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www.canadacovenantchurch.org
 "Women Ministries"

Facebook:

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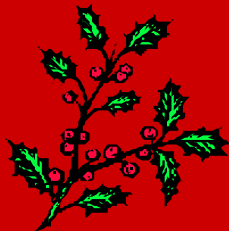
Still looking for someone who loves facebook and knows the "ins and outs" of making it a fun connection—are you it?

please contact Trudy at the email above... Thank you!

Women Ministries:

Judy Nelson, Trudy McIntosh,
 Korleen Stapleton, Lila Freysteinson, Jenell Pluim

AND YOU!



The Evangelical Covenant Church is committed to advancing God's kingdom through ministries that equip women to grow, serve, and reach out with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Through leadership training, retreats, and global opportunities, the Covenant Church connects women in transformational relationships and unites them in Christ to impact our world.

Merry Christmas! Yes—it's almost here!!!



Bright eyed children are filled with the magic of mystery this season brings. It's thrilling to see our new little one take in everything—it's all totally new to her. And we look forward to the day when our baby connects with the special babe whose birth we celebrate at this time of year!

In **Norquay, Sask.** the Ladies celebrate with an annual pot-luck dinner December 3. This has been a tradition at the church going back 30 some years. There is yummy food, a speaker, special music and carol singing. An average of 80 women from the church and community attend. One of their fellows has been taking the church bus around to pick up the elderly ladies in the community and they love the door to door service. It's a great way to start the advent season. Judy Nelson



In **Sarnia, ON, the Lighthouse Community**

prepares a special Christmas Dinner for the Inn of the Good Shepherd, the local soup kitchen, on the 3rd Sunday in December.

The dining room is transformed with festive tablecloths and centerpieces, members of the worship band provide live music, WM prepares candy bags for each person, and many members of the church come together to serve at the tables, rather than aving people line



up for their food at the kitchen window. Each year as the 120 or so people enter their eyes shine with delight at what they see before them.. For those who serve there's great reward in the doing, they leave pooped, but their hearts are full. Trudy McIntosh

Christmas at the Junction in Nelson, BC includes...

Community Christmas Dinner

- Sponsored by the Junction Church and its Food Bank
- Saturday December 11th @ 6PM
- All welcome & no charge
- Donations to the Junction Church Food Bank are welcome



At **Erikson Covenant, Erikson, BC** the ladies are enjoying the season as the church is decked in fresh cedar bows, twinkling lights on the Christmas tree and the Christmas nativity tapestries. There is a growing sense of anticipation of the Saviour's birth. Their WM is planning a light hearted gathering to share Christmas reminiscences, play a game or two, savour a delectable treat and exchange Secret and Open Prayer Sister gifts. Before people's calendars are totally filled we will join together as women for fellowship and food. As Korleen Stapleton says : It's what we do best!

Just some of the the happenings at **Hope Community in Strathmore, AB**
the Christmas Mouse

Our third annual event was a great success with 135 children (age 4 – 12) from the community spending a full day at our church. There were crafts, a bounce house, games, movies, and even a 'Mouse Store' for the kids to shop in for gifts for their parents! It was a fun filled day that kids look forward to all year and gifts parents with the ease to enjoy a day to shop, decorate, relax, or do whatever, with no kids!

Christmas Tea & Bake Sale

Hope hosted their annual Christmas Tea & Bake Sale on Saturday, Dec 4. Tea & goodies were served and music will be provided by Rozella & Friends. Proceeds from the sale (approx \$700) will go towards the Ebenezer Clinic in Haiti.

Sounds of Christmas

Sunday, Dec 5, at 7:30 pm, about 250 people came to Hope Church to hear the Gleichen Choir and join in a carol sing. Donations of cash and non-perishable food for the Christmas Hamper Society were accepted in lieu of admission.

