support



DAFY Gals

The Dear And Faithfully Yoked Gals is a unique and loving group of women who are widowed or alone. They meet together to encourage and support one another and work on service projects, get-togethers, and special events. DAFY Gals meets on the third Tuesday of each month year-round. Joyce Kauffman, 729-1751

Mothers Of Preschoolers (MOPS)

Raising children under school age (from birth through kindergarten) is a blessing, but it can also be overwhelming. Through relationships and resources, MOPS encourages all moms of “preschoolers” (regardless of their background and lifestyle) to be the very best moms they can be!

MOPS meetings are a time to relax, build friendships, and find encouragement from other moms. Each meeting includes brunch, speakers, discussion, games, and crafts. As a community of moms, we also meet for Mom’s Night Out, play-dates, and other special events throughout the year.



This year, we are looking for mentors—Christian women who have already survived their children’s preschool years (temper tantrums and all). As mentors, these women will share their wisdom, friendship, and faith with today’s mothers of preschoolers.

Whether you are a MOPS mom or a mentor, we invite you to join us on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 9:00-11:30 a.m. in the Worship Center (except in January 2007 when we will meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday).

Martina Randall, 256-0801





AV Teen MOPS (Teen Mothers Of Preschoolers)

When a young woman faces pregnancy, she often meets with condemnation, not to mention the numerous difficulties of being both a teen and a mother. At AV Teen MOPS, teen moms of children under school age (from pregnancy through kindergarten) will be nurtured in a faith-based, nonjudgmental environment.

We encourage these young moms to stay in school, become better moms, develop leadership skills, and choose healthy relationships. Like Central's "classic" MOPS group, AV Teen MOPS provides plenty of nourishing food, insightful speakers, thoughtful discussions, and a relaxing craft time. Mature Christian women are needed to serve in leadership and other ministry capacities such as one-time speakers and as drivers. Won't you consider joining us in this exciting endeavor? AV Teen MOPS follows the schedule of the Tuesday night Bible study, meeting every other Tuesday evening.

Janice Hunter, 947-7327 or Ashley Hunter, 718-0901

Prayer Ministry

"First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity." (2 Timothy 2:1-2)

When the Bible says supplication or petition, it means "to have an audience with the king", "to have the good fortune to be admitted to an audience to the present a petition." We want to have an audience with the King on behalf of others and the work God has for us to do. We invite you to meet with us once a week for a brief time of prayer right after our Wednesday Bible study. A prayer list will be provided.

Betsy Holifield, Prayer Coordinator, 947-3295

Service

Compassion Connection

The Compassion Connection provides a link between those in need and those who are willing to serve. You can help with the Grocery Connection, providing food for our on-site food pantry, Acts of Kindness which focuses on assisting single parents, the elderly, widows, and Angel Tree families, or train for our Budget Coach Connection offering biblical counsel to those who need to get a grip on their finances. [Concepción Harris, 945-7902, charris@centralchristian.org](mailto:charris@centralchristian.org)

Funeral Ministry

The women of Central are sometimes called into action to assist a family who has suffered the loss of a loved one. We have several teams of women who prepare food at home and/or serve meals at funerals held here at the church. You can show Christ's love in a practical way and make a difference in the life of a family in the midst of their grief by joining the Funeral Ministry Team.

[Patty Shullanberger, 723-7853](mailto:Patty.Shullanberger@centralchristian.org)

Sound/Tech

There is an invisible team of women who provide essential behind-the-scenes support for our studies, support groups, and special events from the sound booth. This team works together to control the sound, lighting and visual presentations when we meet in the Worship Center. You, too, can see things from a new perspective. No experience is necessary, and training is provided.

[Sherry Scott, 949-7061](mailto:Sherry.Scott@centralchristian.org)





Kitchen Ministry

With a church this size, we have a kitchen full of supplies to maintain. It requires straightening and organizing now and then. Debbie Sullivan has been overseeing this ministry and has scheduled times to have a team or individual straighten the supplies that are purchased each month and keep the serving baskets filled. When people empty your dishwasher, they never put things where they belong, and the same thing happens in our kitchen. If you have a couple of hours once a month and would like to help, we would welcome you with open arms. It is so good to go to a kitchen and find things in the right place!

Debbie Sullivan, 270-1922

Love Loaf Ministry

When someone visits Central for the first time, they receive a loaf of sweet bread delivered to their home during the next week. If you have ever received one of these, then you know that they are a pleasant surprise. Our Love Loaf Team provides the bread that is delivered to these visitors. We need women to bake sweet breads at home for these visitors. After baking, you can wrap the bread, bring it to the church kitchen, and place it in the freezer.

