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Growth in Small Groups this Year

Last fall we wrote that we were hearing and seeing an increased desire for spiritual growth at St Andrews. As part of that, one of the emphases this year has been on small groups of various kinds as places where people in the church will go deeper with God and with each other. As I look at what's going on with small groups now and where we were last spring, I am encouraged by how this emphasis has been playing out.

Last April, four small groups were meeting regularly: a women's Bible study & prayer group, a Bible study group for those with environmental interest, a **youth group**, and a **general spiritual discussion group**. The women's group and the environmental group ended in the early summer due to members moving to other states, so that by July, we had 2 groups meeting regularly.

Right now, the situation is very different. In August, a **women's discipleship triad** began meeting weekly. Then a bi-weekly **spiritual discussion group** started in Montpelier, primarily comprised of people with little church background who are interested in talking about big life questions and who are open to pondering insights from the Bible. A **men's group** (led by Brian) was next, gathering weekly to study scripture & its implications for life & faith. In early January a **centering prayer group** began connecting with God weekly through silent, contemplative prayer. In late January, a couples group started and immediately split into **two couples groups** due to the number of interested couples! This one is especially exciting because it is the first group we've had that was geared towards married couples. The previous groups were predominantly singles, though some married couples / individuals participated, in part because there had been so few married couples in the church. A **women's Bible study / prayer group** (led by Janet) is in the process of forming and will likely begin meeting in early May. **Nine groups of various kinds focused on spiritual growth and community!!**

Please pray for these groups, that they would increasingly become places of deep connection with God and other people. Busy, changing schedules and lots of options for how people spend their time are challenges to this. **Please pray for the leaders of these groups**, that they would have wisdom, insight, and faith as they follow Jesus and lead the group. **Please pray for Janet who is working with the leaders of the groups**, that she would be able to support them, encourage them, and help them to grow as Christians and as leaders.

Thank you for being part of this adventure of ministry with us. Your gifts, prayers, and encouragement are vital!

Thanks!

Brian, Janet & Ian Barclay



Your financial support of this ministry is greatly appreciated. Gifts can be sent to:

St Andrews Christian Church
81 St Paul Street
Burlington, VT 05401

You can sign up for automatic withdrawals at:
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