

Fall 2009



RIVERSIDE WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Linkeed

A Sad Goodbye

Most of you know by now, we are saying goodbye to our Women's Ministry Director. Rhonda Ausk has been the director of Women's Ministries since the beginning of Riverside. She has served faithfully and worked diligently, and for that we are incredibly grateful.

It would be impossible to sum up in one tiny paragraph all that Rhonda has done and all that she means to all of us. The hours she has spent planning events, and ministering to women in need are too many to count. She faced what most would consider a daunting task of building a ministry team and program from scratch with passion, endless energy, and great joy.

If you have ever attended a women's Bible Study at Riverside, then you have seen Rhonda's passion for God's Word. Her desire for women to know God

Rhonda's Last Words...(sort of)

As many of you may know, after a great deal of prayer, I have resigned as Director of Women's Ministry. I can't begin to tell you the absolute joy I have experienced over the past seven years as I have been honored to be a part of what God is doing through the lives of women at Riverside. I have been blessed with numerous unforgettable memories over the years as I have seen women laugh, cry, share fellowship, be encouraged, stretched and grow in their love for each other as they have grown in their love for their Heavenly Father. What an honor and privilege it has been to be a part of all that!

God has stretched me, humbled me, used His heavenly sandpaper to show me things I needed to see, taught me things I never thought I could learn, showed me how to change things about myself I never thought I could change, used me in ways I never thought he could use me and showed me his absolute love and compassion throughout it all. Over the past seven years I have asked God repeatedly if he knew what he was doing when he placed me in this position because I always seemed to say the wrong things, laugh at the wrong times, or just "be myself" when I wished I could be more like Him. Yet, he just kept blessing me and loving me – and forgiving me! And the women of Riverside have kept praying for me, loving me, and encouraging me. What a wild ride this has been! I love you ladies SO much!

When I began serving as Director of Women's Ministry seven years ago, I only had one grandchild – I

deeply and hide His Word in their hearts is contagious.

No one, including Rhonda would say that she did this work alone, but no one would argue her heart first for Christ and second for women, helped to build RCC's women's ministry to what it is today.

Rhonda, from all of us who have attended a Bible study, been to a conference, received a meal, been encouraged by you, met with you, been challenged by you: Thank you for being obedient, and trusting God.



Then Moses went out and spoke these words to all Israel: "I am now a hundred and twenty years old and I am no longer able to lead you."

Deuteronomy 31:1-2

Living Water

now have eleven! Seven years ago I didn't have a secular job and now I not only have a secular job but my responsibilities in that job have increased substantially. The demands on my time have made it difficult for me to be able to devote the kind of time, enthusiasm and energy to Women's Ministry that I have been able to give in the past.

I feel good about where we are in Women's Ministry right now. Seven years ago much of the work fell on my shoulders but now we have the work divided into seven teams which are lead by gifted women who have other women serving with them on their individual teams. Those teams are Prayer Team, Lifelong Learning Team, Discipleship Team, Encouragement Team, Special Events Team, Missions Team, and Communications Team. Because the work is divided, we are able to offer many more things to women and more women are using their gifts and talents.

Our new Director of Women's Ministry is Brenda Fassnacht. She has a humble spirit, is spiritually mature, has a passion for her Savior and a deep love and desire to serve others - - and she has a sense of humor. Because her personality is similar to mine, she will likely (like me) laugh at the wrong times and possibly sometimes say the wrong thing. I hope you will give her the same freedom to "be herself" as you have given me. I feel confident that God is going to use Brenda in mighty ways and

Women's Ministry will continue to grow immensely under her confident leadership. Please continue to pray for Brenda and her family. Your prayers have been vital to me and I know they will be vital to Brenda as well.

I want to thank you for allowing me to serve as your Director of Women's Ministry for the past seven years. You have

A Cheerful Hello!

As we say goodbye to Rhonda, we welcome Brenda Fassnacht as the new director of Women's Ministries. Brenda has previously been serving as the head of the Lifelong Learning Team. This part of Women's ministry coordinates the Bible Studies and the Book Clubs.

Brenda and her husband Mike have two kids, Nathan and Catherine, and one on the way! Catherine is two and a half and Nathan started Kindergarten this year!

Brenda has been attending Riverside since just about the beginning. You may have noticed Brenda leading worship a time or two, if you have kids you might have seen

blessed my life beyond measure. You are by far the greatest group of women I have ever had the pleasure of working with!

Your (former) fearless leader,
Rhonda Kay



her teaching 3-5 year olds in Discovery Hour, and if you were married at Riverside recently, you worked with Brenda as the wedding coordinator.

We are SUPER excited for Brenda to step into the role as Women's Ministry Director, and look forward to seeing where God will take us from here!



Women in the Spotlight

Each week we will highlight different women in the church, giving you a chance to meet someone new, find a common bond and make a new friend. Who knows, maybe new best

Megan Mills

Testimony: I grew up in the Lafayette area. I went to church and Sunday School every week. I was on a youth trip in Jr. High, when I heard for the first time that not only did Jesus die for my sins, but he wanted to have a personal relationship with me. For a girl struggling to find her place, hearing this was what I had never known, I had always needed.

Advice to Christian Women: Give thanks in all things. Our view of self and God is so much influenced by our circumstances. We will never know what deeper valley we were spared from as we walked through the dark places. EVERYTHING God does for us is motivated by his deep love for us.

Humorous Anecdote: There are too many to count, really. However, did I ever tell you how I snagged my husband? I planned this awesome

trip to Indy to see Third Day and Bebo Norman. Everette (who had no idea my feelings for him were more than platonic) offered to drive us all down in his Ford Aerostar. Halfway through Bebo Norman my stomach began to feel queasy. Things only got worse from there, as the full fledged flu slammed into me at the Pepsi Coliseum. I managed to survive the concert with my dignity, however everyone stopped for dinner on the way back, and that was too much. I "tossed my cookies" in a trash can in the back of Everette's van, and carried it all the way home. Everette was obviously impressed, and he couldn't resist me.



Write these on your Calendars!

- Sept 2-Oct 21 Fall Bible Study "Discerning the Voice of God."
- November 13th Concert in Cincinnati
- December 5th Christmas Brunch
- January 13th-Winter Study Begins

Feel out of the loop?

Get emails about upcoming events, sign up for our email list, go to the women's ministry page of the church website, who knows what else you'll find there! www.rcovenant.org



Contact Us

Director of Women's Ministries

Brenda Fassnacht bfassnacht@rcovenant.org

LifeLong Learning -Have an idea for a bible study or a summer book? Contact **Brenda**

Prayer -Need Prayer or interested in being on the prayer team? Contact **Melissa Guipe**
490-4066 t.guipe@comcast.net

Mentoring -Want to mentor other women or want to be mentored? Contact **Linda Bogan**
490-0000 lkbogan@hotmail.com

Encouragement -Want to be on the encouragement team, or know someone who needs encouragement? Contact **Lanie Nelson**
404-4096 lanienelson@yahoo.com

Special Events -Know of an upcoming women's event, or like to plan events? Contact **Nancy Umbeck**
497-9270 numbeck@yahoo.com

Missions -Have an idea for a mission project or want to join the team? Contact **Polly Timmerman**
469-3126 pollytimmerman@aol.com

Communications -Have an idea for the newsletter or want to join the team? Contact **Megan Mills** 532-2507
megan@el mills.com
or **Stephanie Brennan**
471-1530 thebronchobrennans@yahoo.com

Post-Abortion Ministry-studies available, contact Megan Mills