

# TITUS TALK

titus moms ministry // 2011-2012 // “capturing the moments”

## PAINTING YOUR PRAYERS, Sally Miller

*A surprising way to use your imagination to enlarge your faith.*

Two years ago after an unexpected career loss that happened to coincide with the devastating death of one of my friends, I picked up some sketchbooks and a vibrant assortment of colored markers. For 12 months I sat beneath shady trees or by a fire where I scribbled, sketched, and scrawled images, words, and Scriptures that careened into my imagination. I painted my prayers.

Before I started painting my prayers, though, I remember feeling guilty if I didn't do Bible study or pray conventionally every day. Somehow, I felt like I wasn't doing the Christian life right. For some unknown reason, I felt that connecting with God in other—less left-brained, more imaginative and creative—ways was, somehow, less spiritual. Time and time again, though, my ideal of faith-filled living bumped on the pothole riddled road of reality. I felt less compelled to do another plug and chug Bible study. I was void of the energy to pray and listen to God in the ways I had for my entire life.

Instead, I found freedom, spontaneity, fun, and a mind-blowing openness to the grandiosity of God when I sat with my markers and sketchbook. Surprisingly enough I found that during overwhelmed, stressed-out times when the need for spiritual bolstering was quintessential, I could paint my prayers (just scribble out my heart to God) and fortify my faith in a visual, organic, simultaneously childlike and maturing way.

### Answered Painted Prayers

In the midst of scribbling down my heart, the process felt random and abstract. Surprisingly, though, when I look back at the pages I see pattern purpose. God's wise design and intent for my days. Because of the painted prayers, I see how God opened doors, stitched tattered ragged life-scrapscaps together into decoratively quilted patchwork. He was faithful. I was scratching out simplistic line prayers, scratching out an existence. All the while, he was like Georgia O'Keefe creating a masterpiece from my mess.

Recently my daughter, Emily, discovered one of my painted prayer books and asked what it was. I told her, “This is Mama's picture prayer book, a place where I draw conversations with God.” She seemed to intuitively resonate with the idea, nodding and turning the pages. Later that day, I caught Emily at the kitchen table vigorously scrawling a blue and pink design in Crayola. I bent over her shoulder to admire the work.

“What are you doing?” I asked.

“I'm talking to God, Mama,” she said, and I smiled.

For complete article: <http://www.kyria.com/topics/spiritualformation/prayer/paintyourprayers.html?start=1>

### WELCOME

Sarah Boone,  
Titus Coordinator

### MENTOR MOMENT

Mary Fisher

### SPEAKER

Anne Grossenbach,  
Titus Mentor

**TITUS // 10.06.11**

A community of mothers, providing a place of acceptance and opportunity for authentic relationships to form. Women are taught and encouraged in their roles as mothers and Christ-followers, through speakers, mentors, and small groups.

**TITUS // mission**

Facebook Search:

**“BLACKHAWK CHURCH –  
TITUS GROUP”**

Join us for up to date information about meetings, impromptu play dates local kid friendly events and more!

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK**

# TOP 9 FALL ACTIVITIES IN MADISON

- 1. Dinosaur Days:** October 19- November 16 at Verona Library: *The life-size 25-foot long and 11-foot tall replica skeleton will be on display.*
- 2. Enjoy Fall Colors:** *Plan a walk around Arboretum or picnic point. Check out when leaves will peak at [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com). Madison area is expected to peak the week of October 17.*
- 3. Halloween at the Zoo:** *Sunday, October 23, 10AM – 4PM: Entertainment, Bounce House, Ken Lonquist and the Kenland Band, Face Painting*
- 4. Pick a pumpkin and carve a pumpkin**
- 5. Overture Center:** *Saturdays from the end of September through April at 9:30AM, 11AM and 1PM, Overture Center presents Kids in the Rotunda, a series of FREE artistic programs designed for children and families. A kid-friendly environment in which to enjoy local and regional musicians, storytellers, jugglers, theater troupes, magicians and dancers.*
- 6. 4th Annual Renaissance Fair,** October 8, New Glarus, 10AM – 6PM
- 7. UW Geology Museum:** *On your visit you can touch rocks from a time when there were volcanoes in Wisconsin; see corals, jellyfish and other sea creatures that used to live and swim where we now walk; and stand under the tusks of a mastodon while imagining yourself in the Ice Age. FREE!*
- 8. Schuster's Playtime Farm:** *Centennial round barn, cornmaze, beautiful hayrides, awesome animals, haunted forest, and fantastic farm fun! Public and private events. Find more information at [www.schustersfarm.com](http://www.schustersfarm.com).*
- 9. Swiss Historical Village Harvest Fest:** New Glarus, October 9  
*Old time artisan demonstrations. Cheesemaking the old fashioned way. Sausage makers demonstrate stuffing casings in the sausage shop. Bratzeli cookie samples.*

## SAVE THE DATE

- Mom's Night Out: November 11
- Mom's Morning In: October 27
- Extra Titus Off-week Playgroups – 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month
- Next gathering October 13 from 9 – 11AM in the Blackhawk Church gym.

## NEXT TITUS MEETING

- October 20 – Mother Child Resource Center Service Project

Contact Tracey Monroe,  
[lantytracey@yahoo.com](mailto:lantytracey@yahoo.com) or 260-8540,  
for more information on upcoming events.

## NOTES:

The logo for 'Titus Talk' features the words 'TITUS' and 'TALK' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. 'TITUS' is contained within a solid black speech bubble, while 'TALK' is in a white speech bubble with a black outline. The two bubbles are positioned side-by-side, with the 'TITUS' bubble slightly overlapping the 'TALK' bubble.

**TITUS TALK**

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