



# The Cross and Flame

www.pinegroveumc.org

## TheCross andFlame

Is published monthly to inform members and friends of events and ministry at PGUMC.

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## TO FEAR OR NOT TO FEAR?

Shalom Alekum tells a delightful story about an old man standing on a crowded bus. The young man standing next to him asked, "what time is it?"

The old man refused to reply. The young man moved on.

The old man's friend, sensing something was wrong, asked, "Why were you so discourteous to that young man who was asking for the time?"

The old man answered, "If I'd given him the time of day, next he'd want to know where I'm going; then we might talk about our interests. If we did that he might invite himself to my house for dinner. If he did, he'd meet my lovely daughter. If he met her they would both fall in love. I don't want my daughter marrying somebody who can't afford a watch!"

Sounds like a really weird reason to not tell someone the time of day, doesn't it? But how many of us have far less reason for not speaking? The old man was right, his daughter might have fallen in love and married this young man, but that really was not likely! Most of the things in life that I have EVER feared NEVER happened at all. Each of these things can bring awful consequences into our lives, but they can also bring blessings too.

In this new year will we be paralyzed by our fears or will we be open to God's blessings? Will we be faithful enough to trust God in any and all circumstances? My prayer for all of us is that this new year will be a glorious year of unexpected blessing and promise. Our God, after all, is greater than anything in this world and our God wants us to be blessed beyond anything we can imagine. Are going to let a little fear get in the way?

The Journey Continues,

*Neill*

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**FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF OPPORTUNITIES**

**Each Sunday**

9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Worship

**Each Monday**

7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts  
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts  
7:00 p.m. Disciple I Bible Study  
7:00 p.m. Disciple II Bible Study

**Each Wednesday**

10:00 a.m. Bible Study  
6:30 p.m. Handbell practice  
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

February 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

February 3 6:30 p.m. UMYF meet in Fellowship Hall  
February 8 8:00 p.m. United Methodist Men's Breakfast  
February 9 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Committee  
February 10 6:00 p.m. UMYF and UMW meet for dinner  
February 11 7:00 p.m. Children's Council  
February 17 6:30 p.m. UMYF meet at the Parsonage  
February 24 6:00 p.m. UMYF to Open Arms Community  
February 25 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

**THANK YOU - THANK YOU**

Dear Pine Grove FAMILY,

The youth can't thank you enough for your support of the 3rd Annual Spaghetti dinner and dessert auction fund raiser. Your response to our request for baked goods was unprecedented.

We served over 115 plates of spaghetti. Fifty-four desserts were auctioned. The evening raised approximately \$2,091.00 and the funds raised will be put towards the youth's June 2009 Mission Trip.

Through the ears, lips, hands and feet of Pine Grove's youth God will reach others. THANK YOU for helping grow God's Kingdom.

God Bless Pine Grove UMC!  
The Youth (PGUMYF)

Dear Pine Grove Youth Parents,

THANK YOU! For your donations of all the paper products, food, baked goods and LABOR that contributed to the success of our youth's 3rd Annual Spaghetti dinner. Your support is so appreciated. It amazes Jennifer and I how much fun this group can have when working so hard. Everyone working together in the Love of God made this fund raiser seem effortless!

Thank you for getting your child(ren) to youth meetings! Jennifer and I know that it is not ease with the crazy schedules we all have. God is smiling.

May God continue to bless all the youth and their families!

Jennifer and Dennis

**HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY**



**Birthdays**

- February 1 Gina Abshire  
Mark Mercer  
Barbara Smith  
Edward Dalton
- February 4 Peggy Williams
- February 5 Paul Jones  
Hayli Sutton
- February 6 Hiram Tucker
- February 7 Sybilla Spach
- February 8 Betty Stallings  
Terri Frank
- February 9 Christy Weeks
- February 10 Derek Boles  
Wayne West  
Selwyn Shaw
- February 12 Joann Hall
- February 13 Charita Brewer  
Shirley Shutt
- February 16 Steven Flowers  
Todd Buchanan
- February 17 Susan Buchanan
- February 18 Chris Council
- February 19 Juanita Fletcher  
Jeremy Roberts  
Micah Fuller
- February 20 Bobby Joyner  
Ruth Spach
- February 23 Brent Shutt
- February 24 Katie Buchanan  
Phyllis East
- February 25 Steven Parent
- February 26 Miriam Fuller
- February 27 Frank Stump
- February 28 John Newman

