

LADIES LUNCHEON • SUMMER SCHEDULE • GRACE STAFF GROWS

# ETERNAL REWARDS

A PUBLICATION FROM GRACE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY | VOLUME III, ISSUE 1



Attendees soak in the teaching at Grace's Inaugural Prophecy Conference



Engaging the next generation in free grace and truth

[gsot.org](http://gsot.org)

# THE EILAT STONE

I am still basking in the glow of our latest trip to Israel. It was an anointed trip in many ways I will never forget. And one word you can never forget when in Israel is the word *Shalom*. When you want to say hi, you say *Shalom*. When you want to say goodbye, you say *Shalom*. When you want to wish someone a wonderful Sabbath day, you say *Shabbat Shalom*. Of course, the basic use of the word in many cases is simply "peace." But as we have seen, it has a variety of other uses. One of those uses occurs in a place we might not expect:

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"FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD RUN TO AND FRO THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH, TO SHOW HIMSELF STRONG ON BEHALF OF THOSE WHOSE HEART IS LOYAL TO HIM." - 2 CHRONICLES 16:9, NKJV

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What a wonderful promise. But what does it mean? The word translated "loyal" in the NKJ is translated "blameless" in the ESV, "completely His" in the NAS, "fully committed to Him" in the NIV, and "true to Him" in the NRSV. Quite a few options. Interestingly enough, the Hebrew word yielding all these options is *Shalom*. The Lord is looking for those whose heart is *Shalom* to Him. Say what?

In 1 Kings 6:7 the word *Shalom* is also used in reference to stones that have been completely cut, prepared, and smoothed for use in the quarry. While in Eilat, we were taken to the only factory in the world that makes what is fittingly called the "Eilat stone" or King Solomon's stone. It is taken out of the original copper mines of King Solomon. In its rough cut, it is not attractive. But when polished, it is a stunningly beautiful combination of turquoise and blue. I got Betty some earrings made with the Eilat stone. That puts me in her good graces for six months.

**So what is a heart that is *Shalom* to God? Be good to know, wouldn't it, since the Lord's eyes are scanning the earth looking for those who have hearts like this?**

Just the thought of scanning implies that the majority of His followers don't have hearts like this.

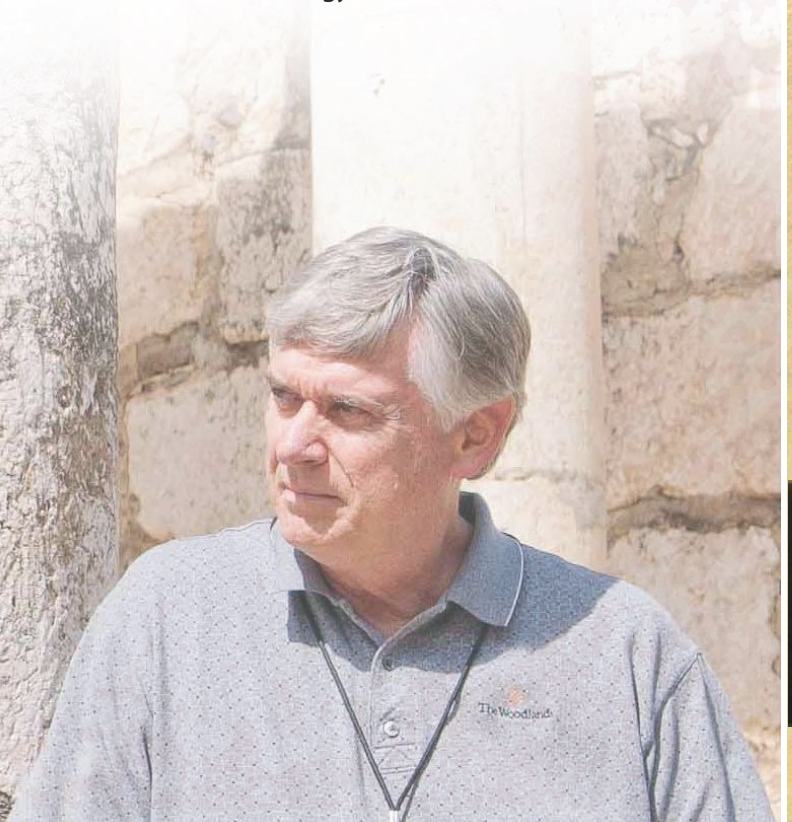
One Hebrew dictionary says the word means "complete" or "perfect" in this context. The NAS and the NIV pick up on this meaning - a heart that is completely His or perfectly belongs to Him. If that is its meaning, the question begs to be asked: "Is there anything I can do to be sure my heart is completely His?" Jesus answers that question for us: "Where your treasure is, there your heart is also."

