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Captivating Heart retreat focuses on ‘how God sees us’ Third year for women’s retreat coming in October; fundraisers this summer

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS—Women of Northwest Arkansas and beyond are invited for a weekend of rest, rescue and redemption at the third annual Captivating Heart Retreat.

Captivating Heart (<http://captivatingheart.com/>) is in its third year and will be Oct. 17-19 at New Life Ranch in Colcord, Okla. (about 10 minutes west of Siloam Springs, Ark.). Sponsored by Strings Attached Ministries, the retreat is inspired by the book *Captivating* by John and Stasi Eldredge.

The retreat is designed for women (age 16+) of all backgrounds and faiths although the Christian Bible will be used as a reference point. Cari Kaufman of Strings Attached Ministries and Marilyn Hodgkin, retired teacher, are the co-facilitators this year. Local musician Laura Self will lead live worship throughout the weekend.

Both Kaufman and Hodgkin agree that this year’s event is focused on a woman’s identity and dispelling the lies she hears every day, including the ones she hears in her own head.

Women often come to believe the world’s lies that they are “not enough” or “high maintenance” or even “second class.” These become more than descriptions or labels, they become an identity. The Captivating Heart Retreat helps debunk these concepts and shows women how they are “more than enough, royalty of God and a treasured jewel.

“It’s about who we really are, not what we believe,” Kaufman said.

Hodgkin agreed. “It’s about learning to believe the truth.”

Registration is open for the event with an early-bird rate of \$149 until July 1 when the rate increases to \$179. This includes two nights’ boarding and six meals as well as the retreat curriculum.

Upcoming fundraisers

Two fundraisers designed to allow the overall retreat cost to remain low will be this summer.

On Saturday, June 21, the Captivating Heart Tea Party will be at the Frisco Station Mall from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. There will be a silent auction and vendor booths available. Participants of all ages are welcome and dress can be anywhere from casual to dressy. Tickets are \$10 for age 12+ and \$5 for ages 5-12. Children under age 5 are free. A short devotional and a presentation about the history of afternoon tea will be included.

The second fundraiser is Making Memories Together—a craft day for ladies of all ages (4+). Participants are invited to bring their mother, daughter, sister, aunt or best friend. Or come alone and join in the fun! The craft day is 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, July 19 at the Home Instead Senior Care Training Center in Frisco Station Mall. Tickets are available online for \$15 for a pair and \$10 for an individual. An additional person can be added to the pair for

\$8 a person. Supplies to decorate a wall hanging or create a bracelet will be available. Handmade craft items will be available for sale.

Information about signing up for the retreat and getting tickets for the fundraisers is online at: <http://captivatingheart.com/events/>

More about Cari Kaufman

Cari Kaufman is the founder of Strings Attached Ministries and the author of Living Life with Strings Attached. She is a highly sought after speaker for women's events around the world.

More about Marilyn Hodgin

Marilyn Hodgin is a retired teacher, including four years spent in Taiwan. She leads women to the heart of God on weekend retreats all over Arkansas. She daily walks out her greatest desire—to share the goodness of God through life's lessons.

More about Strings Attached Ministries

Strings Attached Ministries focus on bringing women's groups into closer fellowship with one another. The ministry believes that the health of a women's ministry is the thermometer for the health of the entire congregation. Strings Attached provides resources to enable women's ministry to come together in way that is fun, interactive and uplifting. From facilitated retreats to event planning resources, Strings Attached has everything necessary to make a church or organization's next women's retreat an amazing experience. For more information, visit www.stringsattachedministries.com.