



Pastor's Corner

Chris
Marchand,
Lead Pastor

It's been a while since I've had a conversation with an inebriated individual. Heather and I had taken a wrong turn and found ourselves standing in front of a downtown Subway. She was standing to the left side of the door, looking like a wind was blowing against her; leaning precariously to one side. "Hey," she said. "I don't usually do this, but - I'm drunk and I need something to eat. Can you buy me some food?" Not being a Subway fan, she pointed to the golden arches across the parking lot; so off we went. As we walked together, she told us that she was 16, pregnant, and had just been kicked out of her house. At one point, she looked at both of us and said, "This is weird, it feels too much like we're a family. I've never had a family." She would slur this over and over again, as we sat together. We exchanged phone numbers and as she stood to go, Heather asked if she'd like a hug. I watched the young girl's face as she struggled to understand why someone would want to hold her. The embrace was long and deep and there were tears, as two strangers shared their lives; one because of need and the other because of Jesus. Making a meaningful human connection doesn't have to be complicated. Jesus teaches us to be a reflection of his love, in whatever situation we find ourselves, even and perhaps especially, with strangers.



Rosie Rockclimber and Trek Rockrambler

Anticipation, excitement, music, energy, service, heatwave, kids - these are just a few words to describe this year's VBS. Over 90 volunteers from the Niverville churches joined forces to lead Everest Vacation Bible School from August 10-14. And even though the temperature was warm, the volunteers came dressed to conquer Mount Everest.



VBS was hosted by Niverville Community Fellowship this year and the total number of children registered was 303. The theme was, "Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power," and children learned Bible lessons that taught them to look to Scripture for guidance when dealing with life's challenges.

Learning lessons during daily skits with Rosie & Trek



Throughout each morning, children visited five stations: Games, Worship, Bible, Cinema & Imagination Station. On Tuesday we had guests from Teen Challenge who shared some of the challenges they had faced and how they were able to overcome them with God's power. The children then bundled firewood (240 bags!) and sold them with all proceeds going to Teen Challenge.



On Thursday, children were taught about Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection and 28 children responded either by accepting Him as their Saviour or rededicating their life to Him. It was a great week.

NCF Fall Kick-Off

As the weather changes and autumn makes an appearance, it is easy to focus on the ending of summer. However, here at NCF, the change of seasons marks the beginning of our new program year. Our annual NCF Fall Kick-Off was filled with sunshine as we celebrated this beginning with the unveiling of a new theme for our fall programming: **Life Together**.

The day was filled with excitement, and maybe some apprehension, for those entering a *new* eXplore & More class with *new* teachers and *new* faces mixed in with the old familiar ones. After eXplore & More, the foyer was filled with cheerful voices as we headed into the worship service. One highlight during the service was the presentation of *new* Bibles to those entering grade one this year.



After the worship service we gathered in the Fellowship Hall for a BBQ lunch, followed by a ladder ball tournament, car rally and bouncy castle for the kids.

Ice Cream!



Official word (from Taran) was that everyone who participated in the games was a winner. However, Pastor Chris and Walter may have done exceptionally well in the ladder ball tournament, along with a group of youth and young adults in the car rally.



If you would like more information on eXplore & More Classes or Small Group options, browse the rest of this newsletter for different ways to participate in **Life Together** at NCF.



Notes from the Elder Board

Last spring, over 130 individuals from NCF participated in an anonymous survey focused on the Sunday morning worship services. There were many encouraging and helpful comments. Thank you to all who participated as it allowed the worship committee to plan how to more effectively invite the congregation into the presence of God during the service.

KEY ACTION POINTS OF THE SURVEY

As a result of the survey, the worship committee will be working on the following action items:

- **Sermon Themes** - Adding a series focused on Anabaptist theology, and another series on a specific book of the Bible (most likely Philippians)
- **Worship Team Training** - This fall we will be running 5 weeks of training during Adult eXplore & More, covering topics such as the theology of worship, heart of worship, worship team dynamics and team building, and the role of team members, etc.
- **Service Flow** - Looking at how to improve the overall 'flow' of our services by working with all those involved. For example, there will be an emphasis on smoother transitions between songs, between sections of the service, and between individuals coming and going on stage.
- **Worship Nights** - There will be two special worship nights later this year. One will have a more traditional feel, and the other will be more contemporary.
- **Worship Music** - The worship committee will be working toward providing additional guidance to music teams for song selection, key signatures, and tempo.
- **Scripture Reading** - In addition to our regular readings, a group will be formed to present dramatic readings every 4-6 weeks.

