

Subject: Notes from August 14th FCW Gathering

Good morning Everyone,

Thank you for attending the August 14th gathering of First Church Women. For those of you who were not able to join us, we hope to see you around the church campus and gather with us again soon.

Notice: Please mark your calendars for the time change for our September 11th meeting(and those going forward). **We are returning to a 7:00PM start time.** Starting at 7:00PM provides a better opportunity for those working outside the home to join us! You will also see this reminder of our 7:00PM start time in the September church bulletin...

Now on to our 8/14 meeting notes:

- Welcome to **Bonnie Cary, Libby Goens, Kathy Hunter, Jo Whitten!** We are happy you joined us and look forward to seeing you at our future meetings, on Sundays and at other on-going church events/activities.
- **Amanda Dougherty** shared an opening devotion which was an excellent reminder there are blessings and reasons to be thankful in **all** circumstances in our lives. In addition, she shared the following prayer:

A Daily Prayer

When you wake up say: Jesus I love you...

When leaving the house say: Jesus come with me...

When you feel like crying, say Jesus hug me...

When you feel happy say: Jesus I adore you...

When you do something say: Jesus help me...

When you make a mistake say: Jesus forgive me...

When you go to sleep say: Thank you Jesus and cover me with your holy mantle.

Discussion Topics:

- **Rose Adams** shared news about the middle school teachers arriving from the Philippines to help with our teacher shortage in Volusia County. Women teachers are arriving with just a suitcase of clothing(!) as they settle into their apartment(s), new jobs and new surroundings. I've asked Rose to seek out how First Church Women may help with clothing and household goods.

· While Rose is doing some inquiring, **now** is our time for looking around our homes, cabinets, and closets to see about some gently used articles that will come in handy as the teachers get settled in their new dwellings! As I type this note, I'm remembering the small microwave I bought a while back (for a temporary need) and I'm feeling blessed to give it to one of the teachers if they are interested. Well, full disclosure here, I do have some clothing and other items I've been meaning to go through so I'm going to get busy! Thanks for taking a look around your home too. **Once I hear back from Rose, I'll be sure to send out a separate email to all – stay tuned!**

- **Pam Barlow** shared more about our outing to the Trades of Hope facility in Palm Coast. A sign-up sheet was sent around for those interested in seeing the facility. The date for this outing is:

- Wednesday, September 13
 - Departing church parking lot a 9:30AM (car pooling)
 - Arrive at facility ~ 10:30/10:45
 - Lunch at a restaurant following tour for those who want to join us

Confirmation of this 'field trip' opportunity to follow: Stay tuned!

- **Lisa Hightower** shared about an opportunity for a representative from Visitation House to speak to FCW about the services they provide to women. "The Mission of Visitation House is to provide a safe, secure and caring environment for women during their crisis pregnancy and to prepare women to live as self-sufficient as possible when they leave." (their mission statement was found online).

Founder's information: "Visitation House was a vision by Father Tom Connery, Pastor of [St Peter Catholic Church](#) in Deland Florida. His idea was to create a safe home for women who were pregnant and had few options and nowhere to go. Father Tom Connery presented his church with a challenge to be part of the solution."

More to come on this topic from **Lisa at the first of the new year, if not sooner.**

- **Tammy Reyes** asked if there was interest to learn about organic long term food preparation and storage. FCW would like to hear more about this topic! There was a brief discussion about how to preserve butter long term (other than freezing). When Tammy returns from her planned travels, she will pursue sharing more at a future meeting. Thank you, Tammy.
- Our 8/14 study with Liz Curtis-Higgs was a 10 minute presentation: "Generous to a Fault Sapphira". Two key points from this discussion: **1)** the benefits of sharing of our possessions and **2)** nothing is hidden from God; all aspects of lies are a detriment and can have serious consequences.

- Our September Study with Liz will be: Lesson #7, "Knockin' on Heaven's door" Rahab

Thank you for reading through this meeting recap to keep up to date. We look forward to seeing you at our **next gathering on Monday, September 11th at 7:00PM (building #6)**

Lisa, Pam, Bev