



# 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:** (Sunday 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

## Nice Guys Don't Get Crucified Mark Norman

**M**edia tells us a lot about the society we live in, it also reflects back to us some of the perspectives we may harbour as we lead our lives as followers of Jesus. Next time you get a chance, use Google to search the internet for images of Jesus, it's amazing to see the variety that emerges. The one I've included is a projection of how a typical Jewish 30 year old living in the times of Jesus would have looked like. Think of how Jesus has been rendered in movies; often as stoic, humourless, Caucasian male (with a British accent to boot). I suspect that we are wise enough not to buy into these portrayals of Jesus. On the other hand, do we subscribe to an image of Jesus that keeps us from fully appreciating his purpose, his life as he walked among us and the mandate he has left us?



Think of some of the portrayals we may have bought into in the Christian realm: The Christmas image of the small child in Mary's arms, the image of a peace maker generating harmony in every interaction he had, the image of the Jesus in heaven we can only connect with in worship because of his perfection... None of these is completely inaccurate, on the other hand, do they tell the full story of the Jesus we are called to follow, to believe in and to emulate?

Let me add another dimension: Jesus as a provocateur, rebel and subversive. Don't get me wrong, Jesus definitely had a warm, and

compassionate side mainly expressed as he dealt with people marginalized by the religious establishment of the day. On the other hand, he didn't mince words with the religious leaders of the day. In some cases, he seemed to go out of his way to provoke them. When he changed the water to wine, he used the urns and water reserved for the ceremonial cleaning required by religious laws to make an excellent batch of wine, so good that people commented on the quality. He healed the sick on the Sabbath in

front of the religious leaders of the day and when they objected, he told them that he was sent on the business of his Father (read God and read Jesus making himself equal with God) infuriating them to the point that they wanted to kill him.

He continued on his mission of rocking the boat by celebrating the faith of a gentile woman and a Roman officer both considered less than human by the religious lead-

ers of the day. He also had the audacity of equating himself to the Temple, their most sacred space that was considered to be the only place in which God (Yaweh) manifested himself to humanity. Jesus declared that his body was the temple. In doing so, he was declaring that God was choosing to manifest himself in a profoundly different way than their teaching and tradition had ever allowed. He shook the foundations of their faith as well as the power structure that had emerged in their religious order over a number of centuries.

**See Nice Guys on p.3**

## Upcoming Events

**April 10:** Community Good Friday service, 10:00AM, St. James Catholic Church

**April 19:** Mulli Children Family Presentation at The Gathering, Stirling Senior School, 9:30AM

**June 28:** Church picnic, 12PM to 5PM at Avril and Bob's

## Worship in the most unexpected places Lisa Barber

**W**orship is not as easy to define as we might think. On one hand we “go to worship” and have “worship services”, yet Christ calls us to worship Him at all times and in all places. So how do we move from experiencing occasional times of worship to living a life filled with worship?

Sandy and Mark Norman went to an early viewing of the movie: The Passion of the Christ. There was a stirring in Sandy’s heart as she anticipated the theatrical depiction of Christ’s journey to the cross. The cross was such a significant theme in her journey at that point, especially that all but a few of those so loved by Jesus had abandoned him at this moment of ultimate sacrifice. At this time in her life, she felt drawn to worship Jesus at the foot of the cross. So sitting in the theatre awaiting this powerful dramatization of the crucifixion, Sandy felt a strong urge to sing out in worship to the Lord. When she told Mark this he assured her “it would pass”. And it did. But Sandy felt uncomfortable to let it go as she sensed God was in it.

Then something else unusual happened. Just before the movie began an employee entered the theatre to introduce the movie. And another staff person sang a song to promote a fund raising project.

One week later Sandy and Mark returned to the theatre with a group of ten youth. Sandy felt compelled to warn the others that she might need to sing. At the same time, still grieving from what felt like a lost opportunity, having the sense that she, too, had abandoned Jesus, Sandy was praying, “God, if there is an opportunity this time, I will obey – I will sing!”

The theatre was packed. They were seated only five rows from the front. As before, a staff person came into the theatre to introduce the movie. When he finished his announcement he apologized that his co-worker was not available to perform. “Would anyone like to sing a song?” he asked, “Perhaps a hymn?”

Though taken by surprise by the perfect opportunity being offered, Sandy wasted no time. She rose to her feet and began to sing “How Great Thou Art”, the song that had been placed on her heart when she first sensed God’s nudging. Immediately the theater burst into song and the place was filled with a powerful sense of awe, joy and wonder at the Greatness of God. Only her teenage daughters were sliding under their seats with embarrassment.

As Sandy reflects on this experience she explains that true worshipers will worship in Spirit and in Truth (John 4:23). They will take their eyes off their own comfort and limitations and focus on God’s purposes and unlimited abilities. They will forget about what people think of them and their reputations. They will set aside every fear and follow Christ in whatever direction He takes them and they will trust that whatever He leads them to do it will be out of love.

God desires to express Himself, to reveal Himself, through everything He gives us to do. When we are serving, resting, teaching, comforting (etc.) in the community or in the privacy of our

homes, God is Present with us. And when we SEE Him for who He is and when we HEAR Him speaking to us in the midst of our lives, our response will be to worship Him through whatever activity we find ourselves.

“Worship happens when we are faced with who God is and we respond.” says Sandy. Worship is ignited within us as we open our spirits to commune with God and then it finds its expression through all that we say, do and think.



So how do we move from worshipping God only on occasion to living lives filled with worship? With determination and expectancy we seek His Face every day, all day long. And as He opens our eyes and ears to perceive Him we will respond with the awe, wonder, joy and obedience that His Beauty and Power inspire.

