

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

fayetteville

November 2019

Living Water



"As the deer pants for the water brooks, So my soul pants for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; When shall I come and appear before God?" [Psalm 42:1-2 NASB](#)

One afternoon in the fall of 2011 my son, David was driving home. Upon exiting the interstate he heard a loud BOOM and realized a deer had run into his car! He spotted it as it got up slowly, then staggering limped into a run and ran out of sight. David's car was dented from the front fender back to his door, and David was shaken up.

It's odd for a deer to be on a highway, and even odder for it to be there in the middle of the afternoon. So why was it there? That summer we had a drought and the area was still dryer than normal. I'm sure it was looking for water! It was thirsty and had wandered far away from its source of water. It was panting and running and seemed to have lost its way. It got hurt...and also messed up David's car!

How often when we are spiritually thirsty and wander from our source of "Living Water" do we run and lose our way? Sometimes we get hurt, and often hurt others along the way.

"My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, In a dry and weary land where there is no water." [Psalm 63:1b NASB](#)

This world is dry and weary, and as women we can get extremely thirsty when we aren't staying close to GOD's living water. As the Robert Robinson song [Come Thou Fount](#) says: "Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love". We *are* prone to wander! Only God, the Living Water, can satisfy us! Let's identify some areas we wander to when we are spiritually thirsty so we can realize our patterns and ask God to help us change. As I identify a few, I'll offer a thought and Scripture to help us return to God, where our real satisfaction comes from!

Reflect and Respond

- **Worldly refreshment instead of God's refreshment?** A "getaway", a dinner and a movie, a nap, binging on Netflix, a shopping spree, glass of wine, the list goes on. Do these refresh the heart and soul? In [Matthew 11:28 NASB](#) Jesus gives us an invitation: "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." In order for me to come to Him, I have to STOP and SIT with Him...turn off my phone, TV and (I've been known to mark time on my calendar to) read His Word, listen, journal and pray. Then I find rest for my soul! Worldly refreshment and quiet times "on the go" don't provide the rest our souls need in this dry and

weary land. I know. I've learned the hard way. RSVP to His invitation today!

- **Doing good things instead of doing God things!** This lie has caused me to lose so much precious time for eternity. It's a slippery slop. Spending time on earthly pursuits and not eternal pursuits. Only things done for God will last for eternity! Those good things can be fun but they might be just pampering our flesh? [Ephesians 2:10 NASB](#) God has "works" that He prepared for us. We need to stay near to Him so we can walk in them. We want to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit, not all the other voices out there! There are so many!!! Let's spend time with Him every day so we can distinguish His voice from all others. We want to know His voice!
- **Keeping up with others instead of loving others.** I'll open Instagram in the name of checking on my kids and 30 minutes later I've seen so many stunning young women, perfectly decorated homes, once-in-a-lifetime vacations, dozens of cute grandchildren, clothes I "need" to buy... need I go on? Then I start fighting the fight, "...for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am." [Philippians 4:11 NASB](#) (maybe I'm slowing down this learning process?) I'm not loving people I'm jealous of...I know I need to spend more time loving those in my sphere of influence instead of trying to keep up with so many I don't even rub shoulders with! How can we reduce our time on social media and increase our time loving our family and neighbors? Start with [First Corinthians 13 NASB](#), known as the "love" chapter of the Bible. These verses provide insightful wisdom on how to focus on loving others well.

And finally... when shall I come and pray before God? [Psalm 42:2b NASB](#). There is no better time than NOW! Let's pray...

Lord, I pray that You would help me stop my wandering and come to You. That I would hear Your voice. That I would know Your voice and want to obey You and love You with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength. I pray that the Holy Spirit would show me when I start to get spiritually thirsty and start wandering. Please give me the desire to come back to You. Give me the desire to want to spend time with You daily. I pray the Holy Spirit would guide and strengthen me to be the woman of God that you planned for me to be and that I would walk in the works that you planned for me before the foundation of the world. Teach me to love my family and neighbors with Your love. Lord, thank you for loving me and dying on the cross for my sins. I give you my whole life: past, present and future. Amen.

***Living Water* was written by Diane Matthews -**

Diane's roots are in New Orleans, but she and her husband Hank are proud to be Razorbacks! Their children are Joshua (wife Taylor), Courtney, David (wife Jenna), and Daniel. Members of Fellowship for over 30 years, Diane counts it a privilege to spend time getting to know women of all ages and find out their "stories". She serves with the Women's Ministry Team, Discipleship Team, and as a Women's Shepherd at Fellowship Fayetteville. Her vocations are teaching and art, but her heart's desire is to see God move in the hearts and minds of women. Diane's favorite activity is spending time with family!