If you have any questions about the worship survey, or any other aspect of the services at NCF, please contact the worship elder, Ben Dueck.

NCF Small Groups

The purpose of our small group ministry is to build community, grow as followers of Christ, and to discover ways to live out NCF's purpose in a practical way. Our small groups typically involve regular meetings of 5 to 12 people. Participants grow as disciples of Jesus through involvement in a variety of activities that may include all, or some of the following: Community Building, Prayer & Worship, Biblical Equipping, and Missional Service.

In partnership with Stephen Ministries, NCF uses the ChristCare model for leadership training. Those leading small groups are encouraged to benefit from the training provided.

If you are interested in learning more about NCF's small groups or would like to join a small group at NCF, please contact Darlene Dueck, Congregational Care Pastor.

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**"Wireless communication is nothing new.
I've been praying for 75 years!"**

Darlene Dueck, Congregational Care Pastor

My role here at NCF is to provide leadership for our small groups as well as to provide care and personal visitation to individuals in our congregation. This is a new journey for me here at NCF and I know I have much to learn. Maybe you're on a new journey and you're surprised to find yourself in an unexpected place. My hope and prayer is that here at NCF, you will find the encouragement and prayer support you need to continue on your journey, encountering God in new ways, and that He will surprise you with joy. I would be happy to meet with you and explore ways to connect you with our church family or to pray with you.

"You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence..." Psalm 16:11



eXplore & More Fall 2015

AGES 2-5

(Gospel Light Curriculum)

Themes:

- I Can Learn About God's Love
- I Can Know God Loves Me
- I Can Show God's Love

Ages 2-3

Teacher: Roxie Hiebert - Rm 406

Ages 4-5

Teacher: Allison Antonio - Rm 407

GRADES 1-6

(Faithweaver Curriculum)

Lessons are from the books of Exodus, Numbers and Joshua and cover the Israelites crossing the Red Sea to God giving victory over Jericho. Includes a study of the 10 Commandments.

Grade 1

Teacher: Megan Sawatzky - Rm 201

Grade 2

Teacher: Sher Sawatzky - Rm 202

Grade 3

Teachers: Laureen Nickel and Kristy Peters - Rm 203

Grade 4-6 Girls

Teacher: Danae Hiebert - Rm 205

Grade 4-6 Boys

Teachers: Jarret Rempel and Braden Friesen - Rm 206

JUNIOR HIGH

(LIVE Curriculum)

Students will be led on the path to know more about who God is and who we are as God's children.

Junior High Girls

Teachers: Melanie Ward and Rachel Turnbull - Rm 404

Junior High Boys

Teacher: Art Sawatzky - Rm 405

SENIOR HIGH

Room 403

Teachers: Mike Bouwman and Pastor Matt

In-depth Bible studies or topical conversations. Purpose is to provide a space for students to encounter Jesus, develop spiritual habits and know more about Him.

ADULT CLASSES

The Book of James

(September 13 to October 18)

Board Rm 200

Facilitator: Rob Redekop

"Is it possible to live a Christian life in this modern world? Join us for this series that covers Money, Tension, Discrimination and a look at Jesus that will change your life."

Life Together

(September 13 to October 18)

Fellowship Hall

Facilitator: Chris Marchand

In his book titled, *Life Together*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer reminds us that sharing together in Christian community is a gracious gift of God. In this six-week study, we will think about what it means to be community, both as a church and as neighbours. The sessions will include: the making of a faith community, when community hurts, life with the marginalized, and life together around the table.

Moms & Tots (Ongoing)

Room 402

Facilitator: Heather Marchand

Moms and children under age 2 are welcome to join in a time of supporting and encouraging one another through prayer, Bible study and conversation.

Prayer in Practice (Ongoing)

Prayer Room 126

Facilitator: Steve Dueck

Meet in the prayer room to meditate on Scripture, to encourage and be encouraged and to converse with God.

Youth

As youth kicks off for another year, we are going to be meeting on **Wednesday & Friday** nights. Junior youth is for grades 7-9 and will usually run from 7:00-9:30 p.m. Senior youth is for grades 10-12 and usually runs from 7:30-10:30 p.m.

COMING UP:



Junior Youth - Sept 30th
Senior Youth - Oct. 2nd

College & Career

Are you finished high school and looking for a way to connect with other young adults? You might be interested in joining NCF's College & Career, meeting **Friday** nights at 7:30 p.m. Contact Steve & Darlene Dueck or Ryan Turnbull for more information.

COMING UP:

College & Career Retreat
in Lac du Bonnet
September 25-27th

Join our Facebook group
Niverville Community Fellowship
College & Career
for updates and events