We at Grace want to thank all of you who have so graciously shared in our mission with your material things. We know we are not your only directive for giving. But whatever part we are, we are grateful. And our prayer for you is that, through your sacrificial giving, your heart might be even more beautiful to Him than the Eilat stone. We pray that He will prove Himself strong on your behalf during the rest of 2012.

Thank you, Gracers!

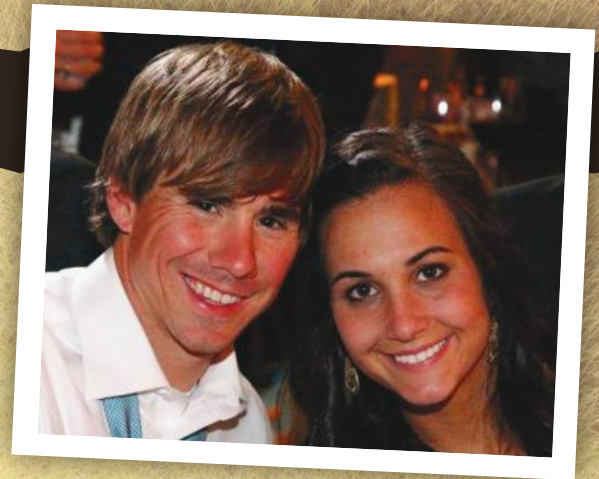
*Dave Anderson*

Dr. Dave Anderson, President  
Grace School of Theology



# Why I Believe in Grace

Q & A with GRACE Seminary Student **Jason Custer**



**Q: Tell us a little about your family.**

**A:** I am originally from central Florida, where my mom and dad both teach elementary school. I have two brothers. The older lives in New York and works for an advertising firm, and the younger lives at home in Florida. On May 28, 2011, I began a new family journey when I married Elizabeth Mowrey. We have been married for almost a year, and we are enjoying living and serving alongside each other.

**Q: Where are you currently serving?**

**A:** I am currently the 5th and 6th grade pastor at Grace Church in Wichita Falls, TX. It's kind of a unique position, although it seems to be getting more popular. The leadership at our church really saw the need for a program dedicated to this age group. It seemed that these students were losing interest in the children's program, but they were not quite ready to be mixed with the junior high students. Furthermore, there was the realization that this age group was now being exposed to issues that they may not have had to deal with a decade ago.

**Q: What led you to pursue seminary?**

**A:** I was encouraged to pursue seminary by several of our staff pastors. They thought it would be a great opportunity for me to be further trained for the ministry. In addition, they believed it would not only benefit my current position in ministry but also my future positions in ministry. On the personal side, I love to learn and classroom education seems to suit my learning style. I had learned so much in my time on staff at Grace Church and was eager to spend some intentional time organizing and systematizing my beliefs.

**Q: What part of your GRACE experience has benefited you the most?**

**A:** I have really enjoyed the schedule in which the courses are offered. I complete one course every eight weeks. I like having the opportunity to really focus on one subject at a time. Furthermore, as a full-time pastor I have benefited from the seminary's willingness to work with the schedules of their students.

**Q: Why do you believe in/support the work of Grace School of Theology?**

**A:** I believe in Grace School of Theology because it is passionate about teaching a conservative dispensational theology with a free grace focus -- exactly what I was looking for.

