

*Women's Group Meeting*  
*Tuesday night ~ Nov. 4, 2014*

Fr Tom began with our prayer & 2 Troparions to our Saints. He spoke about temptations, humility, passions & forgiveness and kindness. He read from Elder Paisios. He said trials compel us to be humble so as to free us from passions & makes us ready for Heaven. When others hurt us, we want to fight back, but what GOD wants is for us to be kind & compassionate instead. When hurt, our "way of escape" is PRAYERS. To tell God everything, then let Him work out your salvation. Amanda offered "Be still & Know that I AM God"

Karla then spoke about our goals & hopes for our Women's Group. She talked about us being in groups of women and being "safe" with each other. Trusting each other. Not living in a "museum" (George Papageorge) but living in a Hospital... where healing can happen inside of us & with each other.

Maryfaith read a neat story about Crayons... how we are like a box of crayons, all different colours, but the same... each of us needing each other & yet finding some hard to get along with. And so we need to be praying for each other, and also be able to confess to each other.

Because our meeting was held in a home, there was an intimate feeling to the group this time and many of us shared our hearts freely & openly!

One of the goals of our group is to grow together in closeness to God, certainly, but also with each other. Many of us spoke up and shared in intimate ways from our hearts. We talked about deeper friendships, about deeper communication with each other, about praying for each other, about getting together more frequently, either with women only but also w/ our husbands. We talked about creating small groups to share in our Life journey. We talked about supporting one another through some of our pains, and finding healing & encouragement, and being in a safe enough environment to share details with no fear of gossip later.

These ideas were loosely based upon the Questionnaire that was handed out a couple of months ago to begin the new WG's. This will be an on-going discussion during a certain time in our group as we figure out HOW to settle upon groups.

For now, there will be a fun group forming at Kh. Ellen Steiger's home around knitting (or other handiwork that you want to bring) and then going over to Church to pray a Paraklesis to our Theotokos for our children & then continuing on to Wed night Vespers. It will begin soon. We would meet around 4-4:30 pm and continue on, as each one can.

Some of our women will be traveling up to Mother Melania's Calistoga Monastery for the retreat happening this weekend. For those of us, like myself, who thought

about this too late, we will be helping each other to know about up-coming retreats and then making plans earlier so that many of us can go & enjoy the spiritual encouragement that the Monasteries offer. For each retreat, you will find your own rides, lodging, meals. It helps to carpool up.

Our WG's Yearly Project this year is called:

Nurturing the Seeds of Orthodoxy

What this means is that some of our funds will be going to help build & support Orthodox Monasteries and Kid's Camping and this is for the entire USA.

To that end, we talked about various fund-raising projects we could do. There are some Months that have an extra Sunday, and the WG's could host a Brunch, women bringing in food, and then we would charge for each plate. That money would be collected & donated to our Yearly Project. We will be offering soup suppers, beginning December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5-6 PM before Vespers on Wednesday evening. Many other ideas were shared.

For this year, we would still encourage YOU to share your own ideas, opinions, and answers to the Questionnaire as you can with the group. We simply began the discussion this time! We "threw the wet spaghetti against the wall, and saw if it stuck"!! There are no other specifics at this time.

Our next meeting will be at Church, immediately following Divine Liturgy, and in the Church office.

Date – Dec 14 Bring your ideas to share!

One of our goals is to provide many venues for being together, to get to know one another, to share our lives, to encourage each other. We can also learn from one another, if we have a skill to share. For example, I want to learn to paint my house... Now that there are low-VOC paints I can do this, but have not a clue as to where to begin. So, I asked Brian Murray if he would give us a class. He said Yes.

We will be putting classes, events, & times for getting together in small groups on a calendar ~ so perhaps you could bring a notebook to write in next time. That will also be a great way for you younger mothers to have times to "get away" from home & children for a day or night out... and Dad or whomever can babysit. Laurel Beck has generously offered her babysitting skills! She is back living in our area now.

Any Questions, Comments, Ideas can please be directed to Karla Newberry, Maryfaith Woods, or Maria Lindsay.

*These notes are submitted today by Maria Lindsay.*

*Please know these are only a partial summary of what was talked about.*

*Please come to our next meeting!!*

*November 13, 2014*