Some great ways to connect in the New Year:
You might want to consider facilitating a video study. You don't have to teach, just help others follow through on doing a study together. If you're ready to dig in here's some I have found very encouraging and hugely helpful to getting to know God's Word in a way that often just blows me away. The teacher? Beth Moore. Some topics to consider... **"Psalms of Ascent"** - 7 week study
"Esther" - takes 11 weeks (or 22 if you do a half session per week, lots of groups do it that way, **"Jesus the One and Only"** - 11 weeks
"Believing God" - (11 weeks) Anyone struggling with their identity? Share in **"Me, Myself and Lies"** by Jennifer Rothchild, If they are too pricey for you check around, many Churches will loan them out. Young moms may just want to get out and connect on a regular basis with some adult company, maybe go for walks, talk over parenting tips... whatever you choose, you'll be richer for it...**go for it, girls!.**

Ingredients: 1 large coffee mug (MicroSafe), 4 T flour, 4 T sugar, 2 T cocoa,
1 egg, 3 T milk, 3 T oil, 3 T chocolate chips (optional), A small splash of vanilla extract (T = tablespoon)
Instructions:
Add dry ingredients to mug, and mix well. Add the egg and mix thoroughly. Pour in the milk and oil and mix well. Add the chocolate chips (if using) and vanilla extract, and mix again. Put your mug in the microwave and cook for 3 minutes at 1000 watts. The cake will rise over the top of the mug, but don't be alarmed! Allow to cool a little, and tip out onto a plate if desired.
EAT ! (Ladies—this can serve 2 if you want to but no one has to know but us- I won't tell if you won't!).

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As the year wraps to an end and you receive this little update on Women Ministries in the Canada Covenant are you wondering what this is really all about? I know I have in the past. Well, in a nutshell...WM is all about Women supporting Women—whether that means helping groups of women reach out to their community with the gospel and a helping hand in a myriad of ways, or assist marginalized women enter more fully into life, create safe spaces for women who are trapped by domestic violence or the sex trade, or women who are working overseas as missionaries and in need of connection and financial assistance. In 2010, as we do every year, we stepped out in faith and took on a number of projects that give focus to our ability to encourage. We are a self supporting Ministry so we depend on all of us to help make this happen.

These are the ministries we invest in:

Compassion, Mercy and Justice Ministry

Educate the Girls/Paul Carlson Foundation—in third world countries women are able to rise above the many dangers of being taken advantage of if they are able to be educated.
 AVA Canada—reaches out to women in domestic abuse and teaches churches to do the same
 Denominational Project – REED- BC - helps “Break the chains” of women and children trapped in the sex trade

Equipping Ministries

Conference Project – Life together House—2 homes (Calgary & Winnipeg) part of our denomination’s discipleship initiatives for young adults. We seek to provide extra funds to help with their activities.

Legacy Fund

Ordinand Spouse travel (5 spouses this year) - this helps spouses share in the joy of the ceremony of ordination

Global Ministries

Missionary Encouragement Fund, Special Interest Missionary priority project and Special Interest Missionaries birthday gifts

For a period of 3 years the Canadian Conference is partnered with 2 career Covenant missionaries and a retired missionary. Each career SIM is invited to submit a \$300 US project that will enhance their ministries. In addition, each SIM receives a \$25 US birthday gift.

Raise the Flag – hosting a missionary for Triennial, this is a great experience both for the missionaries and their hosts

Haiti Clinic—providing medical supplies

Growth Ministries

Ministry Coach Training—to find out more about this—view the video below:

Especially if you’re wishing you had someone to talk to about making ideas come to life, or get out of a rut, you may find we have just the help you need. Here’s the link:

<http://www.vimeo.com/15762725>

Now pass it on!

As you can see—there’s a lot of area covered in our focused ministry project. There’s still time if you’d like to contribute to any one of these for 2010. You can send the funds directly to the Winnipeg office, using the form on the webpage will help you to specify what it’s designated for. Thank you for partnering with us however you are able! Together we are Women Ministries—caring is what we do!



From the heart of the Women Ministry Team we send our wishes for a wonderful Christmas and may the richness of the ancient story of our Saviour’s birth penetrate your hearts and homes in a fresh way—leaving a fragrance of joy and gratitude—because He lives! Mercy and Grace to you all!