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# SUMMER 2012 SEMESTER SCHEDULE

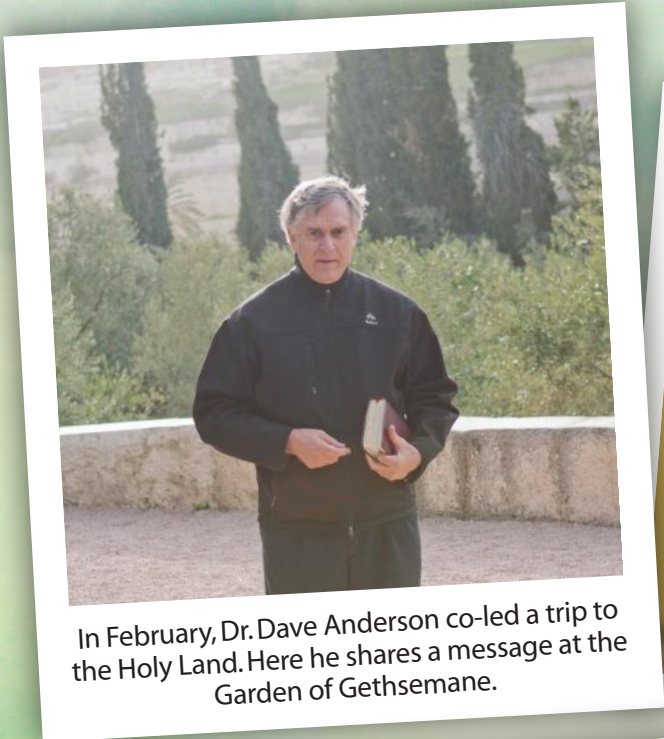
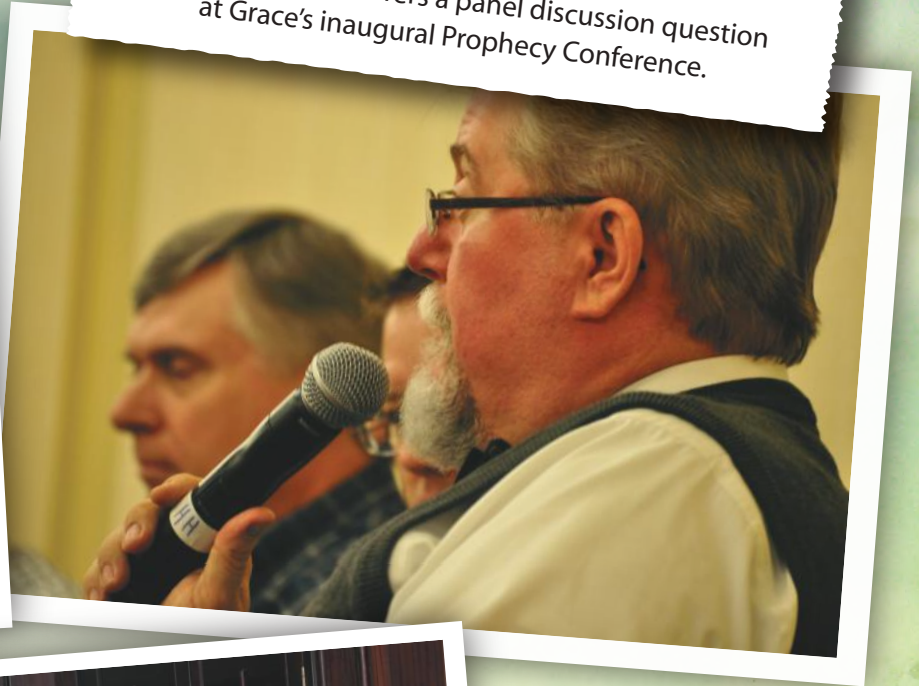
Visit [gsot.org/register](http://gsot.org/register) to register online or call 877.476.8674 for more information.

