

## Weekly Events

### Monday

- **Bible Study** — 5:15-6:45p.m., 6:30-8:00 p.m., 1:00 - 3:30 p.m. - Library- Barb Miller, 382-1207
- **Women's Fitness Class** — 5:15 - 6:00 p.m.
- **Women's Walking Exercise** — 6:45 p.m. in Gym, For information call 380-3186
- **Caring & Sharing** — 7:00 p.m. — Room 101 Ella Mae — 382-3047

### Tuesday

- **Bible Study** — 9:00-10:30 a.m.

### Wednesday

- **Bible Study**—6:45-8:00 p.m.

### Thursday

- **"Free" Moms** — 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. - 2nd & 4th Thurs. -Winnie Poland, 379-6327
- **Women's Fitness Class** — 5:15 - 6:00 p.m.

## Looking Ahead

### Circles

#### Mary Martha Circle — Room 104

Beulah Nunnenkamp 384-1790 - Velma Fehr 382-2503  
Meets 2nd Tuesday alternate months

#### White Cross — Room 104

Connie Jensen 382-1353 - Kathryn Holmberg 382-7048  
Meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 4th Thursday in July - Oct

A publication for the  
Grand Island Evangelical Free Church  
Women's Ministry

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### Prayer Chain

For all prayer requests, (a.m. or p.m.), please call the church office - 382-1898 - or email ninas@giefc.org.

# Women of the Light



*Jesus said to the people, "I am the Light of the world so if you follow me, you won't be stumbling through the darkness, for living light will flood your path." John 8:12*

**Welcome!** "Women of the Light" exists for you to learn more about Women's Ministries at the Grand Island Evangelical Free Church. We hope it will help you feel more connected to what the Lord is doing through the Bible Studies, the outreach events, and the regular groups that meet together. *Women's Ministries Leadership Team*

March 2009

Volume 10

## Sharing the Light...Sandy Van Zyl



Remember the old double-edged razor blades? My dad shaved with those and I used to enjoy taking the flat shiny blades in and out. They were so sharp I could hardly touch them without cutting myself...ouch! Our Hebrews study has been encouraging so far--- Jesus our brother, Jesus exalted above the angels, above Moses; Jesus, understanding our every temptation. Now in Chapter 4, verse 12 it says: **"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."** Sharper than a double-edged sword---ouch! God's Word

penetrates, going deep to judge our thoughts and attitudes. Many books have been written by human authors in hopes of changing people. And some do help to affect change in one area or another. But what book can span a lifetime, giving wisdom to every area of our lives? Only God's Word is "living and active" and as believers, it should be our guidebook. This is the reason our Women's Ministry adopted the Core Value statement,

***"Growing godly women through the study of God's Word and providing a safe place for godly relationships to develop."***

In the past few years we have seen our women turn out to study the Bible in ever increasing numbers. This year 200 faithful women have been meeting together to read, discuss, learn and let the Word do it's work in our lives. Ever since I was a young mom with three children under four years old, I have been involved in Bible studies. The wisdom from God shared in a setting of like-minded women helped me to cope, and helped me to teach and train my children. So my passion has been to see more and more of our women study the Word. That is the lasting change that can heal hearts and grow homes. Our Bible Study Leadership team does a great job choosing the studies, putting the groups together and training the leaders. It is hours and hours of work and I am so grateful to them for all they do.

Of course, our Women's Ministry excels in putting on wonderful special events that serve many purposes. They provide sweet fellowship with other women, inspirational messages, and times to be pampered and get away from the hectic lives we lead. The committees that work together to provide these events become a microcosm of mentoring and Christ's love.

To the faithful women who started "Women's Missionary Fellowship" years ago, I say Thank You! Your faithfulness to God has given us a shining example to follow. We continue to support our missionary women with our financial gifts, and the White Cross ladies send handmade goods throughout the world. The legacy continues.

It has been my privilege to work alongside so many wonderful and talented women in the church through the years. I have been sincerely blessed serving with you. As I step down from being the Director, I know our women will continue to thrive and bring glory to God in every area of Women's Ministries.

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Grand Island Evangelical Free Women's Ministries Website: [giefc.org/womensministries](http://giefc.org/womensministries)

- National Evangelical Woman's Ministries website: [efca.org/women](http://efca.org/women)

To receive the National Evangelical Free Women's newsletter, "Connections": [efca.org/women/media/connections](http://efca.org/women/media/connections)

## Dawn of 2009

### Bible Studies

What do you do with junk mail? If you are like me, you probably throw most of it away unopened. But when a letter arrives from someone we love, we can't wait to read it. The Bible is God's love letter to us. If we truly want to grow deeper in our relationship with Him, we have to spend time in His Word.