*Past issues: Fayetteville Women's Devotional
eNewsletter*

Save the Date!

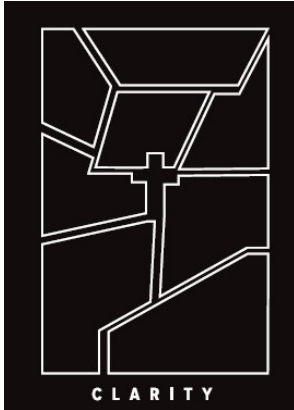
Women's Spring Studies

Begin January 21, 2020

Online registration opens Sunday, December 1

Stay tuned for more details to come...

Clarity 2020



Beginning Advent 2019, all Fellowship congregations will begin a teaching series called "Clarity". This year-long study, following the Christian Calendar, has been created to help our church see Jesus more clearly and experience Him more deeply. The Fellowship Staff has created a Clarity Book that is currently available for purchase at the Information Desk in the Worship Foyer for \$5.00. We encourage each participant in the series to have their own copy of this great resource. It will parallel the congregational teachings series with devotionals, reflection questions, prayers, daily scripture readings, and seasonal discipleship activities for families. We invite you to join us in personally engaging with this study throughout the year and encouraging everyone in your small group to do the same.

Fayetteville CR



Celebrate Recovery is a Biblical and balanced program that helps us overcome our hurts, hang-ups, and habits. We all have issues that may be interfering with our fellowship with God and others. This includes, but is not restricted to, struggling with addiction. All are welcome!

Visit Celebrate Recovery on Friday nights at Fellowship Fayetteville or find a women's step study to begin pursuing the freedom of real life in Jesus Christ and celebrate the recovery only He can bring through His people and His Word. Click [HERE](#) to visit the Celebrate Recovery website for more information!

likewise: a new ministry for 55+

[Titus 2](#) gives us instructions for how older men and women are to serve and lead in the church. Likewise is a new ministry of Fellowship Fayetteville for those over 55. We want to hear from you!

If you are over age 55, text #likewise to 479-308-0410 to complete our survey and help us launch this initiative.

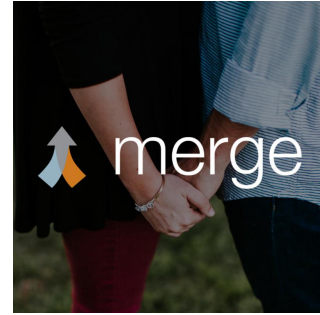
For more information contact Joe T. at joerobinson@fellowshipnwa.org or Julia at jurobinson@fellowshipnwa.org.



Getting Married?

MERGE Premarital Workshops -

MERGE is an 8-week, premarital experience offered each year in the Spring, Summer, and Fall. These workshops are designed to provide engaged and seriously-dating couples a unique opportunity to learn, seek wisdom, and receive counsel on marriage from a Biblical perspective. Cost is \$85 per couple and space is limited. Sign up early and be sure to fill out and submit the required online survey.



Spring Session: February 9 - April 5, 2020

Register [HERE](#) for the Spring 2020 Session
taking place on the Fellowship Fayetteville Campus
Registration closes Sunday, February 2

Stay tuned for registration information for additional 2020 sessions!

Service Opportunity

If you have administrative skills and enjoy being around people, we would love to put your talents to use as a member of our front office volunteer team at Fellowship Fayetteville. We are currently seeking a front desk volunteer to commit to serving weekly for a **four-hour shift on Mondays or Wednesdays**, plus one or two "floating" volunteers who can fill in for other weekly volunteers when they are unavailable. Contact: [Ray Wagoner](#), 479-659-3615 or [Vicki Kennedy](#), 479-659-3684.

Women's Ministry Team



MARGO BODISHBAUGH
Shepherding Leader



MELODY COUCH
Discipleship Leader



LORIE MCMILLEN
Tuesday Evening Studies



MARY BETH SIMPSON
Tuesday Morning Studies

Want to learn more about Fayetteville Women's Ministry?
Reach out to one of our team members to learn how you can get plugged in!

fayettevillewomen@fellowshipnwa.org

479-659-3684

Connect with us!



Please forward this email on to your friends and encourage them to subscribe to our monthly Women's Devotional eNewsletter. To sign up or make changes to eNewsletter subscriptions from Fellowship Fayetteville visit subscribe.fellowshipfayetteville.org.