COURSE SCHEDULE LEGEND		Course Length Options: Accelerated 1-Week Courses, Compressed 8-Week Courses, and 15-Week Courses					
Course Offered Live in CLASSROOM or ONLINE <i>Students may attend class in person or participate via live web streaming</i>	Course Offered Via Live Simulcast in CLASSROOM or ONLINE <i>Note: Teacher Not Present in Classroom</i>	Course Offered in CLASSROOM ONLY <i>Students must attend class in person; no online video/audio</i>	Course Offered ONLINE ONLY <i>No live classroom video; archived audio/video may be available in some cases</i>				
<b>ONE WEEK ACCELERATED</b>							
<b>MAIN CAMPUS: NORTH HOUSTON (THE WOODLANDS) - 29801 1-45 North (Suite 205) - Shenandoah, TX 77381</b>							
BI 1310	Bible Study Methods	Hixson	M-F	8:00 am-12:00 pm	May 21 - May 25	1 Week	
<b>MAIN CAMPUS: SOUTHWEST HOUSTON - 7100 Regency Square Boulevard (Suite 263) - Houston, TX 77036</b>							
BI 1310	Bible Study Methods	Hixson	M-F	8:00 am-12:00 pm	May 21 - May 25	1 Week	
<b>MONDAYS</b>							
<b>MAIN CAMPUS: SOUTHWEST HOUSTON - 7100 Regency Square Boulevard (Suite 263) - Houston, TX 77036</b>							
BI 1312	Old Testament Survey: History (Joshua-Esther)	Loken	M	7:00-9:30 pm	June 4 - July 30	8 Weeks	
<b>MAIN CAMPUS: NORTH HOUSTON (THE WOODLANDS) - 29801 1-45 North (Suite 205) - Shenandoah, TX 77381</b>							
BI 1312	Old Testament Survey: History (Joshua-Esther)	Loken	M	7:00-9:30 pm	June 4 - July 30	8 Weeks	
<b>TUESDAYS</b>							
<b>MAIN CAMPUS: SOUTHWEST HOUSTON - 7100 Regency Square Boulevard (Suite 263) - Houston, TX 77036</b>							
BI 1325	Old Testament Survey: Minor Prophets ( <i>Hosea-Malachi</i> )	Loken	TU	7:00-9:30 pm	June 5 - July 31	8 Weeks	
<b>MAIN CAMPUS: NORTH HOUSTON (THE WOODLANDS) - 29801 1-45 North (Suite 205) - Shenandoah, TX 77381</b>							
BI 1325	Old Testament Survey: Minor Prophets ( <i>Hosea-Malachi</i> )	Loken	TU	7:00-9:30 pm	June 5 - July 31	8 Weeks	
<b>BEAUMONT TEACHING SITE 2 (FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH) - 900 Calder Avenue - Beaumont, TX 77701</b>							
BI 1325	Old Testament Survey: Minor Prophets ( <i>Hosea-Malachi</i> )	Loken	TU	7:00-9:30 pm	June 5 - July 31	8 Weeks	
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>							
<b>SOUTHEAST HOUSTON TEACHING SITE (CLEAR LAKE BIBLE CHURCH) - 622 El Dorado Boulevard - Houston, TX 77062</b>							
TH 2310	Introduction to Systematic Theology and Bibliology	Loken	W	6:30-9:00 pm	June 6 - August 1	8 Weeks	
<b>THURSDAYS</b>							
<b>MAIN CAMPUS: SOUTHWEST HOUSTON - 7100 Regency Square Boulevard (Suite 263) - Houston, TX 77036</b>							
BI 1310	Bible Study Methods	Haywood	TH	7:00-9:30 pm	June 7 - August 2	8 Weeks	
<b>MAIN CAMPUS: NORTH HOUSTON (THE WOODLANDS) - 29801 1-45 North (Suite 205) - Shenandoah, TX 77381</b>							
BI 1310	Bible Study Methods	Haywood	TH	7:00-9:30 pm	June 7 - August 2	8 Weeks	
<b>BEAUMONT TEACHING SITE 2 (FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH) - 900 Calder Avenue - Beaumont, TX 77701</b>							
BI 1310	Bible Study Methods	Haywood	TH	7:00-9:30 pm	June 7 - August 2	8 Weeks	
<b>SAN ANTONIO TEACHING SITE (BANDERA ROAD CITY CHURCH) - 9435 Bandera Road (Room #6) - San Antonio, TX 78250</b>							
TH 2312	Christology and Ecclesiology	Baker	TH	7:00-9:30 pm	June 7 - August 2	8 Weeks	
<b>ONLINE ONLY</b>							
TH 2311	Theology Proper	Hixson	Online	Online	June 4 - July 30	8 Weeks	
TH 2323	Soteriology	Hixson	Online	Online	June 4 - July 30	8 Weeks	
BI 1310	Bible Study Methods	Hixson	Online	Online	June 4 - July 30	8 Weeks	
TH 2324	Sanctification and Pneumatology	Hixson	Online	Online	June 4 - July 30	8 Weeks	
TH 2335	Angelology, Anthropology, Hamartiology	Hixson	Online	Online	June 4 - July 30	8 Weeks	
MS 5334	Basic Biblical Counseling	Parle	Online	Online	June 4 - July 30	8 Weeks	

# GRACE IN ACTION

## Prophecy Conference

Dr. Bruce Baker answers a panel discussion question at Grace's inaugural Prophecy Conference.

