



WELCOME!

Welcome to the 2025 Women of Good Shepherd Retreat! Thank you for setting aside this time to come together as *women of the wilderness*. We're so glad you're here to explore the way of the desert 'ammas' (mothers) and practice gently paying attention to God's presence with us in all places and through all things.

INVITATION TO CONNECT

We hope that you will spend time this weekend getting to know other women in the parish you didn't know before. We hope that you'll get to reconnect with friends you came with, that you perhaps don't get to see as often as you'd like. We hope you'll reconnect with yourself, with your faith, with God.

INVITATION TO DISCONNECT

We are surrounded by screens. Speaking for ourselves, it's challenging to go even an hour without looking at our cellphones, computers, tablets, TVs. We hope that you'll truly retreat and accept the invitation to disconnect from those screens that we all become so dependent on in our daily lives. If you prefer to keep your phone with you, as opposed to leaving it in your cabin, please keep it silent and be respectful of our worship and session leaders and wait until break time or free time to check texts, emails, or make a call.

CABIN NORMS

Many of us remember summer camp. The first night in your cabin the counselor goes over the norms for how we can live happily in community together. Take yourself back to that cabin and remember how important it was to be aware of your cabin mates. In order to ensure that everyone feels as though they are comfortable and respected, please be mindful of the needs of those with you in your cabin. Some may need to sleep more than others; some may need to wake early to seek their time of quiet; some may need more privacy than others.

If you have questions about anything at all, we are here for you! Feel free to call or text:

Jessica Riels: 202-365-8273 | jessica@gsaustin.org

Brin Bon: 512-422-1646 | brin@gsaustin.org

DESIGN TEAM



Women of Good Shepherd
Retreat 2025

*Women of the Wilderness:
Spiritual Practices from the Desert Mothers*

We also want to extend a thank you to our incredible Design Team. We would not have been able to pull off this retreat without them. When you see them this weekend, be sure to thank them for their ministry!

Beth McKone
Courtney Godfrey
Deborah Overdorff
Gayle Vickers

Additionally, Charles Hibler, *Communications Manager*, will be present throughout the weekend helping with all things tech. Thank you, Charly!

A special thank you to Karolina Gwiazda, *Creative Director*, for our beautiful retreat graphics and for taking photographs and capturing memories throughout the weekend!



WEEKEND SCHEDULE

FRIDAY:

- 3:00p Cabins ready for check-in
- 4:00p Overnight guests arrive | room check-in
- 5:00p Happy Hour Gathering
- 6:00p Dinner
- 7:00p Welcome | Introduction *Brin Bon & Jessica Riels*
- 8:15p Break
- 8:30p Evening Worship
- 9:00p Firepit & S'mores | Free Time

SATURDAY:

- 7:30a Breakfast
- 8:30a Arrival of day guests | check in
- 9:00a Welcome | Introduction *Brin Bon & Jessica Riels*
- 9:40a Session 1 *Mary Earle*
- 10:40a Break
- 10:50a Session 2 *Mary Earle*
- 11:50a Break
- 12:00p Lunch



1:00p	Session 3	Mary Earle
1:45p	Break	
2:00p	Session 4	Mary Earle
2:45p	Go and Be (some ideas below!)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>Stretch & Pray (facilitated)</i>● <i>Guided Hike (facilitated)</i>● <i>Crochet & Crafts (facilitated)</i>● <i>2 Pickleball/4 Tennis courts (complimentary access, non-facilitated activity)</i>● <i>Mahjong</i>	
5:00p	Happy Hour Gathering	
6:00p	Blessing Dinner	
7:00p	Game Night	
SUNDAY:		
7:30a	Breakfast	
9:00a	Closing Sharing Eucharist	
11:00a	Departure	