



Wednesday, 18 January 2012

## Is 2012 the year for YOU to join a LIFE Group?

In the busyness of life, over time our daily activities seem to get out of alignment with our true values. We do not mean for it to happen, it just somehow does. The things that seem urgent at the moment crowd out the things that are important. When we stop to take a personal inventory, we realize we have stopped growing in our understanding and application of our faith. The beginning of a New Year is a great time to reflect on what is truly important and reset our priorities.

Spiritually, each of us is a work in progress, desiring to become more like Jesus. However, the type of life transformation that results in lives that seek the Lord and bless the world is not natural; it is not our 'default setting'. It is particularly difficult to do by ourselves. On our own we

are like a coal that is removed from the fire, and soon dies out. Lasting and meaningful life transformation *does* happen, and happens best in personal relationships. One of the places these deep personal relationships are formed, in the context of discipleship, is in LIFE Groups.

A LIFE Group is not a class or a program; it is the pursuit of a lifestyle. LIFE Groups support all of the other ministry and personal growth opportunities at Fifth and beyond. Joining a LIFE Group simply means starting right where you are on your personal journey to join together with 10 to 15 other people to become more intentional about seeking the Lord and blessing the world. You don't have to come to every meeting and you certainly don't have to be a ministry rock star. You need only a desire to grow.

The idea is to have some fun and encourage one another in:

- Loving God with heart, mind, soul and strength
- Integrating faith into lifestyle and action
- Following God's Call to develop your personal gifts and passions
- Engaging others around us: neighbors, coworkers and old and new friends

As the New Year begins, all existing LIFE Groups are welcoming new comers and new groups are forming. Groups meet at various times of the week and although the *groups* typically get together weekly, most *participants* attend two or three times per month. You are welcome to attend when you can; no need to be there every week. To give a LIFE Group a try or just learn more, get in touch with John & Holli Leegwater, Jim & Jackie Henderson, or anyone currently in a LIFE group. John & Holli can be reached at 452-2754 or [leegh2o@iserv.net](mailto:leegh2o@iserv.net) ; Jim & Jackie can be reached at 706-4794 or [jjhende@gmail.com](mailto:jjhende@gmail.com)

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## Ministry Multiplication

### Search Team Update:

The Church Planter Search Team conducted preliminary interviews by telephone with twelve candidates last week (January 9–12). After reviewing the conversations, the field has now been narrowed to eight candidates. The Team will proceed to conduct background and reference checks on the remaining candidates in preparation for second interviews which will be scheduled over the next several weeks. Please continue to hold the Team, the candidates and the process in your prayers. You are welcome to join the Prayer Team Wednesday nights at 6:30 in the bell tower classroom.

### New Churches are Missional

A key strength of a new church plant is its ability to be Missional. A church becomes Missional

when it remains faithful to the gospel and simultaneously seeks to contextualize the gospel (to the degree it can) so the gospel engages the hearers and transforms their worldview.

The most obvious example is Paul and his encounter with the Greeks at Mars Hill. Paul attempted to connect with the worldview of his hearers. “Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: ‘Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are [already] very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you’” (Acts 17:22–23, emphasis added). This passage demonstrates what it means to be a missionary. Paul sought to understand the people he was reaching and relate to them in their cultural context.

From *Planting Missional Churches* by Ed Stetzer

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## Time, Talent and Treasure

The Law of Proportionate Provision is a powerful principle of stewardship. This law teaches us that *God’s provision dictates the believer’s proportion*. In other words, what He provides determines what we give. If He provides a little, from that we are to give; if He provides abundantly, from that abundance we are to give. Whatever He provides, regardless of the depth or breadth, determines the measure of our giving. As Jesus reminded His disciples, “To whom much is given, much is required.”

Don’t worry about what you have or don’t have to give. The Law of Proportionate Provision is a reassuring truth of scripture because it eliminates the pressure of thinking about what we have or don’t have to give. Relying upon the Lord and depending upon Him as our source, we grow in grace as we give. In the process, giving becomes a therapeutic experience, for as we die to self we come alive in faith.

Give in proportion to everything you have received. Proportionate participation in the work of God involves much more than money. Whatever God has given you, in whatever measure, it is to be dedicated to Him. Your talents, your abilities, your material wealth, your time - all are resources from which you can give.

Adapted from *The 33 Laws of Stewardship* by Dave Sutherland and Kirk Nowery

## Mid Week Meal & Activities Wednesday, January 18

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### Mid Week Meal 5:45-6:30pm:

Turkey Casserole, Salad, Ice Cream

**Activities:** (for full event calendar, click [here](#))

- Wednesday Morning Study, 9:15am, contact [Kimber Sprik](#)
- [King's Kids Choir](#) Rehearsal: 5:15pm
- [GEMS \(Girls Club\)](#) and [Boyz Club](#): 6:30pm
- [Junior High at Fifth](#) (JHAF): 6:30pm
- [Chancel Choir](#) Rehearsal: 6:30pm
- Vantage Point<sup>3</sup>, Disciple and Financial Peace Classes: 6:30pm, contact [Bruce Mulder](#)
- Community Prayer: 6:30pm, contact [Jon Sherrill](#)
- Video Café: 6:45pm, contact [Greg Wilkins](#)

### Inclement Weather

For cancellations due to weather, tune into the following stations:

[WZZM TV-13](#), [WOOD TV-8](#), [WOOD AM radio](#).