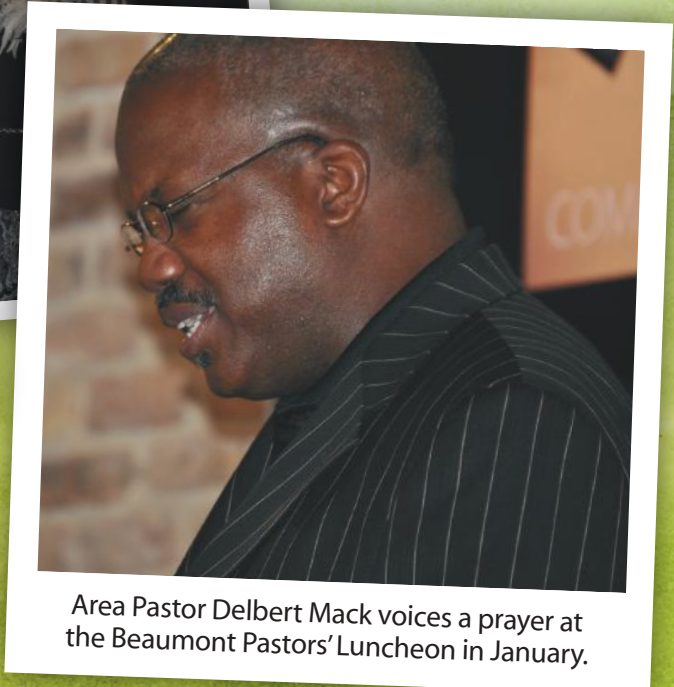


In February, Dr. Dave Anderson co-led a trip to the Holy Land. Here he shares a message at the Garden of Gethsemane.

## ALUMNI Association Dinner



## GRACE ALUMNI



Area Pastor Delbert Mack voices a prayer at the Beaumont Pastors' Luncheon in January.

# GRACE GIVING

## *An Interview with Rob Cottrell*



**At Grace School of Theology, grace is so much more than a name.** It guides every facet of our organization, from our theology to our giving. Because of Grace's commitment to offer the highest-quality education at an affordable price, we are funded primarily through the faithful support of God's people. We spoke recently with Rob Cottrell, the latest member of our advancement team, to discover what Grace giving means to him.

"I'm so excited to be a part of what God is doing at Grace," says Rob. "It's wonderful to serve with people who are so passionate about their mission. But what really sealed the deal for my involvement here was the message and teaching of Free Grace. Galatians 5:1 teaches us that it is for freedom that Christ set us free! Only grace can provide this amazing gift in its glorious fullness."

With years of experience raising support in the non-profit arena, Rob has most enjoyed the opportunity to build relationships with those looking for a way to impact the Kingdom.

"I absolutely love talking to people about what God is doing in their hearts and what He is doing in the world. When those two things match, it is incredible to see the deep level of satisfaction that donors get from supporting something that matches what God has put on their hearts," says Rob. "Then together we see how God works in a ministry that can focus on their mission instead of worrying about their finances."

As Grace approaches the end of the fiscal year on June 30, nearly one million dollars is still needed to meet budget, but Rob sees this as a great opportunity.

"We certainly have a significant mountain to climb, but I am encouraging current and new supporters to come alongside with 'significant' gifts," says Rob. "What I mean by that is that I want their gifts to Grace to be important to them - a key part of their ministry giving. The current ministry and the bigger vision that God has put on the hearts of Dr. Anderson and the other leaders of Grace are powerful. He has not called Grace to any ministry that

He is not fully equipped to provide for.

He has not given Grace a big vision and then taken a step back and said, 'Oh wait, I'm broke!' It is the perfect season for us to simply be faithful to ask our donors - for them to respond as God leads - and for all of us to rejoice in what God is going to do!"

