

Lives of Fragrance

2 Corinthians 4:14-17

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A New Year: Serve & Connect

Karen Krueger

Ladies, whether you are a newcomer to Tulsa Bible Church or a long-time member, you may have questions about the purpose and responsibilities of the TBC Women's Ministries Council or about women's ministries at TBC. This article will provide a brief introduction to the Council and facets of women's ministries, and will include ways for you to become involved while developing deeper relationships with other women.

The Women's Ministries Council is usually comprised of five to eight women. The Council is under the authority of the TBC Elders and has been entrusted by the Elders with oversight of women's ministries. The Council maintains these ministries, assessing needs and addressing changes. The Council meets monthly, reporting on each ministry and discussing future needs. The Minutes of each meeting are shared with the Elders to maintain accountability.

The women's ministries over which the Council has oversight are discipleship, Bible studies, a card ministry, home visits to women who are in a season of life requiring loving attention, baskets for families with a newborn, showers for brides and first-time mothers, a monthly newsletter, a prayer group, the women's section of the TBC website, kitchen and decorating resources, and a yearly Retreat. Two other special events for TBC women are the Christmas Tea and the Spring Event.

There are multiple ways to become involved with women's ministries. Attending one of the women's Bible studies is a great way to study the Word of God together and to enjoy deeper friendships with women. You may have a desire to be mentored by a godly older woman, or you may be an older woman who has learned to know the Lord more deeply through times of trial and times of joy, who would love to share some encouragement with a younger woman.

What's New

January 6th

Winter Semester Bible studies begin
Sunrise Sisters January 7th at 6 a.m.
Women of the Word January 6th at 9:45 a.m.

January 24th

Baby shower for Em Smith at TBC starting at 2:00pm.
Em is registered on Amazon. RSVP to Linda Cosgrove
at Ircos@icloud.com

If you are gifted in decorating, crafts, or food preparation, please consider helping with showers or with one of the special events. Bridal and baby showers are delightful times of celebrating God's gift of marriage and God's gift of new life! Preparations to enhance these events have the additional benefit of forming and strengthening friendships.

Please consider becoming involved with women's ministries if you have not yet done so. Contact Karen Krueger at womensmin@tulsabible.org for more information on how you can serve the Lord while serving as part of the TBC family!

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

- ² a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
- ³ a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
- ⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
- ⁵ a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
- ⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
- ⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
- ⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

A Numbered Allotment

Karen Krueger

I have often been intrigued by the concept of how much can be accomplished in a single minute. How much more can be achieved in five minutes! If you set a timer for those brief periods of time, you might be amazed at how many little tasks you were able to complete. Change your little pumpkin's diaper, sing her a funny song, and cuddle her. Sweep or vacuum one room. Read a chapter in the Bible, although Psalm 119 may need some extra minutes. Order a few necessary items online. Set out items which you will need to make dinner. Even small children can be taught to enjoy the challenge of picking up a pile of toys in five minutes.

In His Word, God repeatedly directs our attention to time, telling us to redeem the time; the psalmist implores God to teach us to number our days so that we may learn wisdom (Psalm 90:12). God is not constrained by time, but we have a limited amount of time here on earth. The Scriptures clearly state that God has numbered the days of our lives; He gives life to each of us at conception, and He has allotted our years (Psalm 139:13-16; Psalm 31:15). As a child, the years seem to stretch on forever; as we age, we realize the fleeting nature of our lifespan.

But I trust in you, O Lord;
I say, "You are my God."
My times are in your hand;

Psalm 31:14-15a

We are given the gift of life from God. It is a precious gift! Let us rejoice, knowing that our Creator, who carefully formed us, has lovingly measured out our days (Psalm 39:4-5). Not only has God crafted our mortal frame, but He has given us an even greater life because of Christ's atoning work of salvation. When we trust in Christ for salvation, we are given unending life. As we are triumphantly reminded in 1 Corinthians 15:54, when our mortal life is over, we will joyously step into that glorious life in which "death is swallowed up in victory!"

A new calendar year may prompt anticipation or dread. Let us remember that all of our days are a gift from God and are to be received with gratitude. What can we do to make each minute count in this new year? In the Scriptures, we are exhorted to be industrious, busy about the Lord's work, good stewards of what we are given, good parents, students of the Word, and Gospel-sharers (Col. 4:5-6; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Colossians 3:23; 1 Peter 4:10). These actions, flowing from hearts which are yielded to the Holy Spirit, will manifest the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, kindness, meekness, temperance, and faith (Galatians 5:22-23).

Christ often used brief moments: what impact those brief moments had! Activity for the sake of activity may not be the best use of these numbered minutes. In all of our days and moments, we must be looking to Jesus, the Author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2), following his example. Foremost and always, we must incline our hearts toward our precious Lord. Read the Word, not as a duty, but to consciously seek after God. Hunger and thirst for God. Sing to Him and enjoy the rapture of his Presence. The fruit of dwelling in Christ and walking in the Spirit will be manifest in your life.

Recipes

Kathy and Kinsey share recipes which may be paired with many different menus for warm winter meals.

Homemade Biscuits

Kathy Bradford

Kathy shares this tantalizing biscuit recipe and its family legacy: "This is the first homemade biscuit recipe I found in my cookbook that my mom gave me for Christmas in 1984 when I was 18 and in 12th grade. I put the cookbook in my hope chest until I got married. The recipe originally called for lard or shortening, but I decided to use butter, which is much better for you and is more flavorful! So, I've been making these biscuits ever since Harold and I have been married, which will be 39 years in May of 2026. I also like to share this recipe at wedding showers with the bride to be and sometimes I'll make the recipe and give the couple a sample with a small homemade jam I've canned. We make this recipe often, and it's delicious with sausage gravy! All our girls had it memorized when they made it at home and still use the recipe, and even our son has the recipe and has made them as well. We use this recipe as a base to make cinnamon rolls as well as pizza crust also!"

- 2 c. flour
- 3 tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. salt
- ½ c. butter
- ¾ c. milk

Heat oven to 450°. Combine first three ingredients; mix well. Use a pastry blender to cut in butter. When fully blended, pour in milk and stir. Roll dough out on a floured surface. Cut out biscuits. Bake 10-12 minutes.

Pecan Pie Mini Muffins

Kinsey Richards

Kinsey Richards shares this recipe for mini muffins, saying that these muffins are one of her favorite treats for the holidays.

- 1 c. packed brown sugar
- ½ c. flour
- 1 c. chopped pecans
- ¾ c. butter, melted
- 2 eggs, beaten

In bowl, combine brown sugar, flour, and pecans; set aside. Combine butter and eggs, mix well. Stir into flour mixture just until moistened. Fill greased and floured or paper-lined miniature muffin cups ¾ full. Bake at 350° for 20-25 minutes or until muffins test done. Remove immediately to cool on wire rack. Yield: 2 ½ dozen.

Lives of Fragrance is a publication of the Women's Ministries of Tulsa Bible Church. For corrections, comments, or written contributions, please email flnewsandviews@gmail.com.

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