## Worship and Sunday School Opportunities

### Sunday, January 22

**Sunday Worship:** begins at 10:00am.

#### Children and Youth Education:

- Childcare: for children newborn - 4yrs old, available from 10:00am-12:15pm.
- The Gate (4-4th grade):during 10:00am Worship (The Gate uses a small group/large group format during the 10am service



## Prayer and Encouragement

**Person to Remember:** **Marjory Knott** who lives at 1450 East fulton St #392, 49503.

**Remember in Prayer:** **Joan Berends** who is recovering from eye lid surgery; **Lance Phillips**, son of **Don** and **Sue Phillips** who began chemo therapy for melanoma this week; **Daniel Pennings**, teaching in China, as he reaches out in Christ to people surrounding him.

### Thank You

Thank you for opening your heart to my world. It was a great comfort, to hear from so many old and new members. Your friendship is special to me.

**Louise Zevalkink**

Thank you to everyone who sent cards for my birthday. They were lovely! **Nina Zoet**



## International Focus

Remember Daniel Pennings teaching in China at a university

and rotates between learning stations for the 11:15am hour).

- Sunday School: (youth through adult) is from 11:15am-12:15pm.
- College and Young Adults: meet in the bell tower at 11:30am.
- YAF (Youth at Fifth): Sunday Evening house church in leaders homes at 6:00pm.

#### Adult Education: 11:15am-12:15pm

- Christian Issues: leader Clyde Richardson, meets in the west community room. Topics change from week to week. Guests are welcome to stop in anytime.
- Message Continued...: discuss the day's sermon with others. Coffee, juice, and donut holes are provided! Meets in the east community room.

## Community Life

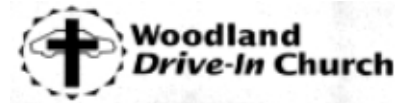
### SAFer's Seniors at Fifth

Please note this Thursday the 19th is the last opportunity to sign up for the Tuesday, January 24 lunch at the *new* Beacon Hill followed by Dave Bast speaking. Time is 12:00 noon and cost will be \$5.00 at the door. Please invite a friend!! Call the church office at 245-9247 to sign up and also advise if you need a ride.

### Transportation Partners

As you might know, we have been blessed by several new families and young adults from Japan, Sudan, Iraq, and Iran. Many of these new friends have no vehicle and require the help of others to get to Fifth Church and back each Sunday morning. If you are able to pick up and/or drop off on a Sunday morning or two, please let us know. This is a great opportunity for you to get out and get to know these remarkable people! If you are able to assist please fill out the tear off tab in this Sunday's worship guide, or email [Chad Farrand](#) or [Chris Vanderzee](#) and one of them will contact you and put you on the schedule.

as he tries to show Christian love to students and other faculty. Help him in his grief due to the death of his parents this past summer. Lead him to people who are yearning to know the love of Christ.



### Sunday, January 22

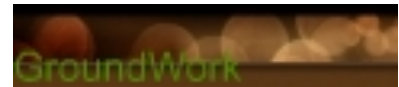
Title: "How to Worship God"

Text: Exodus 32:1-20

Preacher: Verlyn Verbrugge

Leader: Mike Haines

[www.driveinchurch.org](http://www.driveinchurch.org)



### Groundwork Radio Broadcasts

Sunday, January 22

Pastor: David Bast

Coming up on Groundwork: *Love*. Turn on almost any music radio station and there's a good chance you'll hear a song about love within a matter of minutes - but open the newspaper or read your favorite online news site and it's likely to take you a few pages of stories before you read about love. Let's talk about the virtue of love, next, on Groundwork. Join the Groundwork conversation on 1 Corinthians 13.

Tune into your local radio station or listen online at [Groundwork Online](#). Presented by Words of Hope and ReFrame Media.

Listen on [WPNW \(1260\) AM](#) on

### **Christian Baptism**

On February 12, we will celebrate the sacrament of baptism. Jesus left his church with this command: “Go make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And teach them to obey everything I have told you.” Thus, we believe baptism is a very important part of our spiritual journey. If you have never been baptized and would like to discuss that possibility, we would love to connect with you. Just mark that box on the Welcome Tab, drop it in the offering plate during the service, and a pastor will contact you. Likewise, if you are a parent and would like baptism for your child, please mark that box on the Welcome Tab, and a pastor will contact you.

Sunday at 8:00am and 5:00pm or  
[WJQK \(99.3\) FM](#) on Sunday at  
7:30pm.

### **IMA Mission Trip to Valladolid, Yucatan**

The [IMA mission trip](#) to Mexico is quickly approaching – the last two weeks of February, 2012! Participants from Fifth Church and around the U.S. and Mexico will be doing medical work/surgeries at Centro Medico San Lucas and in the surrounding Mayan villages. In addition, the Water Filter Team from Fifth Church will be helping install clean water filters in some villages with monies donated from Fifth friends. Your prayers and donations are greatly appreciated.

In addition, items that are distributed to the people in Mexico are greatly needed to take along. Please deposit any items on or before February 12 in the collection box near the hub in the church lobby.

- Reading Glasses – 2.5 strength and higher in plastic frames. Particularly need 3.0 and higher (Dollar Store or other)
- Sunglasses with UV protection
- Toothbrushes/Travel-size toothpaste
- Cloth Bags/Bolsitas (approx.. 5x7 with string closure)- given out in the villages with medications & Bibles

### **The Psalm Project**

The Psalm Project will perform on Wednesday, January 25, at 7:30 in the Calvin College Chapel, as part of their North American tour, "Teach Us to Pray." Back by popular demand with their entire team of professional Dutch musicians, they will lead us singing old/new psalms that are at once folksy, classical, and driven by gospel blues. Free and open to the public.

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