

August 2010

Niskayuna Wesleyan Church

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40-Days of Purpose

Come September 2010, the Niskayuna Wesleyan Church will be kicking off its 2nd annual small group ministry campaign! On **September 19th**, Pastor Glenn will start a sermon series based on Rick Warren's bestselling book – ***The Purpose Driven Life***.

The 40-Days of Purpose sermon series and small group study will guide you through a personal spiritual journey that will transform your answer to life's most important question: ***What on earth am I here for?*** Knowing God's purpose for creating you will reduce your stress, focus your energy, simplify your decisions, give meaning to your life and, most important, prepare you for eternity.

Today the average life span is 25,550 days. That's how long you will live if you are typical. Don't you think it would be a wise use of time to set aside 40 of those days to figure out what God wants you to do with the rest of them? Plan on joining us for this life changing series: **40 Days of Purpose**

Celebrating Our Connections:

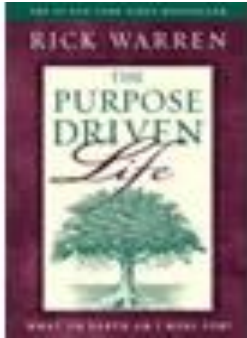
Connect to Christ. Connect to the Church. Connect to the World

Last year, my husband and I decided that we would try our hand at leading a small group. This was not an easy decision for us. To be honest, we had major misgivings about leading a small group bible study. It seemed like a major commitment – one we were not eager to take on. I think my biggest concern was the "time commitment". The time it was going to take to prepare for the study, as well as, the one night every single week to hold the study. We were so busy already. Would facilitating a weekly group overtax our family? Plus, this was a group I was going to co-facilitate with my husband. (Oh my!) That would bring its own set of challenges. Any of you who know me and Zak, know that we are about as different as two people can get. Zak and I working together usually brings more "frustration & headaches" rather than "peace & love"!

What if no one showed up at our bible study to begin with??? Not to mention – who were we to lead a bible study? What if people asked hard questions? We sure weren't going to have all the answers. Although, I have to admit, answering hard questions was one of my lesser concerns. Both Zak and I have Pastor Glenn's phone number on speed dial. So in case of emergency, we agreed that we had no qualms about calling PG and putting him on "speaker"!

As you can see, I had some issues.... That was close to a year ago now. Zak and I have facilitated three small group study sessions since then. And I cannot tell you what an enjoyment and blessing this type of ministry has become for me.

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*You are not
an accident.*

*Even before
the universe
was created,
God had you
in mind and
he planned
you for his
purposes.*



August Events

- August 2-6: **Kids Camp Retreat**
- August 22: 6:30pm at the church; **40-Days of Purpose Training & Introduction Seminar**
- August 29: **Baptism Sunday**. Baptisms will be conducted during Sunday morning service. See Ernie if you would like to get baptized.

Getting Involved During the 40-Days of Purpose

There are many ways to get involved during the 40-Days of Purpose campaign. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- 1) Prayer support
- 2) **Small Group Leaders & Hosts:**
Last year we had 7 small groups studying the 40-Days of Love material. Our goal this year is to establish **10 small groups**. Please consider leading and/or hosting a small group. For example, Tim & Natalie host a small group at their home on Wednesdays and Ernie leads the study. Some individuals, like the Plock's, do both – host the study at their home and lead the study.
- 3) Teen Group Leader:
We are looking for someone to lead the teen group thru the 40-Day of Purpose material. Teen group typically meets on Sunday nights. Teen appropriate material would be provided.

Celebrating our Connections *(continued)*

Preparing for the small group has helped me to grow spiritually. Reading God's word and working through the weekly lessons has increased my knowledge about God and His will for my life. I have also learned a great deal from the participants in our group, as they share their insights and experiences, as well as, their struggles and hardships.

I was expecting the "spiritual growth" as a by-product of the small group study. What I was *not* expecting, was the growth of such strong friendships and the pure fun I ended up having. Our small group study has allowed me to get to know other individuals on a much more personal basis. Far from being a burden or a drain on my time, it has been something that my whole family looks forward to every week.

If you want to connect to Christ; connect to others; and open an additional avenue to connect to the world – I would strongly encourage you to get involved in a small group study. I will make you a promise: getting connected in a small group will *not* be a waste of your time - you will only benefit from your time spent. So... jump in and start reaping the rewards!

By Monica Kergel

***Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain.
Psalm 127:1***

If we want a spirit-filled successful small group ministry - it is going to take prayer. Every single person can play an important role in building up the small group ministry in our church.

Here are 3 ways for you to make a difference in the effectiveness of this growing ministry:

- 1) Set aside the month of August to pray of the 40-Day of Purpose Campaign.
- 2) Plan on signing-up and participating in the **Day of Prayer** – scheduled for Saturday, September 18th.
- 3) **Encouragement Partner:** Once the 40-Days of Purpose begins (Sept. 19th), there will be basket of blank cards in the church foyer. These blank cards will already be in addressed, stamped envelopes. Each envelope will have the name and address of a small group leader/host printed on it. For example, if “Jane” was leading a small group, there would be a blank card and envelope w/ Jane’s name and address on it. I would like church attendees to pick at least 1 card out of the basket each Sunday. If you take a card from the basket, you are agreeing to pray for that specific leader/host & small group that week. Sometime that week, please write a note of encouragement in the blank card and pop it in the mail. It does NOT have to be a lengthy note and as stated before, the postage will already be paid. This is just one way for us to encourage our small group leaders/hosts and to let them know that someone is praying for them that week. It is my hope that during the 40-Day campaign, each leader/host will receive a card once per week from a praying brother or sister in Christ.



It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ,....he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.
Eph 1:11 (Msg)

40-Days of Purpose: Information, Dates & Events

August: The bulletin board in the foyer, next to the church office, will be the information hub for the small group ministries. Ongoing information will be posted on the board on a weekly basis. Be sure to take a peek.

Small Group Invitations: Invitations that outline the small group study will be available in the church foyer during the month of August. Plan on inviting someone to your group.

August 22: We will be hosting a **Small Group Training and Introduction Seminar** at 6:30pm at the church. At this seminar we will introduce the 40-Days of Purpose material, outline the small group ministry and answer any questions. We will also have a special speaker join us to share stories and information re: the 40-Days of Purpose campaign that was completed at Cobleskill church. Anyone who is interested can attend the seminar. But this will be an important seminar to attend if you are planning on or thinking about leading a small group.

Sept 5 & 12: Small Group Sign-Up sheets will be located in the church foyer. Each small group study will have its own sign-up sheet, which will include the location, time/date, and name of Leader/Host. Individuals are encouraged to sign-up for the small group they plan on attending, so that each leader has an idea of how many people will be participating.

Please contact Monica Kergel and let her know how you would like to be involved in the
40-Day's of Purpose, Small Group Ministry: mkw3161@yahoo.com