



THE GATHERING

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND CHRIST

Cell Groups

(2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays)

Springbrook: 9:30 AM at the Springbrook Municipal Building, call Kevin and Kelly Kehoe (613) 395-4346

Stirling: 10:00 AM at 25 Demorest Rd, call Beth and Bill Devries at (613) 395-0227

Belleville: 9:30 AM at 39 Cooke Crt, call Jack and Jan Harris at (613) 967-6419

Kingston: (Monday evenings) 1338 Princess St, call Terry and Dawn Harris at (613) 531-5283

Youth: (Wednesday evenings), 7:00 PM at the Hub, downtown Stirling, call Beth Devries at (613) 395-0227

Other Opportunities

Study of Daniel, Tuesdays 7:00 PM, 38 Mount Pleasant Rd, Stirling, call Esther Noel at (613) 395-3402

Men's breakfast at the Hub, Every Saturday, 7:30 to 9:00 AM, call Barry Cooper at 613 395-5990

The 4Cs: Communion...The first ingredient of our DNA

Let's take a deeper look at the DNA of The Gathering. Those of you who have been around for a while have become accustomed to hear of the 4Cs. They are more than a catchphrase or slogan; they represent what unites us as a church formed of cell groups. What they do is provide some fundamental alignment around which cells are developed and grow. When you think of it, they represent our growth process, deepening of our walk with God (communion), developing transparent, grace filled and growth oriented relationships (community), serving people in the name of Christ with the hope of seeing them come into relationship with God (commission) and doing all of this with intention, mutual commitment and determination within the flow of the promises of God (covenant). Each one of the Cs is a pillar of spiritual maturity for us as individuals, as cells groups and as a

church.

Over the next weeks, I would like to dig a bit deeper in each of the Cs so we can, together, continue to build our understanding of who we are. This week we'll start with Communion because it's at the heart of our experience as followers of Jesus.

Often the word communion

wasn't just to give us eternal life but to bring us to life in the fullest. Think of some of his statements: "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again." John 6: 35 "My intention is to give them (my flock) a rich and satisfying life." John 10:10.

Think of what he was saying to them. Jews of his day were

consistently taught that life was in the Torah and in people's ability to follow the laws and all of the regulations that came from how rabbis interpreted the laws. In essence, if you were attempting to follow all of the laws and regulations to hope to get life from God, you had 613 of them to observe. The hope was that if everyone followed these perfectly, God would send the Messiah and bring an end to Israel's occupation by foreigners.

Jesus

"I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me will never be hungry again."

is associated within religious environments as the action of taking the bread and wine in remembrance of Jesus dying on the cross to make for us to come into the Kingdom of God. When we use the word, we intend a broader sense. Think of our tag line "Connecting People and Christ", communion is the connecting with Christ. In fact, when you read the words of Jesus, his intent

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Upcoming Events

- November 23: Dinner at the Dug Out (see details on page 2)

Prayer Challenge

Pray for your friends, family and neighbours, ask God to help them see how close He really is.

The Meeting House has started in the Quinte region

A local group has started meeting under the banner of the Meeting House in our area. This church operates as house churches linked together with the Meeting House in Mississauga. The typical meeting revolves around listening to the teachings of Bruxy Cavey (author of *The End of Religion*) followed by discussion, application and prayer. Let's pray that God will use them to reach people other churches are unable to. If you're interested in hearing more, contact Gary and Denise MacDonald at 613 395-1196. The group is currently meeting at the MacDonald's every Sunday evening.

5 More Ways To Wake Up Your Quiet Time Pam Farrel (Continued from October 19)

15. READ YOUR FAVORITE HYMN. Spend some time meditating about each of the hymn's verses and its overall message. Find the passage in the Bible that the hymn was based upon, and think about how the hymn describes and reflects that truth. Spend some time researching how and why the hymn was composed. What were the circumstances? Your pastor or worship leader might know about a particular hymn's origin. Your Christian bookstore may also carry books that detail the history of certain hymns. If you're able to locate such information, think about how the hymn reflects the author's response to God during his or her circumstances.

16. SPEND A PERIOD OF TIME FASTING from food,

TV, or a hobby to spend more time with God. If you're able, combine your fast with a day at a quiet retreat center, the beach, the mountains, or even tucked away in a library to reflect upon God's Word and His hand in your life.

17. HAVE A QUIET TIME WITH ONE OF YOUR CHILDREN or grandchildren. This would probably include reading a passage from the Bible out loud. You can give children a powerful peek into your relationship with Christ by inviting them to share your regular time with God. As you ask them questions about what they see in the passage, you'll teach them to think more deeply about God's Word. Their responses and observations may surprise you, stretch you, and enrich your own perspective.

18. WRITE ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD from a different point of view. Think about how someone else would describe your walk. For example, my teen son might say, "My mom has a radical walk with Jesus. She really got pegged (convicted) by this verse." Several friends from the mission field explained how this activity helped them communicate the parable of the sower to the tribe they worked with. In their translation work, they described the seed that grew as the one that fell on "mulchy" soil. In that tribe, the best heart is one that resembles a compost pile. When you consider your walk and God's Word from the perspective of another, you will think differently, cross cultural bar-

riers, and gain a fresh view of god.

19. MEMORIZE ONE OF THE PRAYERS of the Bible, such a Mary's prayer in Lk. 1:46-55. Then act the prayer out as a soliloquy.

