



## WOMEN'S MINISTRY OF GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH, WICHITA, KS

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit." Galatians 5: 22 and 25.*

**The Parenting Test** - It seems to me that life's significant learning relationships occur between parent and child. We learn many of our life values from parent models; our emotional responses are patterned from early experiences. Often the test of our parenting comes later when our children are themselves adults interacting with their own children as well as parents. When the job of parenting is underway, as well as when it is complete, we ask ourselves if we created the loving, caring and responsible child we hoped for – especially when the roles are reversed and the parent becomes the recipient of care.

Fanni Green was an adult child in transition to being a caregiver when she told her story.\* Her mother, 78 year-old Pauline, fell and broke her hip and was no longer able to live on her own. Although Fanni had talked to her about the possibility of living in an assisted living center, her mother was resistive. Fanni called a friend's mother of about the same age and asked her advice.

Her friend urged her not to beg her mother or force her to comply. She instead told her, "Mothers simply cannot resist their children when their children speak directly from their heart. Just tell her honestly that you need her help."

Fanni followed her friend's advice and went to her mother. When she told her mother that she couldn't take care of her without help, she laid her head in her mother's lap and cried. Her mother was quietly tearless, patted Fanni's head and said she would go. After a few minutes of closeness, her mother sighed and said, "Well, we better go do this before I change my mind."

The test was passed, and both hearts were intact, perhaps stronger than ever because each acted with respect, love and dignity.

I believe God is present in the face of the people we love; in the hug of our mothers, and in the painful moments of caregiving. These moments are God's love seen in action. Our efforts to love one another are an act of God's love; through love we trust. He is with us always.

Joan Pritchard, Council Representative

\*from the Story-van Oral History Project, 2009

### Gloria Dei Women's Guilds

**Hannah Guild:**  
Meets the second  
Tuesday of the month at  
9:30 a.m. in  
Fellowship Hall B.  
Pam Fulton 794-8659

**Leah Guild:**  
Meets the second Sunday  
of the month at 9:45 a.m.  
in the Church library.  
Susan Vetter 744-7096  
Debra West 264-5115

**Rebekah Guild:**  
Meets the second Saturday of  
the month at 1:00 p.m. in the  
hostess' home.  
Shirley Morgan 773-4368  
Ruth Johnson 682-2063

**Ruth Guild:**  
Meets the second Wednesday  
of the month at 10:00 a.m. in  
the Church.  
Karen Haynes 721-1633

**Tabitha Guild:**  
Meets the third Tuesday of  
the month at 1:00 p.m. in the  
Church library.  
Roberta Witte 721-5430  
Linda Timmons 832-1369

### *Women's Ministry Mission*

**Women's Ministry was formed to support and encourage women to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ and other women of the church, community and the world.**

**Getting to Know Helen Drennen** - *It isn't difficult to find an area of church activity where Helen Drennen is involved. She is a member of Tabitha Guild and has been a part of the support workforce in guild activities for years. Helen and husband Harold are regular participants in the fellowship hour and regulars at weekly fellowships and Bible studies. She is a welcome member of such studies and book club meetings, as she is not only well read, but clearly knows her Bible. She often shares reflections on scripture applied to life experience. She is a quiet model of involvement in our congregational life.*

*Helen's childhood provided strong family models of Christian service. Raised in the Disciples of Christ Church, her parents strongly supported mission efforts and tithed with an open heart, often when others might have yielded to economic stress. Helen's own values were formed by this example.*

*After her marriage to Harold, their own family was centered in a faith community. Although they originally worshiped in another denomination, Harold's Lutheran affiliation brought them to Gloria Dei. It was in this church that their children matured in faith and where the couple found a permanent home. Helen's quick sense of humor and a bent for the comic served her well in her fellowship and youth leadership roles. "We are particularly thankful that we have been privileged to raise five children who are all productive people and faithful followers of our Lord Jesus," she commented.*

*I sat recently with Helen, as she reflected on her views and experiences. She has mentored many individuals as a Stephen Ministry leader, and as a caregiver has touched many lives. Helen told me of her belief in mission and the belief that this should be a church priority. Her compassion for others is evident.*

*As a professional nurse, Helen has dedicated her life to helping others, but once retired, she was able to apply her gifts to helping our own church community. She was on the first team trained as Stephen Ministry leaders and has been active in that ministry since 1994. She has assisted in training and in matching care givers and receivers – an exercise of her gift of sensitivity.*

