

Upcoming Events

- October 16: Missions of Tears fundraiser, 7:00PM, Kingston Alliance Church
- October 18: The Ride for Refugees
- October 25: How simple can Church be? Vision Ministries workshop for leaders
- October 26: Dinner at The DugOut (Dundas East in Belleville) Details to follow



Connecting people and God

How do we know we're growing at The Gathering?

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

How do we know we're growing? I wish there was a simple answer...

Traditionally we could have counted heads on Sunday morning and use the answer to determine the health our group of believers. The equation of the past was relatively simple: More heads on Sunday morning = growth, less heads = well...

The choices we've made as we established our faith community beg for ways of understanding how we are progressing in living out "church 24/7", "The Kingdom here and Now", and the reality that the Kingdom spreads through relationships. In many ways, we need to shift the question from numerical growth to spiritual health.

It's interesting to note how

often God used trees as a metaphor for health. Think of Colossians 2:7, Paul uses the metaphor of the tree to talk about our individual spiritual vitality. Let's try to apply the same metaphor to our health as a community of followers of Jesus. A healthy tree has a solid root system to feed itself, bears fruits to multiply and creates a good canopy to transform light into energy and provide shade.

Here are some questions we can ask ourselves:

Are our roots growing deeper in Christ? Are we maintaining our focus on Jesus and on the grace he has poured out in our individual and collective lives? Are we bearing fruit? Are our lives being transformed by the wonderful reality of the love of Christ as we spend time with him and

with one another? Are we connecting with more and different people? Are our relationships carriers of truth, mercy, forgiveness and love?

How is our canopy? Are we using our energy to build the Kingdom? Are we expanding our branches to be agents of grace beyond our own natural networks of relationships? Are we sheltering, caring for those in need at home and abroad?

Let's watch for health and trust God for growth.

Mark Norman



How can I support the Ride?

- Sign up to ride, find some sponsors
- Sponsor a rider or the team
- Come along for support
- Pray for Refugees



www.rideforrefugees.com

Prayer Challenge

Ask God to deepen our roots in Christ, to bear fruit and to help us provide care for the needy.

Upcoming Learning Opportunity to Consider

HOW SIMPLE CAN CHURCH BE?

A discussion related to the book, "Simple Church" written by Thom S. Rainer & Eric Geiger
"The philosophy is simple, the process is not." - Leadership Journal, A.Ward, March '07

Date: **October 25, 2008**

Time: **9:00 am - 3:00 pm** (lunch provided) Cost: \$25 per person, \$30 per couple

Location: **Lakeside Church, 7654 Conservation Road, Guelph, ON**

An interactive workshop for elder or deacon groups, committees, ministry teams, youth teams, primary church leaders, leadership



5 More Ways To Wake Up Your Quiet Time Pam Farrel (Continued from Sept. 21)

6. DANCE BEFORE THE LORD

like David, who danced "with all his might" (2 Sam. 6:14). David's dancing was a heartfelt and spontaneous expression of rejoicing. So put on your favourite hymn or praise song, and dance away. Interpretive dance is a wonderful way to express your heart and soul in praise before God. If you enjoy Jewish folk dancing, ballet, or some other kind of dance, dedicate your talent to God.

7. WRITE DOWN EVERY SIN

that continues to haunt you. Then write 1 Jn. 1:9 over each sin. Destroy the list—God has. This is a strong visual reminder of how God blots out your sin.

8. WRITE OUT

a Phil. 4:8 list. What is lovely to you, worthy of praise, excellent, etc.? Hang the list in a place where you tend to be grumpy, such as above the washer and dryer or on the dashboard of your car for that frustrating commute!

9. PRAY IN A POSTURE

you don't normally use. Try praying on your knees, prone, or standing with your face to the heavens and your hands raised in worship. It's amazing how simply changing your posture before God can change your attitude and help you experience Him in new ways.

10. READ A DIFFERENT TRANSLATION

of the Bible. You might consider purchasing a Bible that has several translations in paral-

lel. Reading a new translation or comparing different ones can stimulate new insights into Scripture. If you've used and marked up one particular Bible for many years, reading a different Bible will enable you to see the Word with new vision. Because your eyes will not be drawn to notes and highlighted passages from previous study or devotional reading, the Scriptures will feel as beautiful and inviting as a fresh snowfall on a crisp winter morn.



Sophie and Esther Noel

Verses for this week

Here are some of the references Lisa Barber will be using on October 5. Take time to read through them and let God speak to you.

Deuteronomy 10:17-19 , Deuteronomy 31:12, Leviticus 19:33,34 , 1 Samuel 21:10 – 22:5, 1 Samuel 23: 15,16, Acts 8:4, Acts 17:26, 27



David and Carol Lake

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: 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.

www.the-gathering.ca