

Life Group Connections

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Greetings Friends,

Most of you have finished your group meetings for the spring and are headed toward a summer hiatus. Our goal over the summer is rest and renewal so we will be ready to regroup in the fall. Officially, the new season for Life Groups begins the week of Labor Day. September 8th is the kick-off of Wednesday Night Live and we should prepare to reconvene our groups close to that date.

I am very happy to announce that Verta Sorensen has agreed to join the Life Group Ministry team as the Coach Facilitator. In this volunteer position she will begin working with coaches to better define their role, to coordinate coach training, and to provide support for them in their work with leaders. Welcome, Verta!

In these scripture verses (to ponder as we begin our time-off), Jesus encourages His disciples to come with Him by themselves, to find a quiet place, and to rest:

³⁰The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. ³¹Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." Mark 6:30-31

Life Group Ministry

While summer is the time to slow down, there are several activities scheduled on the Life Group calendar: Training is scheduled for July, a leadership celebration is scheduled for August, and leader meetings will be scheduled throughout the summer. The details of these events will be coming to you soon.

Reminder: Please call or email your group members throughout the summer. Even though most of the groups are not meeting now, we don't want to lose the momentum, we don't want to break our connections, and we don't want our members to ever feel that they don't belong.

Reminder: The summer training has been scheduled for July 24th. I have booked the Fellowship Hall for that date and I am hopeful that all new leaders and new coaches will be able to attend (If needed I will schedule a make-up training). If you have someone in your group or know of someone who is interested in becoming a leader please ask them to contact me. The only way we can grow this ministry is to continue to train new leaders and "birth" new groups. **You** are the best recruiters for this new leadership!

Reminder: Because of the requests that I have received, Asbury will offer *40 Days of Love* to new Life Groups in the fall. If you know someone who missed out on this powerful study and would like to get connected to a Life Group, let them know that they will have the opportunity beginning in September. To make this possible, I will need about ten new leaders, so start talking to folks who might be interested in taking the training!! **Also**, to make the new study as cost effective as possible, I would appreciate it if you would return your DVD to me so it can be used for the fall groups.

Distribution and Cost of Materials

Review your *Curriculum Inventory* this summer and begin to plan ahead for your next study. NOW is the time to order materials or request copies of the free materials. Many of you checked out video studies and your comments on those have been very favorable. I thank you for your feedback because it helps when I can

recommend a study to another group based on how you and your group enjoyed it. It also helps when I can say truthfully that a particular study was not well received by a group.

Attendance Report

If your group is meeting during June, July or August, PLEASE let me know so I can report your attendance to Jerri Rickard for inclusion in Asbury's report to Conference. An email response would be greatly appreciated: jfarmer@asburyumc.com or jeannef6@gmail.com

Event Calendar

Date and Event	Time	Place
July 24 th – Training for new leaders	9:00 – 12:00 (child care provided if needed)	Fellowship Hall
August – Leadership Celebration (details to come)		
September/October – new <i>40 Days of Love</i> Life Group formation	Begins the week of September 8th	

Prayer Request

Please pray that Life Groups continue to make a difference in the lives of people around Asbury. Praise God for the work that He is doing and ask Him to open doors for us to reach others who will benefit from this ministry. Thank you for praying for your group members, for your coaches, and for me.

I am grateful for each of you and the work you are doing.

Happy Summer



To offer each person a haven of connection through life enriching relationships
Asbury Life Group Ministry