

FANNING THE FLAME...Where have we been and where are we going?

Your “FTF Servant Team” has been busy at work behind the scenes and it’s time to bring you up to date. Here’s a brief timeline to show you where we’ve been and what’s in store in future months.

March – Initial contact with our coach, Joe Weatherly; materials received and two positions assigned: Administrator (Les & Bobbie Cover), Prayer Coordinator (Jason & Nellie Tate). Team members lined up: Pastor Shelby, REs Andy & Fred, Randy Steinhoff, Matt McMillan, Carla Curtis, & Justin Burks, and finally, Cathe Prather officially joined the Team this summer

April – Conference Call with Coach Joe to prepare for formulating a vision statement & the June Planning Retreat. Your Team was assigned to work on gaining insight & vision for the church’s future in preparation for the Vision Planning meeting in May – each team member was given a pack of 3 x 5 cards on which to write insights from God & His Word as to the direction the Lord would take our church in the next 3 to 5 years. A month was given for this exercise.

May – Vision Planning Meeting. Full team met with Coach Joe to consolidate all the ideas on those 3 x 5 cards (there were approximately 200) into categories. This was done so that Cathe Prather, our Vision Writer, could formulate them into a narrative format. Cathe did an excellent job in bringing all the varying thoughts & insights together into a narrative entitled “The Diary of Lamont Beasley” which was made available to the congregation after having been approved by our Session.

June – Two Day Team Planning Retreat with Coach Joe. At this meeting the team tackled the church’s Core Values and Strategies as to how to bring about the changes needed. The “wall decor” papers & sticky notes in the halls of the church were presented to give the congregation an idea of what transpired as a result of the work done over the preceding months.

July – Coach Joe arrived to meet during the afternoon with those who have specific tasks to perform and also one individual from the congregation. That evening the full Team met with him to begin laying the groundwork for implementing specific tasks that need to be accomplished to meet the goals that have been set forth based on input from the earlier planning sessions. At this meeting it was decided the initial step would be the establishment of Small Groups. Cathe Prather is in charge of the Small Group Task Force and will be keeping the congregation involved as time goes by.

Where do we go from here? The Team will meet in August to continue working out the plans that have been set forth as well as to gain fresh insight into God’s Word. As we meet with Coach Joe, Pastor Shelby will be sharing the prayer vision with the Team at this next meeting. Prayer Coordinators Jason & Nellie will be active in engaging each of us at WPC to seek the Lord’s direction. Cathe will be breaking ground on the Small Group Discipleship Task Force. Carla will be bringing an update on our Church History (remember that part about “Remember” from Rev 2:5? Carla will be helping us with that!). Fred will be guiding us in understanding our spiritual gifts. There will be book reports and discussion on Harry Reeder’s CD “Creating a Climate for Change”. Lots to do in one short meeting but your FTF Servant Team is committed to seeing this through in accord with the Lord’s guidance and direction.

Meetings in the upcoming months will follow a similar format with each meeting building upon the steps taken in the preceding ones. Just so you’ll know, the Team will generally be meeting on the first Wednesday evening of each month in the Fellowship Hall/Cornerstone Room while other daytime meetings will take place in the church Library.

Finally, but certainly not the least, please know that the entire church body will be encouraged to take an active part in serving and becoming knit together in love to build WPC for the future. The FTF Servant Team will be working to involve and empower everyone. This isn’t a project for just a few folks. It’s for all of us! May we do it for God’s glory & our good, remembering that we are His bride, getting ready for the marriage feast of the Lamb! We’re all in this together!

Please keep your Team in prayer! The enemy of our souls will do all that he can to bring problems along the way and your shield of prayer will be a great blessing along the way!