20. WRITE OUT A LIST of theological questions you'd like answered. Choose one and begin researching it.

"God, what is in your heart toward women?" was a question I had that led me on an exhaustive study of all the women in the Bible, and all the verses with the words woman and women in them. **ABIDING DAILY** Remember, the purpose of all these ideas is to enhance your relationship with God and your intimacy with Him during your quiet time.

'DUGOUT' - Prime Rib Dinner - Sunday - November 23rd - \$10.00

Gather around 5:30 p.m., dinner will be served between 6- 6:30. Reserve your seat now while spaces are available. Come join us for some relationship building, good food and fun. To reserve your spot please email us or phone Jack or Janice 613-967-6419 or email us at jharris1976@sympatioc.ca Book your seat soon.

Who is doing what at The Gathering?

Working with the youth: Beth Devries, (613) 395-0227

Intercession: Jane Aman (613) 395-3869

Pastoral care: Alicia Lott (613) 395-5342 , Jan Harris, (613) 967-6419

Phone Chain: Avril O'Brien (613) 478-6461, Esther Noel (613) 395-3402

Worship/Music: Sandy Norman (613) 398-8695, Bill Devries (613) 395-0227

Technical Gear: Kevin Kehoe (613) 395-4346 , Barry Cooper (613) 395-5990

Projection and computers: Vince Brintnell (613) 395-0613

Name the Hub

Our meeting place needs a name... We would like one that reflects the informal relational style of our church family and that invites the broader community in. If you have any suggestions, please let Jane Aman know.

Suggestions to date: The Hub, The Gathering Place

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In the midst of this, Jesus says “I am the bread of life”, “I am the vine”, “I am the good shepherd”. His invitation was to look to him for life, not to the laws. What is striking about each one of these descriptors he used of himself is that they reflect some form of sustained connection. Bread is ingested daily, branches need to be connected to the vine on an ongoing vine to sustain life, a shepherd is in constant contact with the flock. His invitation was to a sustained, ongoing relationship with him and his father through the Holy Spirit. (For more, read John 10 and John 14, both chapters are filled with this sense of ongoing personal and group connection with Christ).

Because Jesus has the words of life, because he is the bread, because through him, we see God, we all need sustained connection with him. This is what we mean by Communion...sustained and aware connection with God, through Christ, enabled by the Holy Spirit.

As a group of followers of Christ, we encourage that connection in our personal lives, in the life of our cells and in our larger celebrations. This sustained connection takes the form personal reading and study of the Bible, personal prayer, and personal worship in our individual lives. In our cells it can take a variety of forms: Small group worship, reading, studying and discussions of the Bible and encouragement understand and to follow the teachings of Jesus.

It can also take the form of sharing the “breaking of bread” together. In the case of every cell, the focus will continue to be the

same: growing and deepening our connection with Christ and the main ingredients will be the same: the word of God, prayer, worship, mutual encouragement. What each of these may look like in practice may vary from cell to cell.

When we get together in our moments of celebration, the same focus is present. We share stories, we open the Bible, we pray, we sing with the central purpose of drawing our attention and our focus to the God who gives us life and is enacting His Kingdom here and now. Some celebrations may involve more sharing, others more teaching and still others more music. The intent is to offer a moment in our larger congregation to become more aware of the presence of God in our lives and community and to draw closer to Christ who is the centre point of our unity.

My encouragement to all of us is to seize every opportunity we have to deepen that connection with Christ. As mature followers of Jesus, we don't have to wait for our preference of style or the alignment of circumstances to bathe in that connection, we are called to do so very moment of our lives. Let me finish with the words of Jesus in John 15:5: “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me, you can do nothing.”

Let's all continue to grow that connection through Communion.

Mark Norman

Stirling Community Cupboard: Bring non-perishables with you to our cells and to our meetings

Over the next few weeks, we would like to ask you to bring non perishable food items to the Celebration or to the office. We hope to contribute as much as possible to restocking the shelves of the Community Cupboard as Christmas approaches.

News from the Robinsons (from an email to Jan Harris)

You ask how we are doing... Well... I must say, we are doing actually really fine. We are surprised how easy it was to get settled in... and we are excited by what has already opened up for us here ministry and business wise.

We knew we probably would like to live in Ottawa but we did not expect to fall in love with this town so fast. We enjoy the fullness of culture and the opportunities are a lot here.

Victoria had a smooth transition into her new school. She is now a big school bus girl—learning how to make and keep friends. Even Maxy is happy here.

We live only two minutes from a dog park... how much could you ask for when you are a little dumb white dog?

Please give our greetings to the Gathering.

Simone, Peter and Victoria

How do you like your toast? Barry Cooper wants to have breakfast with you!

Hey guys, some of us are getting together for breakfasts at the Hub on Saturday mornings. We'll take time to get caught up together, to encourage one another and to pray for one another. We will be going through a DVD series entitled “The bait of Satan” as soon as it a

The plan is simple, meet us at the Hub from 7:30 to 9:00 on Saturday mornings. Breakfast will also be simple: coffee and toast. Men of all ages are welcome.

Don't throw out your aluminum pop cans

André Froment is on a mission, he wants to help fund our next project in Kenya by collecting aluminum cans and your loose change. Bring your empty pop cans when we get together and empty your small loose change in the container at the back of the gymnasium. All funds will be contributed to the building project in Kenya.