

Christ our Savior is born!



Outreach Update

Thank you once again for your generosity, the Underwear Drive for the Watkins Overflow Shelter was a huge success! We delivered over 1000 items! Just imagine, new before the old fell apart and even having a choice, it doesn't often happen that way when you live in a shelter.

Women's Ministry is building an Outreach team and we need your help. If God is putting it on your heart to serve more actively in outreach please contact me, there are so many ways you can help! patdemott@cox.net

Apples of Gold: A nurturing program for women

Women are searching for community, camaraderie and companionship. They also want to grow and mature in their homemaking skills as well as in their spiritual lives. Apples of Gold fills all of these needs. It's not just a mentoring program; it's not just a cooking class. It's a nurturing, intergenerational connection that teaches women how to become the women that God intended them to be.

This six-week class will begin January 24th and run through March 7th (There will be no class on February 21st for the President's Day holiday.) Cost of \$85.00 will include study materials, recipes, and lunches. It will be in the home of Vickie Good (North Scottsdale/Cave Creek area.) Registration begins January 3rd online and January 9th & 16th in the lobby. For more information, contact Vickie Good at: vlgood@goodsinsuranceagency.com or www.highlandswomen.net See "STUDIES" tab on the home page.



I am Helen Mercer, your new Bible Studies Coordinator. I love this time of year! Jesus is the reason for the season! It means more to me this year, as Ed and I have recently traveled to Israel. After 20+ years in Bible study, it was a humbling and emotional privilege to experience—His birth, life, His ministry and His death. Jesus taught many, many lessons, which are as relevant today as they were 2000 years ago.

I found that believers in Jesus come from all walks of life—with one thing in common—we know that He is the Way, the Truth and the life. He came to earth, lived, was tested and died a horrible death for US! Ladies, we are on this temporary journey together. Let's embrace that and come along side each other in our studies, growth and fellowship.

As our fall classes come to an end, I look forward to seeing all of you in our winter studies beginning in January.

Merry Christmas!

Peace and love,

Helen

Growing In God's Word Bible Studies January 11/12 - March 29/30

Revised & Updated

**Breaking Free
A Beth Moore DVD Study**
Wednesday Morning: 9:00 -11:15 a.m.
Wednesday Evening : 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Be Alert: Beware of the Religious Impostors

Tuesday: 6:30—7:30 a.m.
Wednesday: 9:00 -11:15 a.m.

Save the date!
Women's Spring Getaway
in Prescott, April 1-3, 2011.

For more information or to register on line go to our website at:
www.highlandswomen.net



From My Heart to Yours

We hunger for gifts and this hunger is not so much a hunger for pleasure as it is for affection. Our need for love is universal and limitless; it is of the essence of life – and all gifts are signs of that compelling and deep-seated desire to love and to be loved, so says Paul Tournier in his engag-

ing book, *The Meaning of Gifts*.

What Christmas gift is memorable to you? My earliest recollection as a very young child is the beautiful Raggedy Ann doll that my grandma made for me. It was huge, almost as tall as me. I embraced it with great joy and delight. As I look back, I now recognize the great love grandma had for me, not only at Christmas but every day. Just as I embraced my new Raggedy Ann, the love in my heart embraced my grandma.

A gift: that which is given; to give.

Paul Tournier continues, "The great gift, the unique and living one, is not a thing but a person. It is Jesus Christ Himself. In Him God has given Himself, no longer just things which He creates or has created, but His own person, His own suffering, and His own solitude, given unto death itself. The news of the revelation is that it is really a gift. It is free, without reservation and without recall."

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that *He gave* His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. *He gave* – that is, He gave the gift of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection – for you and for me!

John 4:10 Jesus answered her (the Samaritan woman), "If you knew the *gift of God...*" The word for gift here is *free gift*, it is not a reward and it cannot be earned.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the *gift of God* is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ephesians 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the *gift of God*.

2 Corinthians 10:15 Thanks be to God for His *incredible gift!* (God's gift is inexpressible, beyond words.) God is the first giver; He selflessly gives Himself to us in the person of His Son, and all true Christian giving is our grateful response.

Our hunger for love and affection and the ability to reciprocate it is found only in God's gift to the world, Jesus Christ. Blessed Christmas!

Joan Lazear, Director of Women's Ministries

Highlands Book Worms

Potluck Christmas Brunch at Bambi's

Tuesday, Dec. 7th, 9:00-11:00am

Bring your favorite holiday breakfast/lunch treat and come ready to share a Christmas book or story that has special meaning for you. For directions contact Bambi at bam11blue@aol.com or Pat at patdemott@cox.net January 4, 2011 book – "*The Hiding Place*" by Corrie Ten Bloom

Knit Witters

Women of all ages, come and join our fun group that involves knitting, crocheting and making new friendships! Bring your own projects. Don't know how to knit or crochet...we'll teach you!

Tuesday Evenings 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Church Offices Conference Room

Contact:

Margaret Ford MargaretFord@dcranch.com 480-502-90304
or Maria Lage marialage@aol.com 480-998-4788



Highlands Hikers

When: Dec. 11th, 3:30PM

**Where: Sunrise Trail Traverse
Intermediate– advanced**

Hike the entire scenic Sunrise Trail beginning at the 145th Way Trailhead and ending at the 128th Street Trailhead. It's a 4.5 mile hike with a 1,150-foot elevation gain to Sunrise Peak. Long steep sections. Allow about 3 hours. Meet at the end of 128th Street north of Via Linda for carpooling to 145th Way Trailhead. We expect to be finished at 5:30pm
More information at: www.highlandswomen.net

Contact:

Wendy Arendt warendt@cox.net 480-321-6161

Jennifer Duenas jenniferduenas@msn.com 480-789-1845



Woman to Woman Mentoring Ministry

Orientation Coffee-January 31, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Sign ups in the Lobby begin January 16th

For more information see the website or contact:

Mary Shinar 480-473-9131 mshinar@cox.net

Get connected:

<http://www.highlandswomen.net> for information on all our programs.