*Soft spoken and a joy to talk with, Helen shared, "I want to be a witness to others. It can be something ever so simple; perhaps just a comment that shows that God is present in my life today. I want people to know that I love God, but more importantly, that he loves me." That trust, she believes, will bring us all to be the disciples Christ seeks.*

*Thank you, Helen, for your service.*



# Pages and Sages Book Club

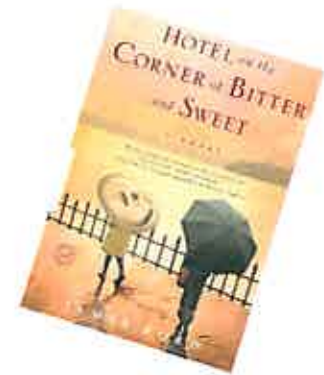
Pages and Sages Book Club is open to all. Members come and go as their interests and schedules permit. We welcome you to join us for coffee or lunch and a great discussion.

August, 2010

(Discussion September 11, 2010 at 11:00 at the Café at Wichita Art Museum)

## ***Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Joy Jamie Ford**

Henry Lee is a 12-year-old Chinese boy who falls in love with Keiko Okabe, a 12-year-old Japanese girl, while they are scholarship students at a prestigious private school in World War II Seattle. Henry hides the relationship from his parents, who would disown him if they knew he had a Japanese friend. His father insists that Henry wear an "I am Chinese" button everywhere he goes because Japanese residents of Seattle have begun to be shipped off by the thousands to relocation centers. This is an old-fashioned historical novel that alternates between the early 1940s and 1984, after Henry's wife Ethel has died of cancer. A particularly appealing aspect of the story is young Henry's fascination with jazz and his friendship with Sheldon, an older black saxophonist just making a name for himself in the many jazz venues near Henry's home. Other aspects of the story are more typical of the genre: the bullies that plague Henry, his lack of connection with his father, and later with his own son. Readers will care about Henry as he is forced to make decisions and accept circumstances that separate him from both his family and the love of his life. The setting and story are quietly moving and make for a romantic story.



September, 2010

(Discussion October 2, 2010)

## ***Have a Little Faith: A True Story* by Mitch Albom**

In *Have a Little Faith*, Mitch Albom offers a beautifully written story of a remarkable eight-year journey between two worlds--two men, two faiths, two communities--that will inspire readers everywhere.

*Have a Little Faith* begins with an unusual request: an eighty-two-year-old rabbi from Albom's old hometown asks him to deliver his eulogy. Feeling unworthy, Albom insists on understanding the man better, which throws him back into a world of faith he'd left years ago.

Meanwhile, closer to his current home, Albom becomes involved with a Detroit pastor--a reformed drug dealer and convict--who preaches to the poor and homeless in a decaying church with a hole in its roof.

Moving between their worlds, Christian and Jewish, African-American and white, impoverished and well-to-do, Albom observes how these very different men employ faith similarly in fighting for survival: the older, suburban rabbi embracing it as death approaches; the younger, inner-city pastor relying on it to keep himself and his church afloat.

As America struggles with hard times and people turn more to their beliefs, Albom and the two men of God explore issues that perplex modern man: how to endure when difficult things happen; what heaven is; intermarriage; forgiveness; doubting God; and the importance of faith in trying times. Although the texts, prayers, and histories are different, Albom begins to recognize a striking unity between the two worlds--and indeed, between beliefs everywhere.

In the end, as the rabbi nears death and a harsh winter threatens the pastor's wobbly church, Albom sadly fulfills the rabbi's last request and writes the eulogy. And he finally understands what both men had been teaching all along: the profound comfort of believing in something bigger than yourself.

*Have a Little Faith* is a book about a life's purpose; about losing belief and finding it again; about the divine spark inside us all. It is one man's journey, but it is everyone's story.



**DIRECTORIES ARE READY TO BE PICKED UP BY THE GUILD LEADERS IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY.** Thanks to Cathy Latta for preparing the directories for us again this year.

**ANNOUNCING**



# **“Faith in the Garden” at Wichita Botanical Gardens**

**A fall event of Women’s Ministry of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church**

**Sunday, September 26, 2010 from 1:30 - 5:00**

**Wine, appetizers and herb tasting at 1:30**

**Speaker Kay Neff- “Herbs of the Bible”**

**Followed by walks in the gardens**

**Tickets are \$10 and include gate fees to Botanical Gardens**