



Rock Church Women's Newsletter

one church, multiple locations

Issue 1

August 19, 2017

A Note from the Women's Ministry

Director:

Hello Ladies!

Or as Paul would say "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1)

Welcome to the first edition of the Rock Church Women's Ministry Newsletter. This newsletter has been designed to keep you informed and interested in what is happening for women within the body of Christ, so that you have opportunities to grow in faith and connect with other women. Once a month this newsletter will come to you through email and you will find photos, devotions, spotlights of women in our church, creativity & dates to remember.

This month there are two items of importance:

Women's BBQ **Saturday, August 26th, 5pm** **Rock Church Plaistow**

We will have Food, Fellowship & FUN! There will be Worship, Games, a Jump House (for the kids) and a DJ & Dancing (including a lesson or two of Line Dancing)!

We will supply ribs, chicken, hot dogs & homemade baked beans! **What to bring**...If your last name begins with A-M, please bring a salad or appetizer. If your last name begins with N-Z, please bring a dessert. Or, if you would like to bring one of each, that's ok too! Children are welcome! Hope to see you all there!!

A new season of Women's Ministry will kick-off with ALIVE! 3rd annual women's retreat Friday night & Saturday Sept 29 -30.



Kelley Latta of Kelley Latta Ministries will teach how to position yourself to have God's will and power released in your life through the grace of Jesus. According to 2 Corinthians 9:8, "God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." If grace is always available and provides all that we need, why do we have such difficulty accessing it in our circumstances? Using the story of Hagar and Ishmael's near fatal journey through the desert in Genesis 21, Kelley explores the power available to us through grace and reveals why we often keep ourselves from becoming beneficiaries of it. It will be held at Rock Church Plaistow campus. Registration forms are available between services or online at <http://www.rock-church.org/womens-ministry/>

GROW – Ladies Night Out will begin again October 23rd. There will be more information about that in next month's newsletter.

I encourage you to send photos of women's ministry events to the editor to be included in the newsletters. Please be sure to include what event they are from. Finally, thank Rachel Archibald for her willingness to take on the task of Editor of the newsletter. She has some great ideas and is wonderfully gifted for this task. See you at the BBQ!!

With joy, Tracy Meola, Director of Women's Ministry

Monthly Devotional

Love Who You Are

By Luci Swindoll

The whole law can be summed up by this one command, "Love your neighbor as yourself". ~ Galatians 5:14

Perhaps the poet and playwright E.E. Cummings said it best: "To be nobody but yourself in a world which is doing its best, night and day, to make you everybody else – means to fight the hardest battle which any human being can fight; and never stop fighting."

Would everybody who loves yourself please raise your hand? Not many hands going up, are there? To love oneself was sort of frowned on when I was young. At least, it wasn't encouraged in Christian circles where I grew up. If the truth were known, we didn't talk about it much. Because conceit, pride, and arrogance were frowned upon, I suppose I equated them with loving yourself. We were taught to put others first, to give place to those around us, and to take a backseat when others were present.

I've lived a long time since then and have had lots of opportunity to rethink this concept of loving who you are. I view it somewhat differently now. I still know conceit, pride, and arrogance are wrong, and I still believe in a servant spirit – now more than ever – but I've learned that loving oneself is actually a biblical command. It's stated in an interesting way, so it's often misunderstood – but it's there.

In the book of Matthew, Jesus says "... Love your neighbor as yourself" (19:19, 22:39). And Paul says in Galatians 5:14 that the law is fulfilled when you "Love your neighbor as yourself." Again, Romans 13:9 and James 2:8 reiterate the command to love your neighbor as yourself. In every case, loving your neighbor is predicated on loving yourself first.

When E.E. Cummings said it's hard to be ourselves, I think he could have just as strongly said it's almost impossible to love ourselves. So often we don't like who we are. We don't like what we see in the mirror, we're dissatisfied with how we look or what we weigh, or we're disappointed in how we've misbehaved or how we've treated someone else. And the sum total of that prevents us from truly loving ourselves.

At one time or other I've felt unlovable for all the reasons listed above, and I imagine you have too. And on rare occasions, I still do. But I've learned that God loves me, no matter what. As long as I am confident in God's love for me, I eventually come around to the realization that I can love me, too.

Swindoll, Luci. *Life! Celebrate It: Listen, Learn, Laugh, Love*. Copyright 2006.

Save the Date!



Aug 26: Women's Barbecue (children are invited too!)

Sep 29-30: Alive! (child care available- registration needed)

Oct 23: GROW - Ladies night out

Getting To Know You

An opportunity to get to know each other better.

Hello everyone! Each month we will be highlighting a different woman from our church to help us all learn a little more about each other. For our very first issue of the women's newsletter, I will tell you all a little bit about myself. I am currently twenty-six years old and live in Merrimac, Massachusetts. I grew up in a Christian household, so I have always had a strong spiritual upbringing. I remember growing up listening to bands like DC Talk, Audio Adrenaline, and Newsboys, and watching every single VeggieTales video. Though I officially accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior at five years old, my personal walk with God has always been one of growth and discovery. I feel like I am constantly learning something new from Him. Sometimes I am also reminded of old lessons, like to slow down and live in the moment, and to turn our concerns over to Him. As long as I trust in Him, everything will be ok.

I started attending Rock Church around my junior year of college, shortly after my parents joined. The church had been recommended to us by a few friends, so we decided to check it out. I remember being particularly struck by how passionate and enthusiastic Pastor Steve was, both in his life and his teachings. He seemed like a man on fire for God, and still does to this day. I became more plugged into the church after graduation, and officially became a Rock Church member a few years ago. Now I feel like I do a bit of everything, from participating in the church choir, to leading a Life Group, to helping with Women's Ministry. Though it keeps me busy, I enjoy every minute of it.

I have a highly creative spirit, and it definitely comes across in my varied hobbies. I enjoy everything from writing to painting, to cross-stitch and jewelry making. I am also a huge bookworm and animal lover, and would love nothing better than to own a mini library and zoo. I currently live at home with my two parents and a stubborn dog. My mom, Lynette, works as the administrative assistant for the church, while my father James was recently made campus pastor over Rock Church Plaistow. I have been very lucky to have them both as my spiritual mentors over the years. I also have a brother, Marcus, who presently lives with his wife Lindy in Beverly, MA.

Rachel Archibald, Editor of the Women's Newsletter



Welcoming all forms of art! The Creative Corner is a way for women of all ages to share their artistic gifts with their peers. If you are interested in submitting your work, please send all literary pieces, song lyrics, photography, or pictures of your visual art to Rachel.Archibald1023@gmail.com. Please keep in mind that due to the newsletter length, literary submissions should be kept under 600 words.