

## WAC Small Group Newsletter

### September 2011

**A WORD FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR** Someone told me the other day that “September is the new December”! So many things start up at this point in the calendar it can feel busier than the holidays. It is also a time of new beginnings. As your small group gets back into a rhythm take prayerful time to assess what went well in the past, what you want to change and what God wants to see happen in the coming year. At the end of this newsletter is a list of questions based on our WAC Small Group Common Values that was developed by Craig McCollum. We will discuss these at the small group leader’s training. Before you come, take some time to pray for God’s leading of you and your group and think about these important questions.

**Small Group Leader Training** **Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-12:00 in the Chapel**  
During this training session you will be challenged to think intentionally about where your group is going and given practical tools on how to get there. We will also be unpacking the C&MA core values curriculum and showing you how to use it in your group.

**C&MA CORE VALUES CURRICULUM** I’m excited that so many of you are planning to follow Phil’s sermon series “Life By Design” by using the C&MA Core Values curriculum. I’ll have your materials (DVD, Leader’s guide, and daily devotionals) for you at the training on September 10<sup>th</sup>. If you are not able to be there, please contact me so I can get the materials to you.

**A WORD FROM THE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL** At the Leadership Council meeting in August, the focus was on being updated with what has been planned for the fall. The Core Values curriculum was explained and methods for integrating this curriculum church-wide were discussed. There were also updates given for various ministry areas, highlighted by the new work done in the Go! area with Mercy Ministries. A financial report was given and Heidi enthusiastically reported on a successful Vacation Bible School in mid-July.

**Leadership Development** Who is God? What is His plan? How does it work? What does it mean for me? Delve into these questions in a new class called The Mystery led by Allan and Laurie Wenzel Wednesday nights, 7-8:30 PM in room 148. Travel through the whole Bible in 9-10 week sessions, starting with Genesis through Joshua, September 21<sup>nd</sup> through November 16<sup>th</sup>.

The class is open to everyone and is part of Woodinville Alliance Church’s Bible training and leadership development.

Talk with Allan and Laurie at their lobby table on Sunday or call them at 425-881-1650 for more information.

**NEW SMALL GROUPS** I am always on the lookout for who God is calling to be new small group leaders! Join me in the search and send me names of people in whom you see leadership traits.

**SERVICE CORNER** For those of you who don't know me I'm Matt Hesselgrave and I am the director of "GO" Ministries at WAC. What is "GO" Ministries you ask? "GO" Ministries is comprised of 3 key activities critical to fulfilling Christ's mission on earth: Evangelism, Global Outreach (more on this in a minute) and Global Missions. I will discuss each key activity in future newsletters. This month I want to focus on our newest ministry the Global Outreach piece officially launching on September 25th. We're calling it Justice and Mercy Ministries (JaMM).

In a nut shell, JaMM serves WAC by leading it into the global purposes of God by creating opportunities to serve the poor and needy at WAC (body outreach), in our community (local outreach) and in our world (international outreach). We will also have a critical response piece tasked with quickly responding to global emergencies. We look at JaMM as being Christ's heart and hands in action. There is so much more to tell so stay tuned, but if you can't wait and want service opportunities NOW please email me at [hessel.matt@gmail.com](mailto:hessel.matt@gmail.com) and I'll "hook you up!"

In Christ alone.

Matt

**RESOURCE CORNER** If missions is an area your group needs to grow in we have a number of books in the library that have been reviewed by our GO! Team. Matt will be available at the training session to show these to you, or come by the office to look at them.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

- **September 10<sup>th</sup>**, Small Group Leader Training, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
- **September 11<sup>th</sup>**, Life By Design sermon series starts
- **September 21<sup>st</sup>**, The Mystery begins, 7:00-8:30 PM
- **September 28<sup>th</sup>**, Small Group Sponsors meeting, 6:30-8:00 PM

In service to Jesus,

*Laura Donelson,*

Woodinville Alliance Church Small Groups Administrator  
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**Common Values of Small Groups**  
**Key Questions**  
Woodinville Alliance Church

We hold these values for small groups to be representative of the character of Christ for the purpose of developing meaningful communities that support transformed lives in the areas of First Life, New Life, Just Life, Deep Life and Sweet Life.

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**Deepening Walk with Jesus** Groups will meet on a regular basis for the purpose of pursuing increasingly deep spiritual lives. Leaders will disciple the members of the group as they grow in a transforming relationship with Jesus Christ by loving, supporting and holding them accountable.

- 1) Are we meeting regularly enough to allow us to share how we are going deeper with Christ and to go deeper with one another?
- 2) Are Small group members being disciplined by the leaders and/or other members of the group? If yes, how is this leading to transformation of lives within the group?
- 3) What does “accountability” to continue growing relationships with Christ look like in the group?

**Deepening Walk with Each Other** Group members will laugh and weep with one another as nurturing, spiritual friendships grow. Groups will learn to work through conflict in a healthy way.

- 1) Is there a healthy balance of interaction in the group that includes laughing, crying, supporting and challenging one another?
- 2) Has conflict arisen in the group and did the steps followed to resolve the conflict lead to growth and deeper relationships?

**Service** Small groups will serve together in order to deepen bonds within the group and to reach out beyond the group. Service is encouraged in the church body (supporting a specific ministry area or meeting needs as they arise), in the community (reaching out to bless and witness to the community) and in missions (‘adopting’ a missionary or supporting a specific mission project).

- 1) How has the group decided to serve together and has this resulted in positive “bonding” experiences?
- 2) Has the group chosen to consistently support one or more ministries within WAC as part of their service?
- 3) Is community service something that the group has chosen to pursue and how has this resulted in blessing or witnessing to community members?
- 4) Has the group elected to adopt a missionary and if yes what role has the group played in their lives?

**Inclusiveness** All people will be welcomed and encouraged to be involved in a small group that will deepen their relationship with Christ. Each small group will proactively discuss their group’s capacity and their ability to incorporate new members. New group members will be connected in thoughtful ways and will be assisted in finding a new group if an initial connection does not work. Each small group member will prayerful discern the ways they can engage in the greater life of the church body.

1) Is the group currently open to new members and if yes, how are you planning to bring new members into the group?

2) If the group is at maximum capacity, how frequently do you choose to discuss adding new members and how this might be accomplished?

**Preparation** Leaders will strive to grow in their leadership skills through individual study, mentoring by small group sponsors and participation in the training provided by Woodinville Alliance Church Small Group Ministries. Potential new leaders will be prayerfully identified and intentionally grown.

1) For leaders of small groups, is the training currently being provided helping you become a better leader?

2) Are there additional ways that WAC could be helping our small group leaders be better prepared?

3) What am I doing to strengthen my skills as a leader?

4) Do I take enough time to prepare for each meeting?

**Support** Small Groups and their leaders will be supported in holding these values through prayer, training and organizational structure provided by the small group sponsors, the small group administrator and the leadership council.

1) As a small group leader are you connecting regularly with your small group sponsor?

2) How might the sponsors better support the small group leaders?

2) Is there additional support that you feel that you need in order to be a better leader of your small group?

