

Reflections on the Book of Ruth

Real Women, Real Life, Real Faith

We're changing things up this year (in an awesome way) to move this retreat time from ordinary to extraordinary. Held at the lovely Warm Beach Retreat and Conference Center in Stanwood, our speakers for this year's retreat are Jeanne Warne and Holly Pankratz, and their message will be centered around the book of Ruth and the Women's Ministry's theme: Real Women, Real Life, Real Faith. Using the story of Ruth and Naomi, Holly and Jeanne will speak and teach on what it means to be a real, godly woman in today's society and how we as women can, through our relationship with God, come along side one another to bear each other's burdens. We believe with certainty that the Lord has a very important and personal message to speak to each woman *He's* invited to this retreat. Sure, it will be a time of fun, fellowship, rest and relaxation – a time to escape from the distractions, stresses and obligations of daily life. That's the "retreat" part. But we believe that the message He desires to communicate to us during this weekend away is one that will not only be personally life-changing, but will also transform our relationships with God, our families and friends, co-workers, and even those within the body of Christ! Does this excite you? It sure excites us! We hope that you will accept this invitation that comes not only from us, but from the Lord Himself.

Now, let's get real. Here are some specifics you probably want to know... Warm Beach is an hour's drive from Bellevue, just north of Marysville. The retreat begins on Friday evening the 19th of March with dinner at 7:00 PM and ends on Sunday at Noon. Saturday will be a combination of speaking sessions, one in the morning and one in the evening, with free time activities in between. There will be an optional breakout session taught by Theresa McKenna. Other Saturday optional activities include horseback riding, ropes course and climbing wall – provided at the camp for under \$15.00. Activities in the area include shopping at the outlet mall in Tulalip or LaConner. The setting at Warm Beach is also perfect for walks or just relaxing and taking in the view.

All meals are included with registration and we will be housed in the Mt. Baker Village cabins. The rooms are furnished with two sets of bunk beds and one queen size bed, and have a bathroom with shower. You need to bring comfortable, casual clothing; bedding or sleeping bag; toiletries and towel; your Bible; a pen; and some snacks to share. Follow this link to see a picture of the room: <http://www.warmbeach.com/index.php/rentals/conference-center/mt-baker-cabins>.

The cost for the retreat is \$140.00 through February 14th. After that date the price increases to \$169.00. We have space for 150 women – so don't wait, sign up today! If you have any questions, please contact Abby at abbym@westminster.org.

We hope you can make it to what will be an awesome weekend. Register soon! You won't want to miss this!