## 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

**W**hat lessons are you learning that are resulting in love, faith and action in your life? Would you be willing to share your story?

Contact me at [lisa.barber@iteams.org](mailto:lisa.barber@iteams.org)

613-395-1276

**Want to announce community events, don’t forget to call UCB Canada: 613 966-4822**

**or visit the website at [www.ucbcanada.com](http://www.ucbcanada.com)**

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**Nice Guys (continued from p 1)**

They were livid and resorted to manipulation to get rid of the rebel. The most challenging of Jesus' assertions to the religious of the day was that God was with him, sending him into the world, speaking to him and directing him in the accomplishment of divine will, declaring freedom, healing and grace to those who could hear. Everything that was promised through religious rites was now available directly from God. God would now make his temple in the hearts of human beings.

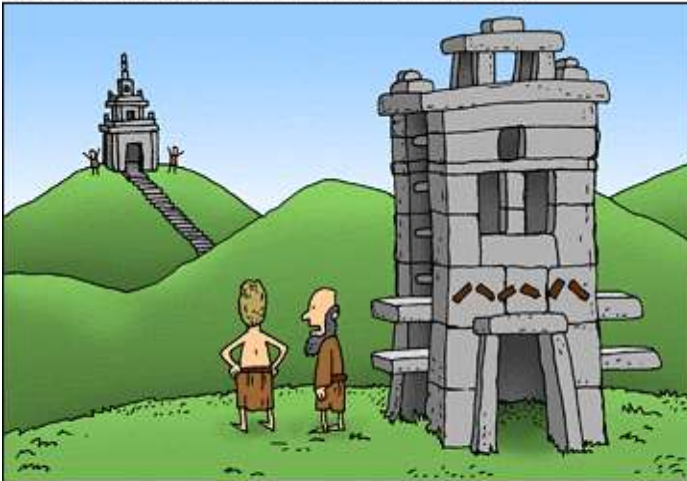
Allan Hirsch puts it this way: Jesus was a wild man. He started his ministry by being baptized by wild man, he walked on the water in wild storms, he stood face to face with demons unphazed and faced the pain of crucifixion without backing down.

Jesus invites us into this wildness; he hasn't called us to be religious but to follow him, to learn from him, to emulate him. This call isn't a call to a placid life but to a life that pushes back darkness and doesn't settle for religiosity but thrives on the reality of being the temple of God sent to a world in need.

*"In the same way the Church exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became man for no other purpose. It is even doubtful, you know, whether the whole universe was created for any other purpose. It says in the Bible that the whole universe was made for Christ and that everything is to be gathered together in Him."*

C.S. Lewis

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THEIR TEMPLE IS TALLER AND SLIGHTLY MORE ORNATE THAN OURS ... WE MUST UPGRADE IF WE EXPECT OUR GOD TO WIN

**Mulli Children Family at The Gathering on April 19**

Sunday April 19, fourteen teens from Kenya will be presenting songs, dance, acrobatics and telling their stories with us. They are the vanguard for a group of 30 teens who will be touring North America in October 2009. Come and enjoy their presentation, invite friends and family.

April 19, 9:30AM, Stirling Senior School

Followed by a BBQ at 1530 Fish and Game Club Road, Frankford at 12:30PM

**Good Friday Service**

This year's ecumenical service will be held at St. James at 10:00AM on Good Friday (April 10). We need a few volunteers for readings. Please contact Jane Aman (613) 395-3869



**On-Going Needs at the Community Cupboard**

Here are some of the needs the Cupboard has. Consider bringing some along when we get together for our next celebration:

- Dry pastas
- Kraft dinner
- Canned meats: tuna, fish, chicken, etc.
- Canned stews



Don't forget to drop your spare change in the can at the back of the auditorium at our celebrations. The funds will be used for this year's Kenya project

### Thank you note from Vikki at MCF

I was just going to write your thank you letter this morning for the most timely and generous donation for the IDP camps. Your donation came in while a few of us were at MCF conducting our annual audit. Part of the audit was to go up to Eldoret and visit the IDP camp. Sadly, there are still about 3000 people at the camp. The last time that they had any assistance was from MCF on Dec 16<sup>th</sup>. We visited the camp in mid February. God has really put a burden on my heart and the rest of us that were there (Rich and Lori Wright, Elizabeth and Michael Crane). The reason that MCF had to pull out of the camp was most due to lack of funding. They could no longer provide the relief food for the families and hot lunches for the children in the camp. The money that you sent is enough to cover relief food for the most vulnerable left in the camp; lactating mothers, infants and small children. I have to tell you that I wept when I found out about your donation as it was a God send. I **can't thank you and your congregation** enough. I will send a formal thank you today.

Many Blessings,

**Vikki Buchner**

Executive Director

Mully Children's Family Charitable Foundation

P.O. Box 93014, 1111 Davis Drive, Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 8K3



June 28, 2009 from 12:00pm to 5:00pm at Bob and Avril O'Brien's, 305 Fuller Rd, Thomasburg, ON

(613) 478-6461

Please bring chairs, bathing suits (no skinny dipping) and towels.

Please sign up as soon as possible (sign up sheets at the back of the auditorium on celebration Sundays)

Belleville Pregnancy  
and Family Care Centre



Where the first step counts...

The Belleville Pregnancy and Family Care Centre is offering a Post Abortion Bible Study called "Forgiven and Set Free" which has been prepared for women who have experienced some degree of grief and regret from their abortion. The 8 week course will be held at the Centre starting Thursday evening March 26th.

To register call 613-969-7866 and ask for Heather or Joanne.