*Anniversaries  
this  
Month*

- February 22 Frank and Minnie Stump
- February 24 Calvin and Vivian Tanner

**OUR VOLUNTEERS**

**PROVIDE BREAD FOR 1ST TIME VISITORS**

February 1 Peggy Sizemore  
 February 8 Dee Anne Fortescue  
 February 15 Lisa Hale  
 February 22 Sally Scott

**USHER SCHEDULE**

February 1 Roy Spach, Head Usher  
 Chris Council  
 Butch Hogue  
 Dee Fair  
 Brent Shutt  
 February 8 Tom Mahannah, Head Usher  
 Scott Pugh  
 Eddie Scott  
 John Fonda  
 Calvin Tanner  
 February 15 Roy Spach, Head Usher  
 Chris Council  
 Butch Hogue  
 Dee Fair  
 Brent Shutt  
 February 22 Tom Mahannah, Head Usher  
 Scott Pugh  
 Eddie Scott  
 John Fonda  
 Calvin Tanner

**SANCTUARY ASSIGNMENT**

February Bobby and Peggy Sizemore

**GREETERS FOR THE MONTH**

February Willing Workers Sunday School Class

**CRISIS CONTROL ITEM FOR THE MONTH**

February Canned Beef Stew

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

March February 23  
 April March 23  
 May April 23  
 June May 25  
 July June 23  
 August July 27  
 September August 24  
 October September 23  
 November October 26  
 December November 23

**BASKETBALL SCHEDULE**

Lets support our guys playing Basketball. Al-most all games are on Thursday and they are played in Calvary Baptist Church's new Gym.

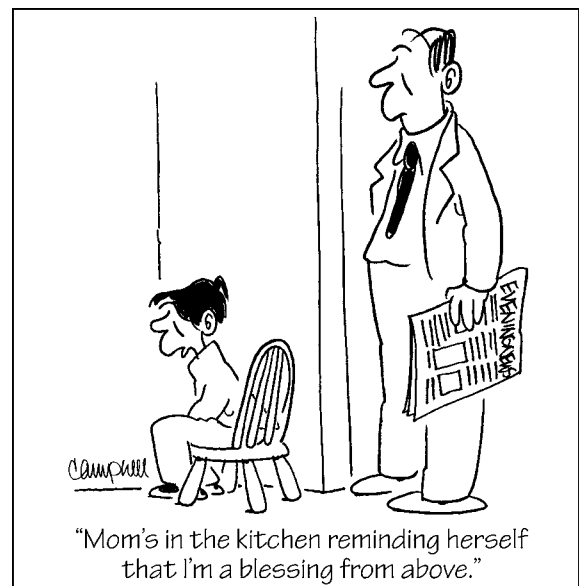
February 5 7:45 p.m. Classics  
 February 12 6:45 p.m. Peace Haven Baptist  
 February 26 6:45 p.m. Rejects  
 March 5 7:45 p.m. Sunrise UMC

**NAVAJO INDIAN MISSION TRIP TO GANADO, ARIZONA**

There is still the possibility that a Mission Trip will be make to the Navajo Indian Reservation to teach Bible School to the wonderful little brown eyed children in Ganado, Arizona. We will leave on July 2 and return on July 15. We will teach Bible School to 30-60 children. We will also visit the Grand Canyon, Canyon de Chelly, and Window Rock.

I will need to know before March 1 if you plan to go. I must know by then if we will be going out to the Reservation. We will have a meeting on March 1 at 3:00 p.m.

If you would like to know more, please pick up information on the trip in the narthex and let Polly know if you are interested.





