



# barb ❖ meyers passion

Barb Meyers never intended to be a pastor.

Especially at a church that serves over 5,000 people each weekend and has a total of 19 pastors.

And yet, here she is, heading the Women's Ministry at Timberline Church, reaching out to women of all ages in the community.

As pastor, Barb heads up programs specifically for women and shares duties with other pastors such as hospital visits, serving as the “on-call” pastor and handling funerals. Although Barb enjoys all aspects of her job, the part that brings her the most joy is working individually with women.

Barb's passion and insight into current issues are obvious. She believes much of what women deal with is emotions, which she compares to a helium balloon that moves wildly around a room when hit by a fan. She notes that changes in situations, relationships and circumstances can trigger quick emotional responses.

“When we live life purely by our emotions, we don't always make the best choices,” she said. “I get to sit down with women and show them a different way of thinking. Feelings are strong and can pull us away from what we know is right. We need to pay attention to the facts and not so much the feelings.”

Timberline's senior pastor Dary Northrop said Barb is insightful and wise, qualities that make other women comfortable talking to her.

Among the programs Barb heads up are monthly M.O.P.S. (Mothers Of Preschoolers) meetings, women's Bible studies, women's retreats, and the monthly “Rejuvenate” program.

Rejuvenate is a fun monthly meeting with a theme based on a television show such as “Clean Sweep” or “Going Places.” Barb describes it as mischief with a message

and says it's a little like going to the “Oprah” show. There are prizes, games, fun and a speaker who shares an inspirational message.

Barb did not plan to take a position as a pastor. While in college, her life was filled with happy hours, parties and guys. It was all about feeling good at the moment. But at the end of her senior year, a little divine intervention changed the course of Barb's life forever.

Barb grew up in Illinois. Her traditional church upbringing provided her with a faith foundation regarding God, but something was missing.

“It was all in my head, not in my heart,” she said.

Through college, she attended church regularly, but toward the end of school, she became unsatisfied with her life – with relationships, with guys, and the whole party scene.

Barb recalls the afternoon during her senior year that changed her.

“It was a beautiful Illinois afternoon and there I was in this dark bar at 5 p.m.,” she said. “People were there to get drunk and get picked up. I was restless with this idea, yet that is what I did every Friday. I didn't know why I felt odd about it that night.”

Figuring it had to do with the few loose ends she needed to tie up for her student teaching, she left the bar. Barb intended to return, but back at her apartment she saw a religious rally poster on her bed that she had found earlier in the parking lot.

*The single mission of Timberline Church is to “Let Love Live.”*

*Located at 2908 Timberline Road, the church offers five services each weekend and warmly welcomes all visitors.*

*Timberline also has a bookstore offering a great selection of spiritual books, music, and apparel, plus a café offering all your favorite coffee drinks, lunch items and desserts. Both the bookstore and café are open daily and open to the public. Visit Timberline's Web site to find out more information about the church: [www.timberlinechurch.org](http://www.timberlinechurch.org)*

ARTICLE & PHOTOGRAPHS BY KERRIE FLANAGAN ❖ JOURNEY CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

She felt a strong pull to go to the rally. The speaker's words reached out and grabbed Barb, and she realized for the first time that she had this God who loved her.

Barb felt like a new person, so her old lifestyle just didn't work for her anymore. The crowd she hung out with and the activities she participated in just didn't satisfy her. She made a shift in friends and her priorities and started down a new path.

This new path led her to Stan, a wonderful man who shared similar values and dreams for a family. In 1978 they got married. Once she became pregnant with her first child, Barb stopped working as a physical education teacher and devoted her time to her family.

After the births of their daughter Kelly and son Michael, the Meyers family moved to Fort Collins.

It was here that their family of four became five with the birth of Noah. And it was here that her passion to minister to women flourished.

How does one go from being a stay-at-home mother of three to a pastor at one of the largest churches in Fort Collins?

She explained to *Journey* that as her kids grew, so did her involvement in church. A biblical lay-counseling course provided her

with the skills needed to offer spiritual support and advice to women at Timberline Church, where she volunteered once a week.

Her dedication caught the attention of Northrop, who approached Barb and asked if she would consider taking on a pastoral role and becoming part of the staff.

She was surprised because she never saw herself as any kind of church leader.

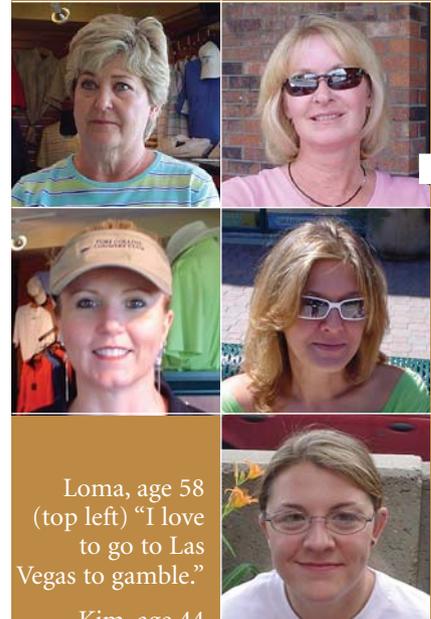
"He really encouraged me by saying, 'What you are doing is pastoring women, and we see that you are being effective and God is using you. We could really benefit from having a woman on staff,'" she said.

Barb didn't feel ready for this duty. She had not attended a seminary or Bible college. She still wanted to be available to her three teenage children. After considering it for a long time and receiving a lot of encouragement from her husband, Barb agreed to join the staff just two days a week. Various pastors mentored and directed Barb along the way, helping her to feel secure in her new job.

Over the past six years, as Pastor of Women's Ministries, Barb has been and continues to be a light in our community by supporting and encouraging women all over the city. ❖

WHAT WOULD THOSE  
AROUND YOU BE SURPRISED  
TO FIND OUT ABOUT YOU?

# Surprises



Loma, age 58  
(top left) "I love  
to go to Las  
Vegas to gamble."

Kim, age 44  
(center left) "I am pretty adventurous."

Janet, age 52 (top right) "I'm such a shopper."

Bogda (center right) "If I retired."

Cynthia, 26 (bottom left) "I don't drink."

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