

The reason for this event began during a time of prayer when Michelle Watson, wife of Dr. William Baptist Church Pastor Dave Watson, was working on the Love Team for a Women's Conference next May. Watson felt a call to bring the women of her local community together for fellowship and encouragement.

Feeling the work was bigger than she could manage on her own, she contacted her other closest friend and friend, Susan Koenigsberg and Monica Murray,

**Baker, Smith and Wilkins Smith.**

The group of three women soon became a group of 12. She also contacted longtime friend, author and speaker, Rachel Longquist, who has written such titles as "In Our Shoes," "Dear Life, Love, Tell It" and "Safeguard My Identity."

"You may ask, 'why safeguard?' All that kept coming to my mind was 'look to treasure,'" Watson explained. "Rachel and I were talking and she said, 'Michelle, the word 'journe' looking for is

treasure.' And so I was inspired that God gave us Romans 12:12.

"Guard is to show women that there is hope, that there is a place to run to when things are down, that no matter what you have going on or what stage of life you are in, there is something for you. If you are away from the journey, God can send you refuge. If you are fighting the battle of your life, God can fight for you. If you are just needing to be encouraged, He

can do that too.

"Young, seasoned or in between, God is there. He can take you and make you something beautiful. The great thing about Jesus is He doesn't care where you have been or what you have done. All you have to do is call upon His name and He will answer. He welcomes Roman Catholics (CCC), Every woman needs to know there is a safe place to turn to in difficult times.

and others that have been excluded and a part of the journey."

The evening came to a close with clear instructions for area businesses. Each woman is offered a place to take home a good bag filled with a themed note book and other thoughtful items. The finale of the evening was an announcement that next year's event, "Gloria," will take place on October 4, 2023 at New Springs Baptist Church – that is, unless they need a larger venue again.

## Historic Overlay, Short-Term Rentals OK'd by MPC

By Mike Steffy  
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In a landmark meeting of the monthly Town Council Management Planning Committee Thursday two controversial issues were

approved. One is to designate historic districts because they are transient and incompatible with the single-family residential zone. He said that short-term rentals are similar to boarding houses

## Board of education reverts to previous wording on controversial harassment policies

By Mike Steffy  
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After weeks of discussion about changing the wording on policies concerning harassment of students and management of employees, the Free County

Monday evening with session ending. "I don't think you need to add in anything, if the board says there will be no harassment in regard to any students for any reason that seems to cover everybody."

*"It is not the policy that protects the people—it is the individual."*