Dear Church Family,

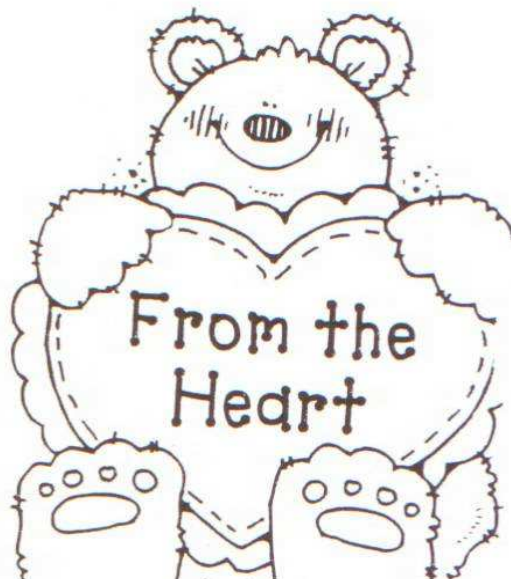
Hello from the Before and After School. Things have been quiet for us here lately. All the children are winding down from the holidays and back into the swing of their routine.

We are getting ready to celebrate Valentine's Day. Our first two "Fun Fridays" will center on this day. The children will make a sweet Valentine bag to collect their goodies in. Our Friday devotions will be on "Loving God and "Loving Others."

We will celebrate two birthday's this month. Celebrating birthdays are Britini Rollins on 2/5 and Bailey Jones on 2/24. We wish both girls a very happy birthday.

That is all the news from the Before and After School. We thank you for your continued support of this wonderful ministry.

Linda



## NEWS FROM UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

February, 2009



**OUR PURPOSE:** The organized unit of the United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through JESUS CHRIST; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the Church.

### CIRCLE MEETINGS

Both circles will meet together at 6:00 on Tuesday February 10<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall. The program "The Reinvigoration of the Love Feast" will be presented by Michele Roberts and Dennis Houle. Dinner will be included.

### ACTIVITIES

The UMW District Mission Study will be Saturday March 7 at 8:30 a.m. at Konnoak Hills UMC. The Study is "Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival" led by Daphne Strickland. Anyone interested in attending should contact Michele Roberts by February 13.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

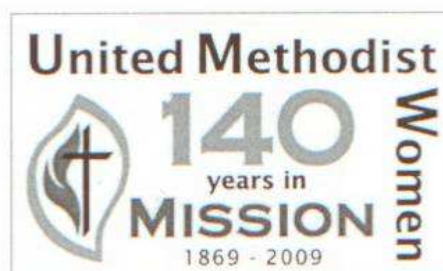
The Call to Prayer and Self Denial Program with Quiet Meal for both circles is March 12 in the Fellowship Hall.

The District Prayer Breakfast is April 25 at New Hope UMC.

The UMW Tea is May 9 in the Fellowship Hall. Entertainment is Catherine Ritch Guess as Ms. Eudora.

### JOIN US

All women of the church and community are invited to join the United Methodist Women. Both circles meet regularly each month.



## KINGDOM KIDS

February

Each Sunday 4:00—5:30 p.m.

**Mission:** Food Drive for El Aposento Alto

**Theme:** Love

February 1 Special Visit

February 8 Make Valentines/games

February 15 Valentine Party/God's Love Lesson

February 22 Funigans

### FOOD DRIVE FOR EL APOSENTO ALTO

Kingdom Kids will be sponsoring a church wide food drive for the Hispanic church El Aposento Alto. The children invite Pine Grove to help a neighboring church stock their food pantry.

Our theme for February is Love and we will be learning about God's love for us and how we can show love to our neighbor.

Please help us make this a successful food drive!

There will be a collection box in the narthex labeled El Aposento Alto. We will deliver the food to the church in March and fellowship with them.

Thank you so much for your support!

Listed below are some items that are in need:

Bag of dry white rice  
 Bag of dry pinto beans  
 Cereal  
 Mexican Pasta  
 Mexican cookies  
 Sugar  
 Salt  
 Canned Soup  
 Ramen Noodles



*Love  
 your neighbor  
 as yourself.*

Leviticus 19:18



We'd like you to meet: E.L. and Martha  
Thomas

E.L. and Martha were both born and raised in Hickory but, they didn't know each other until after college. They agree they met at a party, but their recollections of their courtship differ. E.L. says he had her walking down the aisle in 9 months. Martha says she played hard-to-get for 2 years. Either way, they are still obviously smitten with each other. They celebrated their 40th anniversary on January 18th



E.L. and Martha have been with us at Pine Grove since they first moved to W-S in 1992. But life took them in other directions before they got here. Martha attended the Univ. of Wisconsin where she got her degree in physical therapy. E.L. started college at Gardner Webb with the idea he wanted to be a pharmacist. He attended UNC with the same notion, but finished his college education at WCU with a BS in education, art and drafting. Martha plied her skills as a therapist back in Hickory while E.L., except for a few years early on when he taught furniture design at Catawba CC, started a career in various avenues of the furniture business, mostly on the road. He is now a self-employed rep with the luxury of generally working from home.