Concepción Harris, 945-7902, charris@centralchristian.org

Coffee Ministry

Another behind-the-scenes ministry here at the Women's Connection is the Coffee Ministry. Did you ever wonder how the coffee gets here for our events? We have a team of women who come a bit early for Bible study or special events to prepare coffee, set out condiments, and prepare a place for you. You can join this team and give our ladies a lift when they come to our events.

Jan Rhodes, 824-2156

Purple Pages

“She makes linen garments and sells them and supplies the merchants with sashes.”
(Proverbs 31:24)

Have you ever wanted to support the members and regular attenders of Central when considering where to buy the products and services you use? Have you ever wanted to let the women of Central know that you sell a product or provide a service? If so, then the Purple Pages are for you! Within these pages you will find at-home businesses all run by the women of Central.

As a consumer you can use these pages as a guide when choosing where to purchase goods and services. As an at-home business woman, you can use these pages as a way of letting the women of Central know about your business.

Jane Martin, 722-1256

Special Events

Our Special Events Ministry is a group of support teams that make special events happen. It takes many hands to put the Fall Kickoff or Celebrate the Seasons together. Your help could be used in any of these areas: set up, clean up, decorating, food preparation, kitchen duties, ticket sales, shopping, phone calls, greeting, tablecloth laundering, serving as a table hostess, etc. In addition to these “hands-on” opportunities, we also need people with ideas who can help with the planning of these events. Because these events are infrequent, the commitment is short and flexible, but the camaraderie experienced while working with this team will last and last.

Kami Hendrie, 718-3717





Dates to Remember

Dr. Kevin Leman

September 9-11, 2006

Join us On September 9-11 as we are treated to the teaching of Dr. Kevin Leman, best-selling author and internationally-known speaker. A special session called "Motherstress" for stay-at-home moms is planned for Monday, September 11 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Childcare will be provided free of charge, but there is limited space. Reserve a spot for your child by calling Evelyn Blackburn in the church office (945-7902) or e-mailing us at childcare@centralchristian.org. Be sure to give your child's name and age.

World Missions Conference

November 4-12, 2006

Bob Sjogren, author of *Cat and Dog Theology*, will be the opening speaker for this year's church-wide World Mission Conference. The week will be filled with opportunities to learn about what God is doing throughout the world. Women's Connection will host two sessions - a video night on Tuesday, November 7 at 6:30 pm and an international brunch on Wednesday, November 8 at 9:00 am. Even if you don't normally come to Women's Bible study, be sure to join us.

THRIVE!

Saturday, November 4, 2006

On Saturday, November 4, Vineyard Christian Fellowship will host THRIVE! - Begin the Journey, a simulcast featuring national speakers and worship leaders. For more information about THRIVE! visit www.injoy.com/thrive.

Celebrate the Seasons Thursday, November 16 & Friday, November 17, 2006

Each year during the third week of November, we prepare for the holiday season by focusing on the true meaning of Thanksgiving and Christmas. Celebrate the Seasons is a two-day event which includes a holiday boutique and a special program with a holiday theme. This is a great opportunity to reach out to friends and family, neighbors and co-workers and invite them to hear about the reason for the season.

Celebrate Simply

December 5, 2006

If the Christmas season represents additional work and stress for you instead of joy, join us on Tuesday evening, December 5th at 6:30 p.m. to learn some simple secrets for a beautiful holiday celebration. This one-night event will help you to recapture the holiday cheer that you may have missed in years past. Be sure to mark your calendar now.

Nicole Hedges, 618-6375

Karen Burton Mains

March 16, 2007

Karen Burton Mains, the author of *Open Heart, Open Home*, will be here on March 16, 2007. If you live with the illusion that hospitality requires some sort of Martha Stewart-like abilities, Karen will free you from that kind of thinking. Karen offers some fresh and inspiring ideas for using your own resources to serve rather than to impress.

Whether you are a seasoned entertainer or an entertainment klutz, you will discover how the Holy Spirit can work in and through you to make others feel welcome and wanted. All of us can learn more and find the encouragement we need to reach out with an open heart to others with acceptance and love.



Women's Connection Ministry Team

Linda Prather, Director

Carolyn Beuder, Outreach

Nicole Hedges, Properties Manager

Kami Hendrie, Special Events

Betsy Hollifield, Prayer Coordinator

Jane Martin, Website Maintenance

Sherry Scott, Technical Team

Pam Snodgrass, Wednesday Morning Studies

Anita Stanfield, Monday Evening Studies

Debbie Sullivan, Girlfriend Connection

Melinda Thomas, Teen MOPS



central christian church 3131 w avenue j lancaster ca 93536