

April 2010  
Volume 6, Issue 6  
Quarterly Newsletter

# Mandarin Sister to Sister Newsletter

## Ladies Ministry of Mandarin Church of Christ

We are currently looking for ladies with bright ideas who are interested in working in two of our ministries. They are Christmas Party and Special Activities. If you are interested please get with the Core Committee.

*Thanks and Appreciation goes to all ladies who are currently working in a ministry.*

### Past /Current/Upcoming Events:

#### 2010 Ladies Retreat

After months of preparation, our long-awaited "Holiness - - A Journey or a Destination?" retreat finally arrived on Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. Some of us were able to meet at 5:00 P.M. to enjoy a delicious Italian dinner together. Carrabas restaurant was conveniently located within walking distance from our hotel. Quality Suites Oceanfront in Jacksonville Beach handled our registration smoothly, allowing us to check in before our retreat activities began. As each person arrived at the Orca group meeting room, she received: a goody bag, a retreat packet, and a freshly baked cookie, compliments of Quality Suites. There was plenty of time to visit, check out the goody bag contents, preview our retreat packet, and view a short PowerPoint before the retreat officially got underway at 7:30 P.M. with a prayer by Linda Crockford. This was followed by thirty wonderful minutes of praising God in song. After announcements, our committee coordinators were called to the front of the room to put together a large puzzle with the name of our retreat.

One of the highlights of the evening was a twenty-five minute PowerPoint presentation entitled "Holiness - - A Journey or a Destination?" Its beautiful scenery and messages helped to identify the stages of spiritual growth. Thought-provoking questions helped to create a pensive mood, setting the stage for our next activity. We then adjourned to the rooms of the small group leaders. There was no time limit given, and leaders welcomed a free exchange of thoughts and ideas. Each group consisted of nine ladies who were able to share their responses to study questions prepared earlier. This was a unity-building and faith-strengthening activity as ladies were encouraged by the shared comments. In addition, each of the small group leaders' rooms was stocked with snacks and beverages for all to enjoy.

Saturday morning came bright and early with a 7:30 A.M. devotional. Unfortunately, it was too cold and windy for this to take place on the beach as planned. Nevertheless, it was a wonderful time of spiritual nourishment through prayer, scripture and song. Beginning our day together in such a fine way set a tone of love and of deepening relationships.

Next, we all enjoyed a breakfast buffet with plenty of coffee, tea, eggs, sausage, cereal, biscuits, fruit, and made-to-order waffles. A few souls braved the chill in the air and ate on the outside patio area. The clock was ticking; we had an hour to finish breakfast and check out of the hotel.

As we all got settled, we enjoyed some singing. Rita Thompson led us in prayer, followed by a second retreat PowerPoint entitled "Where Do I Go from Here?" This was very effective to put us in a self-reflecting mood as we listened to our speaker, Margaret Carter. She addressed "Personal Holiness: My Father in Me", using 46 scriptures and other

#### *Theme:*

*What We Have in Common*

#### *Core Committee*

Sis. Selina Renee Agnew  
Sis. Wendy Blackstone  
Sis. Sherry Emery  
Sis. Bonnie Wilson  
Sis. Judy Dickerman

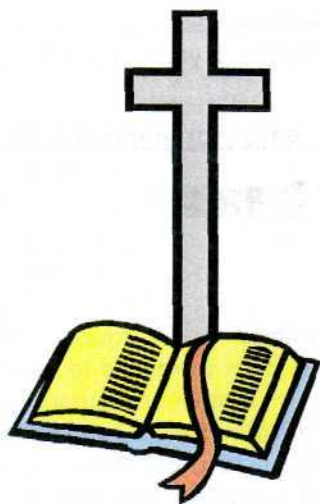
#### *Website*

[www.mandarinmc.com](http://www.mandarinmc.com)

Kathleen gratefully named the 44 women who worked so hard to make this a successful and very well attended retreat experience 55 members and 7 guests participated this year!

Concluding activities included: small group discussions, evaluation forms, sharing with the whole group, one last song, prayer led by Katia Bowles, and a group picture on the beach. Many of us enjoyed a yummy lunch at Joe's Crab Shack afterwards.

Thank you, God, for making our 2010 Mandarin Ladies Retreat a mountaintop experience! May we determine to allow it to help us to continue towards a Bright Future together ☺




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*"God always keep us near the cross, our eyes always focused on you and the goodness that you bring to our everyday life". ~Amen*

## Featured Ministries of the Quarter

The goals of the **Mission Committee** are to: 1) obey the great commission by sharing the gospel locally, nationally and beyond our borders, 2) increase the awareness and involvement of the Mandarin body in evangelical outreach. In order to achieve these goals we currently support our own Outreach Ministry in Jacksonville, the work of the Johnstown Church of Christ in upstate New York, provide for Leroy Swaby to be a full time minister in Jamaica, send a medical mission team to work with the Negril Church of Christ in Jamaica and keep the church van repaired and running. Fund raising beyond the church budget is necessary to adequately support this work. The annual spaghetti supper and auction help to subsidize the cost for those who participate in the Jamaican mission while major assistance is provided through grant proposals to groups such as the Kathleen McGehee Foundation and Kingsway Charities. The committee is open to anyone who is interested in mission work whether you intend to participate in a mission trip or not. We meet on a need-to-work basis. There are more meetings and decisions to be made in the months leading up to Operation Jamaica during the first week of July.

The **Children's Ministry** seeks to support parents in their God given work of raising up Christian children. Our job is not to replace parents as the primary teachers of God's truths but to supplement and assist. We offer Sunday school classes for children from the cradle through sixth grade. On Wednesday nights the Treasure Seekers put their Bible training to work through hands on activities as the kids discover their talents while earning badges based on Bible principles. In addition we organize Vacation Bible School, parties and opportunities for the kids and their parents to form bonds through activities that serve needs and sometimes are purely for fun. *And* we offer Children's Worship for kids age two through first grade. Even though there is an "official" Children's Coordinator, clearly it takes *a lot* of volunteers to have a successful children's program.

If you are interested in working in any of these Ministries please see Sis. Linda Crockford.

## To the Ladies of Mandarin

Wow, I can't believe that when you all read this newsletter; it will be my last publication and I will be preparing or have already prepared to move to Tallahassee.

Words can not express the love and gratitude that I have for each and every one of you. You have molded me into such a wonderful Christian woman. The love that I feel on a daily basis and every Sunday when I come through the doors of the church is a love that I pray I will find at my new church.

Thanks, to each of you for making my walk with God here at Mandarin a great one. My home is open ....oops ... our home is open so come by anytime.

With Love Always,

Selina R. Agnew Peet