Daughters Jennifer and Julie are NC natives even though the Thomas family moved north to Colonial Heights, Va., for several years. Jennifer now lives in Chicago where she teaches art at Columbia College. Julie and her husband still live in Va., where she is a physical therapist. Sounds like these two followed in their parent's footsteps.

Martha says she was quite the tomboy growing up. She played basketball and was a cheerleader in high school and liked to play football with the guys. She shared her talent for playing the piano with her daughters, and I hear they are all very good. At former churches, Martha has taken care of the acolytes, started a Mother's Morning Out, and been a youth leader along with E. L. She has accomplished all of this while dealing with the infirmities of MS for the last 29 years. E.L. says she never missed a beat with their girls during the years he was on the road. Martha always found a way to do what needed to be done.

E.L. was an aspiring athlete. He played football and basketball in high school but really wanted to be a place kicker like Pat Summerall. How many place kickers can catch the ball they just kicked. E. L. could. You just have to kick it really high. He said he sang in the youth choir at church until his voice started to change. Glad it came back so he could sing in our choir. We all know he likes to cut-up but, though it is difficult to believe, E.L. says he was a real hellion growing up. Ask him to tell you about the time he and some of his friends were accused of bootlegging and almost went to jail.

Martha and E.L. are proud to have found and married each other, of the women their daughters have become and that Martha can enjoy the quality of life she does with friends and family. They would like to see more love, tolerance and convictions of faith in the world so, they plan to remain steadfast in showing how they care for others, and in sharing their walk with Jesus. Martha wants people to know she is a kind and gentle person. E.L. wants everyone to know that, though it may sound trite, he is a sinner, but forgiven.

## Administrative Council

The Administrative Council of Pine Grove UMC met Sunday, January 12, 2009 with 23 members in attendance.

Jean Darden called the meeting to order and opened with a praise prayer.

The minutes from the last meeting were posted in the newsletter. Jim Mabry made a motion to approve as posted. Peggy Sizemore seconded and the minutes were approved.

**Finance Committee**—Eddie Scott reported as of the end of the 4th quarter of 2008, the balance in the account was \$31,508.00 with apportionments and invoices current. He noted that a portion of this balance may be used to pay down our debt since we will be looking at a large balloon payment coming up.

**Trustees**—Homer Craig stated that the door to the Fellowship Hall is being left unlocked when people leave. He asked that anyone using the Fellowship Hall lock the door upon entering to avoid leaving it left unlocked when leaving.

We are in need of volunteers for the Sunday security checks. Homer suggested that each Sunday School class provide 1 month of patrolling which would be 1 person per week from each class. He will be happy to train anyone that is willing to do this.

The Trustees will have a clean up day at the church on March 21, 2009. In the event of bad weather, the make up date will be April 4th.

The Trustees suggest a new committee be formed to review and evaluate our current storage space and make recommendations. They would like to see 1 person from each committee serve on the new committee. Anyone who has a vested interest in storage space would be welcomed. Sandy Waldron and Polly Caudle volunteered to serve.

**Worship**—Carolyn Joyner asked that everyone make note of our upcoming Easter services beginning February 25 with our Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m., followed by Maundy Thursday and the Friday Tenebrae service. Breakfast will be served between the Easter Sunrise service and the regular Easter service on April 10.

**Weekday School**—Margaret McLeod reported the Weekday School currently has 78 children enrolled. Parent Teacher conferences will be coming up soon. Registration will begin on February 12 for current students opening up to the public on March 2. Margaret also noted that their committee will meet at a different time in the future due to the conflict of 2 of their members being on other committees.

