

The Grace Notes newsletter

September / October 2011

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Kick Off Your Fall with Small Groups

Fall is always a great time to start something new. There is a certain energy in the Fall as kids go back to school, the apples ripen and the air gets crisp. Why not take advantage of the momentum of Fall and do something new at church - join a small group!

Small Groups, as the name implies, are groups composed of 8-15 people that meet together for Bible Study, fellowship, and encouragement in faith. Many of the groups meet in homes, although a few meet at the church, but they are all warm settings where friendship can blossom.

At Cornerstone, we encourage *everyone* to be involved in a Small Group. Why do we place such a high priority on these groups? Because to be a Christian is to be part of God's family. God has not called us to be lone actors and worshippers, but to be an integral part of a body (see 1 Cor. 12). That structure serves the needs of the church community, but also, the deep needs that we all have as individuals.

A Small Group allows you to be connected to your Cornerstone family in a way that a Sunday service or other larger setting

cannot. It offers the opportunity to study the Scriptures and to share life in a way that is deeper than you can find in a class or at an event.

There are a wide variety of groups at the church with topics and styles for everyone. To get signed up for a group, grab the Small Group brochure on Sunday morning or see the website. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Jay. We hope that this Fall you will start new in a small group !



Cornerstone Moves Forward

After the congregation voted in May to re-name the church Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church, many changes have been taking place to bring our public and legal presentation in line with the new name. You have probably noticed the new name appearing in various places by now.

Church Chairman Joe Muscarello oversaw the process of changing the name on most legal documents where it was required. That work is now almost complete.

One of the most exciting elements of the name process that is now being addressed is the design of a new exterior sign for the church. There is a committee working on the design and good progress is being made. The old sign needed updating in any case, and the new sign will give the church the opportunity to present a sharp, new face to the community along with the new name.

Watch here for updates on future name change developments as they happen!

Upcoming Events

- Sep 10 Honduras interest meeting
- Sep 14 AWANA begins!
- Sep 16 ESL classes begin
- Sep 18 Church Picnic @ John's Park
- Sep 25 Bowman missions visit
- Oct 6 Aspen Men's Conference
- Oct 16 Slayton missions visit
- Oct 31 Pumpkin Patch

An Eye-Opening Experience at the Joshua Center

By Contributing Editor
Bud Swanson

Recently, soccer players that I coach from the Timothy Christian High School Sophomore Soccer Team took time out from their try-outs to visit, serve dinner, interact with and deliver a gospel message to homeless women temporarily residing at the Joshua Transformation Center in the Garfield Park neighborhood of Chicago. The Joshua Center is operated by Breakthrough

Urban Ministries, a ministry that provides counseling, shelter, food and compassion to families and individuals in the Garfield and Humboldt Park neighborhoods.

Cornerstone EFC has long been involved with the Joshua Center, assisting through quarterly visits and financial support. This visit gave these young men an opportunity to stretch themselves in service.

During the Gospel message, Sophomore Wes Ditchfield played the part of Jesus when he dramatically assumed the penalty of people's sin upon himself. Freshman Christian Bravo commented, "the experience at the Joshua Center showed me that looks can be deceiving, these women were less threatening and more likable than I presumed." It was a tremendous learning experience for these kids who have so much to serve those with so little.

"The experience at the Joshua Center showed me that looks can be deceiving..."



Aspen Men's Conference Celebrates 5 Years

This will be a special year for the Aspen Men's Conference as it celebrates five years of ministry to men. Many men from Cornerstone have already made plans to attend the weekend in October and plenty of space is still open.

The brainchild of Don Chookaszian, the Aspen Conference has excelled in combining a spiritual retreat for men with

the unrivaled grandeur of the Colorado mountains. Men are refreshed physically and spiritually in the remarkable atmosphere of the getaway which includes worship, teaching, and time for enjoying the outdoors together.

Attendees look forward this year to speaker Dr. Armerding of Regent College in Vancouver. Dr. Armerding will ad-

dress the men gathered this year on the conference theme: "The Making of a Man of God." He brings a long list of credentials as a leader and developer of men.

The Aspen Men's Conference will take place October 6-9. For more information please see the brochure in the foyer or the church website. You won't want to miss it!