

Event Planning

As I prepare to take over in 2024 as the Director of Women's Ministry at Central Bible Church in Fort Worth, I have taken responsibility for the planning of our ministry's two major annual events—the Fall Event and Ladies' Retreat.

I am not a natural event planner. However, I have learned the value of a team and delegation! We have a talented team of women, each willing to share her gifts for the good of the women at our church.



Right away I was faced with a Fall Event challenge. Overall giving is down at my church, so budgets for each department have been reduced. We had tentatively reserved a special speaker, but her high fee no longer seemed feasible. My heart is to develop and use the gifts of the women in our church, so after prayer, we decided to ask one of our own women to speak. Thankfully she agreed, and we now will potentially be able to offer this special event to the women at no charge—an unexpected blessing!

I have also taken responsibility for the 2024 Retreat. As the recent speaker at our Retreat, I have a better understanding of how things work. On Saturday April 8, I hosted a special brunch meeting for the leadership team. I had instructed the women three weeks beforehand to be praying for God's creativity and direction regarding a theme for the Retreat and speaker ideas. God inspired us in a wonderful way!

We discussed several theme ideas, but unanimously agreed on "Seen." So many women feel invisible today. Our culture values social media "influencers," and anyone with a "platform." If a woman is neither of these, she wonders if her life matters. Increasing isolation and self-absorption also make a suffering woman vulnerable to feelings of loneliness and hopelessness. "Does anyone see me?" is a common question today. More importantly, "Does God see me?"

We all agreed we would like to see our church develop and use our own people. We would rather have four individual speakers from our own church rather than one speaker we do not know. We discussed several gifted women as potential speakers. As a part of their preparation, we will offer training on preparing and delivering a Bible teaching. We even considered this as an annual training for any women at our church who are interested. I am looking forward to working with these women on these and future events.