A great way to do that is to get involved in a Women's Bible study. Studies are offered on Monday afternoons at 5:15, Monday evenings at 6:30, Tuesday mornings at 9:00 and Wednesday evening at 6:45. Child-care is provided for both morning and evening sessions.

We are currently studying the book of Hebrews, The study is part of the Bringing the Bible to Life series based on the NIV Application Commentary series. The nine-week study began on January 12 and is enhancing our sense of who Christ is. It has challenged us to think of our Lord in greater terms - greater in power, in majesty, in love, in mercy, and in grace.

No matter where you are in your spiritual journey or how familiar you are with Scripture, we would love to have you join us, as we "fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith." Hebrews 12:2

For more information call Cheryl Dunagan 381-0121 or Tami Bednar at 381-8297.

### National News

In 2008 our White Cross sent 182 pounds of material including bandages, linens and layettes for the Tandala Hospital in Zaire. We also furnished red backpack kits for the Congolese orphan children and sewing and handcraft supplies for the Mission Women's Outreach. Quilts were sent to Mongolia and Romania.

Our 2009 project will be providing five motorbikes for transportation needs for the leadership of Global Fingerprints, the EFCA Touch Global Orphan Sponsorship.

White Cross workdays will be on February 26 and March 26. Watch the bulletin for details.

## Winter Highlights...

### Women's Christmas Event



A winter wonderland garden set the stage for the women's Christmas Event in the E Free Chapel on December 9, 2008. Twenty-five Christmas trees adorned with white lights, beautifully lighted arches, stone garden statues and yes!...a hint of snow tossed on the trees and surrounding area. On the powerpoint was a video of real life winter snow scenes accompanied by soft, soothing music.

At the beginning of the evening, scrumptious desserts catered from Garden Cafe were served with time allowed to fellowship. Several men from the church mingled among the women to keep the cups of coffee and hot cider filled to the brim.

Worship music with traditional Christmas songs were lead by Joni Ramsey, Diana Hofrichter, TiLynn Scott and Jeanette Benson.

Lori Schlick gave the missionary report. She shared about the missionary trips she and her husband Paul had in Zambia. She also told about how they are making plans to go back to Zambia to be missionaries and serve there for seven years.

Each year a love offering is collected by Women's Ministry to give to the nineteen missionary women they support. This year \$75 was sent to each of the missionary women including Lori Schlick. While the love offering was being collected, Hannah Benson played the song, "Mary Did You Know?" as a solo on her saxophone.



The highlight of the night was featured speaker, Holly Panter, from Brookside Evangelical Free Church in Omaha. The theme of her presentation was "Mary, Did You Know?" Holly talked about how Mary, although she was a believer and servant of God, still must have felt so much fear and dread knowing what was going to happen to her son, Jesus. She then talked about how we, even as believers, go through the same human emotions as Mary did. She stated that fear is an immobilizer. She shared her life experiences where fear and depression had nearly destroyed her ability to function normally. She quoted scripture in the Bible where God says, "fear not" and stated how many times God tells His people - FEAR NOT! Holly shared her walk of faith, and how God used special people to conquer her fear and depression. Holly's message ended with --"if you are fearful, DO IT ANYWAY!" Purpose to break through any fear you feel...look to God to give you HIS strength, HIS wisdom and HIS power.

Joni, Diana, TiLynn and Jeanette followed with special music and song "Mighty to Save." Holly ended the evening with prayer.



### AWESTRUCK WONDER!

As Shannon Wexelberg led us in worship and Judy Dunagan spoke to us at our Women's Retreat, held February 6 & 7, we were indeed struck with the wonder of our powerful and awesome God! Judy and Shannon came to us from the Woodmen Valley Chapel in Colorado Springs. Judy is the Women's Ministry Director on staff and Shannon a worship leader.



Judy related how God led and carried her through the "Stormy Times" of her life and encouraged journaling and times of praise. Her sincere, clear message was an inspiration to all. She also gave each lady a small gift bag with reminders and treats.

Shannon's powerful, professional voice lifted us into God's presence throughout the weekend. She shared of her struggles to become a mother and the way God blessed their home with an adopted son. Her song, "He is in the Waiting" touched many hearts as she sang. Shannon gave each woman a CD single and more CDs were available for purchase. They are filled with more of her fresh and original, songs of praise.

This year there were small discussion groups after Judy spoke. We hope our women made some new friends within our large church body by sharing and praying together.

The lovely setting and delicious desserts on Friday, the breakfast casseroles with fruit cups on Saturday, and great games and recreation all led to a weekend of pampering and fellowship. Our thanks to the committee for all their hard work!

