



# First United Methodist Church Waco

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RENEW - THE VOICE OF WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

# RENEW

The Voice of Women's Ministries

RESTORE

ENGAGE

NURTURE

EDUCATE

WOMEN OF GOD



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## WOMEN OF GOD in the spotlight



taking most classes on her lunch breaks. When she arrived for graduation, she did not see her name on the program for graduating seniors. Her name was on a different list, the honors roster. She graduated Magna Cum Laude.

Leise later went to work for Baylor as the Development Coordinator, then moving to Executive Assistant to the Vice President for major gifts. She remained at Baylor for over 12 years, allowing her son Cody to complete his education there. Cody is now married and lives in Boerne, Texas. Her husband Brad, retired from M&M Mars in 2009 after 28 years of service. He now works for Texas Department of Safety as a Maintenance Supervisor.

Meet Leise Wells. She has a powerful connection to First United Methodist Church. As a Saturday night leader, she works with Pastor Wayne to support the ministries that happen around and through the Saturday night service. She successfully connects the women that attend that service to women's ministries.

Leise was born in Waco and attended Waco schools, graduating from Waco High in 1978. She married Brad Wells and went straight to work at Calvary Assembly of God in Robinson at their childcare center for several years. She and Brad have a son, Cody.

In 1983, Leise began working for Waco Center for Youth where she remained for twelve years. Encouraged by MCC professors to pursue and complete a Business Management degree, she accepted the challenge. With little confidence in academics, she pushed through the process

about involving the women more intentionally at the Saturday night service. She began leading a bible study and has formed a strong core group of Saturday night service women. She led a summer series study through Girlfriends for Christ, thus connecting the Saturday night women with other women in the church. She is presently leading a study during Midweek, bringing along some of her Saturday night following. Her small groups are vision casting to include men and women in fellowship once a month in homes and on site at the church. Leise is forming a leadership team to help guide the fellowship effort to support this important ministry. Come meet and get to know Leise. You will be blessed.



**"In Stiches"**  
Prayer Shawl Ministry.  
Come and knit or crochet.  
Beginners welcome!  
**Thursdays**  
**10:00am**  
Prayer Room

While Cody was in college, the Wells participated in Athletes in Action as their primary ministry, helping inner city children to become involved in track opportunities and sharing gospel lessons with them. When Cody completed college and launched his career, experiencing a bit of the empty nest syndrome, Leise turned to prayer for connections and new friends. Searching for a Sunday night worship service, she and Brad visited FUMC and became involved with My Brother's Keeper, an outreach of FUMC through the Saturday night service. Leise spoke with Pastor Wayne

## Rev. Su Milam, Pastor of Women's Ministries



I hope that everyone had a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! It is time for another New Beginning, as we start another year, 2012. It is very difficult to believe it is a new year. Time goes by so fast. Each year I begin the year in reflection over my shoulder and vision casting as I look forward. Remember you don't get points for predicting rain, but you get points

for building the ark. I invite you to look back at certain major areas of your life and do some good goal setting for your improvement in those areas. Be honest, examine, look for concrete steps to make things better, clearer, in action, thought and in deed in those areas. You may expand your list to other areas as well—Good for you!! Put some thought into: Faith (Always First!), Family, Friends, Financial Balance, Fitness, and Fun. I am not asking you to do anything that I am not willing to do myself. Let's get to it for a better year! First in the area of Faith: This spring, we are going to offer an opportunity for our women that we would like to see grow over the coming years. We are planning a Lenten Experience.

We are going to look not only at what Lent is, but the reason behind it.....Jesus, and His role as the New Covenant. What does that really mean? We are going to have an afternoon of learning, hear from some awesome women, make a salvation bracelet, walk a labyrinth, and of course a chance to fellowship and food. The date is Sunday, March 4, 2012. We will be traveling down the road to the Cedarbrake Retreat Center in Belton for the afternoon experience. The site is lovely and peaceful, a great environment to grow in our Faith together. Sign-ups are coming soon, we hope to see you there; you will be blessed.

**"I will be there God, and they will be my people." Jeremiah 31:33**

### Special points of interest:

- Welcome
- Restore: Devotional by Joy Elliott
- Engage: Midweek Bible Study, Lenten Experience
- Nurture: A New Face for UMW, Cheryl Willis
- Educate: Resources and Inspiration
- Women of God: Spotlight on Leise Wells

## A Women's Lenten Experience

*Gather  
Prepare  
Participate  
Reflect*

**Sunday, March 4,  
2-6pm  
Cedarbrake Retreat Center,  
Belton**



## Adair Bowen, Women's Ministries Coordinator



### Greetings Ladies and Happy New Year!

We are really excited about the upcoming Women's Lenten Experience. So many of us have been blessed by the Advent by Candlelight event in preparation for Christmas that we feel that a Lenten experience in preparation for the Easter season would allow us to further deepen our faith. Su has mentioned the event in her message and I would like to tell you a little more about what we have planned. It will be held at the Cedarbrake Retreat Cen-

ter in Belton only a short distance away and we can caravan. The setting is perfect for an early spring quieting of our spirits in preparation for the Easter season. I encourage you to visit their website for a video tour of the facility. We have the lodge reserved for our event and will have the grounds available also.



An overview:

**Gather**  
Women gather in fellowship March 4

**Prepare**  
Learn about the symbolism of the Seder plate associated with the Passover and our Jewish roots—guest speaker

**Participate**

Choose to make a salvation bracelet, learning the symbolism behind the beads and color or experience a Lenten Labyrinth walk

**Reflect**

Partake in Holy Communion—Jesus Christ, the New Covenant—the New Passover

Beverages and snacks will be provided. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. Come and share in this special Lenten experience.

Blessings in this new year,  
Adair

To view a slide show of the grounds and facilities at the Cedarbrake Retreat Center, Google Cedarbrake Retreat Center Belton, TX—you will also find driving directions.