

:THE REASON FOR THE SEASON:

As we near the time of Christmas, we see the decorations going up, the people madly shopping for gifts and the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season. Now is the time to stop and reflect just why we really celebrate this time. As Christians, we are the only ones who know the real meaning of Christmas, why it is a time of celebration and what that celebration means to all who will believe. If there were no Jesus, there would be no Christmas.

As you see the many slogans being pandered around you, take time every day to explain the real meaning of what is being said.... "Peace on earth, good will to men"... "Joy to the world"... "Hark, the herald Angels sing"... "round yon virgin, mother and Child." Think about what each of these things means to you as a born-again believer, then share them with others, especially with others who don't know Jesus or understand his incredible, eternal, unconditional love for us all.

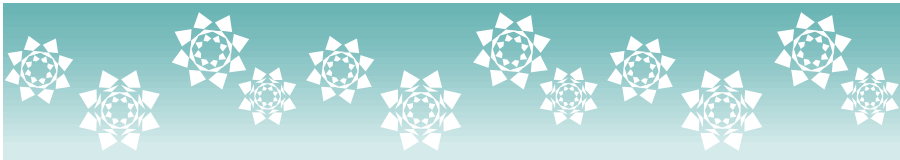
As you prepare your gift list, be sure to make the first gift for everyone on your list the free gift of the Gospel

of Jesus Christ. As you ponder on the One who is the Reason for the Season, make sure that you remember who He is - that He is God (not "a" god or "one of the" gods). Just as He identified Himself to Moses in Exodus 3:14 as "I AM", He identified Himself to the Jews in John 8:58 again as "I AM". Why is it important to know who He is? Jesus said, "If you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins." (John 8:24b)

Over the next few weeks, remember who Jesus is and remind everyone you see of the true Reason for the Season.

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

By Bonnie Ricks, adapted from The Christian Post



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

DIRECTOR

Denise Ciauri

TREASURER

Felice Hill

RETREAT COORDINATORS

Denise Ciauri

Kathy Fox

FUNDRAISING COORDINATORS

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Sue Rothchild

Stephanie Park

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BIBLE STUDY COORDINATOR

Renee Huffer

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Denise Ciauri

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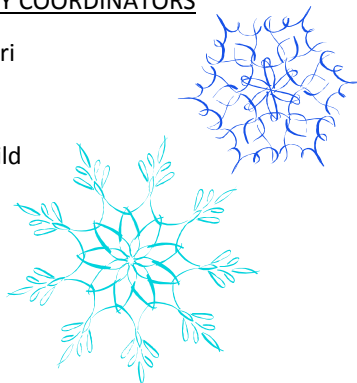
MORNING BIBLE STUDY LEADER

Bryn Edwards

Sue Rothchild

WORSHIP LEADER

Jeanne Rugg



MISSION STATEMENT

Women's Ministry is committed to equipping women in working together to know God, to grow in His grace and wisdom, to build each other up in love, and to glorify Him in our home, church, community and the world.



WORSHIP SERVICE TIME

SUNDAYS

9:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

LOCATION

40515 California Oaks Rd.

Murrieta, CA 92562

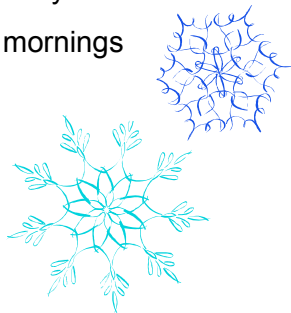
Pastor Guy Fox

951-600-3904

www.venturecc.com

:EVENTS:

- Get Connected! Women's event
Saturday, January 15th, 9am
- Ladies Gathering Bunco Night!
Info to follow: Save the Date!
- Women's Retreat
April 15th—17th
- Prayerful Stitches crochet group
Monday nights, 7pm
- Women's Bible study
Wednesday mornings
at 9:30am



Mark Your Calendar

:Letter from the Editor:

Hello Ladies,

There have been a lot of changes around Venture in the past few months, and I'm sure the new year will bring new adventures for us as well. Isn't it good to know that God never changes? It's reassuring to know that He's the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, (Heb. 13:8) especially if you're like me and don't adjust to change as well as you'd like to do. I prefer the familiar, the routine and the traditional things about my life. But most often I find that God pushes me towards the unknown, the spontaneous and the fresh things with which He wants to bless me.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variable-ness, neither shadow of turning.

I know we all have Christmas on the brain, but New Year's is coming soon. So, as we get ready for the Rose Parade and an afternoon of football with some yummy hot wings, let's also take a moment to reflect on how our year has gone. Look over your prayer journal, check out your old calendar or compile one of the facebook end of the year lists. I know in my life He has done great things and answered so many prayers. How about in your life?

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices; and with my song will I praise Him. Psalm 28:7

Trusting my Lord, Stephanie Park

:GROWING IN GRACE:

I love candles! I love the warmth, the glow, and the delicious fragrances they bring to my home. I especially love them at Christmas time. Everything seems to sparkle when the lights are low, and the candles are lit! Did you know there is a scripture about candles in the Bible?

Proverbs 20:27 says, 'The spirit of a man is the candle of the Lord' (KJV). Doesn't that just create a beautiful picture? Our spirit is like a candle that shines for God. But a candle can't produce light on its own, it must be lit by something or someone. Our spirit is a place for God, through the Holy Spirit, the illuminator, to bring His light into our lives so that we can shine for Him. God does this for us when we serve. Mary, the mother of Jesus, had a servant's heart. When Mary was visited by an angel of the Lord who told her she would bear a son, our Savior, her response was simple... 'I am the Lord's servant' (Luke 1:38).

When we meet the needs of others with a servant's heart like Mary's, we shine for Him. Like a candle that brings light and warmth to a dark place, so we shine in a cold and dark world when we serve in His name. So, let's shine our lights brightly for Him and spread warmth, love and light...glow, girls, glow!



Forever in His Grace,
Denise