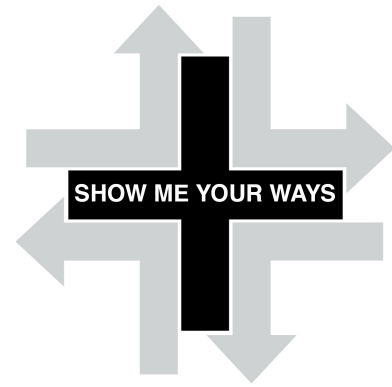


Show Me Your Ways....
Psalm 25:4-5 (NIV)

This year, with Psalm 25 as our foundation, we will have the opportunity to learn and explore God's directions for our lives and our churches. **Show me your ways – Guide me – Teach me.** These will be our words for the coming year in Women's Ministry, and the Bible studies will help us to live out this theme.



Psalm 25 is a prayer, a lament to be more exact and it is chock full of amazing tidbits for one seeking to live a life of faith. The really interesting and exciting aspect of Psalm 25 is that not only is it a prayer asking for instruction and guidance, but its design is itself a teaching method. Psalm 25 is written in the form of an acrostic poem in which the first letter, syllable or word of each line, paragraph or other recurring feature in the text spells out a word or a message. In the case of Psalm 25 the first letter of each verse is a consecutive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. And this format aided the readers or worshipers in its memorization. Now how clever is that!

In keep with this unique feature of Psalm 25, each of the bible studies include an activity where participants are invited to write an acrostic poem based upon the study's focus. AND – to carry this teaching method a bit further, it might be fun to share those acrostic poems at regional meetings and retreats. This will take some organizing, but the potential for conversation and learning is limitless. Your group might consider creating a banner or a quilt or a poster of some of the acrostics that you've written during the year. Maybe a regional event/retreat could set aside some time for this creative work. So - make sure that you and your group write a few acrostic poems this year, and see where God takes you in the process!!!

You will also notice that the studies are grouped together into the Three Tracks of ministry – Bible Study/Prayer, Mission/Service/Outreach, and Fellowship/Encouragement. This is not the only way to group them, so feel free to pick and chose when to use each one. There is no set schedule, pattern or plan.

Our thanks and appreciation is extended to **Michelle Rackley**, the writer for this year's Bible Study. Michelle is a graduate of Emory and Henry College with a degree in Early Childhood Education and English. She went on to attend Union Theological Seminary and the Presbyterian School of Christian Education receiving her Master's of Divinity and her Master's of Arts in Christian Education. She is married to the Reverend Mark Rackley, who pastors the Bartow Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Rydal, Georgia. They are the proud parents of Sarah Catherine, Paul William, and Anna Rene. You may contact Michelle at mandmrackley@gmail.com