**Before and after School**—Peggy Sizemore was happy to report the addition of Ellen Gentle to the program. Ellen has a degree in Christian Education and is a wonderful addition to the program. The school currently has 23 full time students and 2 part-time. The Before and After school program will be donation \$100.00 per month the church. \$50.00 will go to the church and \$50.00 will go to the debt retirement. The school was also pleased to pay half the cost of the mulch purchased for the playground area. They were also able to provide a pay increase the director, Linda Houle, who is doing a wonderful job. The Pumpkin Patch project of 2008 profited \$4,297.07

**Children's Council**—Diana Young reported that they are excited about the upcoming year. They are looking at updating the current Sunday School curriculum for our first through fifth graders. Selwyn Shaw has graciously agreed to be their advisor as they search for the best program for Pine Grove. There will no longer be Children's Church during the regular church service. All children will attend the 11:00 a.m. service. The Council is proposing the "Tree House Project" which involves painting the children's Sunday School hall with a tree house and trees along the wall. They are very excited about this project and have the proposal ready to present to the Trustees for approval.

**Youth Council**—The youth have already begun their fund raisers for their mission trip. Terri Newell reminded everyone of the spaghetti meal on January 24th. They have already begun selling "Stock" in the youth and in May they will be selling chores. Please support our youth.

**Outreach**—Polly Caudle reported that the Lenten folders or boxes will be going out on February 22nd and all monies collected will go for missions. We currently have 13 members participating in Meals-on-Wheels. This year we will be doing the Penny campaign, the Heifer project and possibly another Navajo Mission Trip. There are many other projects planned as well.

**Witness Committee**—Noelle Shutt noted some of the activities they are looking at for the upcoming year are: Movie night, Prayer stewards during Lenten season and bringing back 5th Sunday socials. They would also like to provide key chains for the congregation to pass out as well as for our visitors.

**Communication**—A new controller board has been ordered for the sign. Kelly Hale reported the committee is looking at ways to promote our 150th Homecoming Anniversary. Thanks to the recent updates, you can now listen to the Sunday service on line when you visit our web-site.

**Hope House**—Linda Kite reported we have a new family in the Hope House and asked all to keep them in our prayers. Our guests have family in both Forsyth and Baptist Hospitals.

**UMW**—Michele Roberts noted the women will begin a new series called "At the Table". In February the UMW will fellowship with our youth sharing a meal and program. In March the UMW have a "Quiet Meal" and call to Prayer and Self Denial program.

Linda Kite updated us on the plans for the 150th anniversary celebration. On July 25th there will be a "Thank you to the Community" including a Red Cross blood drive at the church, a free hotdog lunch and games and activities for children. More activities are still in the planning stages. Our choir will be performing the anthem they have commissioned just for our anniversary celebration. Linda added that they are very excited about the plans for this very special event and will need all the volunteers they can get. Please see Linda if you would like to help.

Since there is a conflict with Mother's Day with our next council meeting, Michele Roberts made a motion to move the meeting to May 17. Homer Craig seconded and the motion carried. The suggestion was also made that everyone attending the council meeting bring only 1 dish for the meal since we had such an abundance of food.

Pastor Neill reported that we have 12 people planning to join the church. Considering the state of the economy, the church is ending the year on a good note financially. The Committee job descriptions have been ordered and should be here soon. When funds are available, he would like to see us invest in pocket New Testaments to share with others we come in contact with on a daily basis. Our meeting closed with prayer.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Becky Meade

## NOTES FROM THE TRUSTEES

Washer and dryer in the Meeting House: There is a washer and dryer in the meeting house which has been disconnected and will not be used and this became an issue of our tax exemption status for this property. Renee Aldridge made a motion to sell the items within the church and Rick Kimel seconded. Homer checked with R. L. Spach and determined the age and value of each. The washer is 3 to 5 years old and the minimum asking price is \$100.00. the dryer is 10 years old and the minimum asking price is \$75.00. The highest bid will be accepted. Please submit your sealed bid and place in the Trustees' mailbox. Bidding will be complete by March 1, 2009.

Blanket insurance policy of \$1,000,000 coverage for the church: In order to improve our liability coverage with a \$1,000,000 umbrella policy, which has been recommended by our church conference. Our insurance agent advised that we could also save money by raising our deductible from \$250 to \$1,000. By doing this and by purchasing the \$1,000,000 umbrella policy we would net a savings of approximately \$375 per year. This was put into effect on January 14, 2009.