As Grace continues to grow and expand its reach, supporters can feel confident that their gifts are serving an eternal purpose.

"Grace is so affordable, enabling people who might never have had this opportunity to get a top quality seminary education," says Rob. "As we see these pastors and leaders go back into their churches and communities, the ripple effect of the education they receive at Grace is limitless. It is the kind of eternal work that demands our attention as we ask God what role He wants us to play."

As always, we thank you greatly for your support and ask for your continued prayers for Grace and "the role God wants you to play."

*"He has not called Grace to any ministry that He is not fully equipped to provide for."*

# PARTNERS IN GRACE: Ministry Report

## GRACE MINISTRY TEAM GROWS

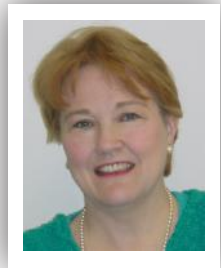
We are so blessed to see God expanding our Grace family. Please join us in welcoming the following new staff members:



• **Al Letting, III, Ed.D. - VP of Academic Affairs**

Dr. Letting has served for the last three years as Vice President of Institutional Compliance at TRACS, our accreditation agency. He has extensive experience in higher education administration in addition to serving as a missionary in Spain for 10 years. He also served our country for 30 years in the U.S. Navy and Naval Reserves.

We are grateful to Dr. JB Hixson for his incredible service as our VP of Academic Affairs, and we are pleased to announce his transition to Director of Certificate Programs. This position will better accommodate his national speaking schedule with Logos Bible software, which enables him to promote Grace around the country.



• **Debbie Cox, MLS - Librarian**

We conducted an extensive national search to fill our librarian position, and we are confident that Debbie is a God's answer to our prayerful search.



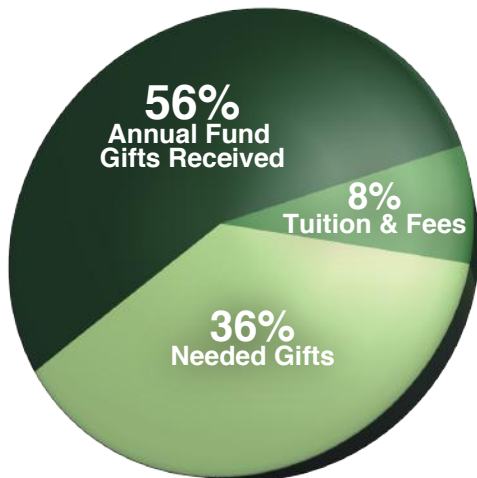
**Service Opportunities:**

If you are interested in becoming more involved at Grace, we have a variety of places to serve. For more information, email [Inguyen@gsot.org](mailto:Inguyen@gsot.org).

**Expository Preaching Conference:**

Grace will be exhibiting at the 17th Annual EK Bailey Expository Preaching Conference in Dallas, TX, on July 16-19. Please be in prayer that God will bless this opportunity to share Grace.

**SUPPORT GRACE TODAY: visit [www.gsot.org/donate](http://www.gsot.org/donate) or complete the enclosed support envelope**



2011-2012 YEAR-TO-DATE		ACTUAL	BUDGET
TUITION & FEES	Received YTD:	\$131,427	TOTAL: \$198,620
	Remaining Expected:	\$67,194	
ANNUAL FUND GIFTS	Received YTD:	\$1,464,840	TOTAL: \$2,415,727
	CURRENT NEED:	\$950,887	
OPERATING EXPENSES	Ministry Budget for July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012		TOTAL: \$2,614,347

Grace School of Theology is a 501(c)(3), charitable, non-profit organization and is financially accredited by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.



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AND DISCOVER WAYS YOU CAN MAKE AN ETERNAL IMPACT.

# *Ladies of Grace* **LUNCHEON**

## **LUNCHEON DATES & SPEAKERS:**

Wednesdays, 12:00-1:00 pm

May 2 • *Dr. JB Hixson*

May 9 • *Dian Sustek*

May 16 • *Kellie Merrick*

May 23 • *Anne Livesay*

## **LOCATION:**

Jasper's at Market Street

9595 Six Pines Dr. Suite 900

The Woodlands, TX 77380

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