Fellowship hall doors being left unlocked, security issues and Sunday security sign-ups: Our church is not always being locked after use and it has been mainly the Fellowship entrance door. We are asking that everyone who uses this door to do the following: As you unlock the door to come in: re-lock the door before entering and double check the door as you leave. This door is not a self locking door. As to Sunday security checks we are asking Sunday School classes and committees to consider taking a month. Homer will provide instruction and training to anyone that wishes to help in this important responsibility.

Schedule a workday to spring clean inside and outside: The Trustees' have designated March 21st as spring clean up day and April 4th as an alternate day in case of bad weather. We are requesting that all members coming to the work day bring gloves, rakes, wheel barrows, huge leaf bags/tarps to haul off leaves. We will also be cleaning inside so bring small buckets and cleaning towels/rags. Hope to see everyone there.

Storage space issues: The Trustees' approved the creation of a subcommittee comprised of people from our different ministries to evaluate how to better utilize our space. We are asking that anyone interested in serving on this committee to contact one of the Trustees and/or place a note in the trustee's mailbox. Once we have enough volunteers we will meet to discuss their specific tasks.

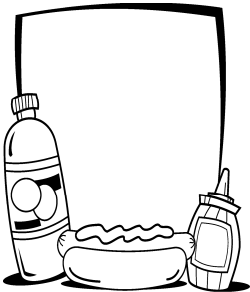
Thanks for your assistance and if you have any questions you may call the church or Homer Craig.

## 150th ANNIVERSARY UPDATE



### *Blood Drive*

Saturday will be a “thank you to the community day.” We will have a blood drive. Jean Darden can be contacted for anyone wishing to volunteer to donate blood that day.



On Saturday there will also be a hot dog lunch and games will be provided to the children. We are hoping to have some entertainment. (Still working on that.)



### *Special Music*

The choir has commissioned an anthem that will be debuted that day. The composer of the anthem will be with us to play. His name is Joseph Martin. The choir has several of his anthems that we sing. Mr. Martin will also be giving a concert that afternoon. The concert will be open to the public.



Sunday will be a very big day!! Our Bishop, Rev. Larry Goodpaster will be with us and speak during the morning service. The District Superintendent, Rev. Bill Medlin will also be with us during the morning service.

We will also enjoy lunch after the worship. This proves to be a very busy and exciting week-end.

More plans will be fourth coming so stay tuned to this page in the newsletter.

Linda Kite,  
Chair of the Homecoming Committee

**UNITED METHODIST MEN**

The United Methodist Men will have a light breakfast meeting Sunday morning, February 8 at 8:00 a.m. Donations will be accepted to help with the cost of the meal. All men of the church are invited to attend. Please call or e-mail Doug Buie by Friday, February 6, if you plan to attend so we will know how many to prepare for. If anyone needs a ride please call or e-mail Doug Buie or Scott Pugh.

Doug Buie 766-4668 douglasbuie@bellsouth.net  
 Scott Pugh 768-7431 Sctpugh@aol.com

**PRIME TIMERS**

The Prime Timers will meet at Mayberry's on Country Club Road after the Morning worship on Sunday, February 8. This is an open invitation to everyone 55 and over. Please call Rhonda Duhon 768-2986 if you plan to eat with us.

**ECUMENICAL WOMEN'S RETREAT**

**Saturday, February 28  
 8:00 a.m.**

Centenary UMC and St. Paul's Episcopal Church are co-sponsoring our 4th annual Lenten day apart for women of all ages, which will take place on Saturday, February 28th. We are so excited about this spiritual retreat opportunity, which is open to women throughout our community.

The theme for this year's time of renewal and reflection is "Faith in the Age of Anxiety". The Reverend Jane Sigloh will be our retreat leader this year. Rev Sigloh is an Episcopal priest and acclaimed teacher/speaker, who is known for her ability to speak truth with grace and humor. It will be a day well spent, so please plan to join us!

Location: St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
 Cost: \$20.00, includes continental breakfast, lunch, and retreat materials.  
 Call the church office for more information.

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