

GEBC ELDER NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 3

A church committed to helping people follow Jesus!

November 2009

Working on an EQUIPPING Vision for Coming Years

The elders and staff are working on cultivating a vision for the next season of ministry at GEBC and welcome your input. We have been focusing on the SENDING quadrant of GEBC's Disciple-Making Target for the last few years (www.gebible.org/gebcTarget.html), which is culminating in the planting of a new church in the Downers Grove area this February.

But what should we do next? What would God have us focus on in the years ahead? We believe that the Lord would have us focus on EQUIPPING, which will mean cultivating the attributes of obedience and service.

Scripture is clear that we are to be equipped for service and growing in maturity. Paul wrote to the Ephesians:

"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to equip God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:11-13)

Toward this end, the Elder Board met with the Leadership Advisory Team (LAT) on two separate occasions to ask for their input on both the effective and ineffective equipping efforts at GEBC. Part of the LAT's commission is to provide an objective perspective on current ministry strengths and weaknesses at GEBC, and these discussions were very insightful.



Senior Pastor Kelly Brady has also met with the GEBC programming staff on several occasions to speak with them about our current equipping strengths and weaknesses.

Join us in praying for discernment and understanding of the Lord's vision, and share with us your thoughts and dreams as we begin to plan for the future of GEBC.

Four Corners Community Church

GEBC's church plant has been officially named Four Corners Community Church (FCCC). The Elder Board for FCCC has started meeting and consists of Brian From, Glenn Williams, Kelly Brady, and Dave Schubert. We are hoping to add a fifth member to the board, as Kelly Brady is planning on serving only a one-year term.

The FCCC Elder Board is working on a number of issues including: finalizing the 2010 budget, negotiating a lease on a property at 8251 Lemont Road in Darien, establishing financial accounting procedures, as well as shepherding the church plant team. Beyond elder leadership, FCCC has identified the following people as leaders of ministry: Sarah Hendriksen will lead children's ministry. Chris-

tina Jackson will lead worship and Kirk Tate will lead student ministry. Ben Frey will lead what is being called "Front Door Ministry," the ministry aimed at welcoming newcomers. Gary Nation will lead the finance team, and Dave Schubert will lead the outreach effort. In addition to preaching weekly, Brian From will oversee small groups.

GEBC is a church committed to helping people follow Jesus by:

PROCLAIMING the gospel
RESTORING the broken
EQUIPPING the saints
SENDING out disciples

Join us on...

November 15 @ 6:00 p.m. for
our annual congregational
meeting!

Prayers & Praises

51 adults and 21 children are currently on GEBC's church plant team., and the number is growing weekly.

God has supplied over \$400,000 for our church plant initiative, which is scheduled to be launched in February 2010.

50 families have pledged their on-going prayer support for Four Corners Community Church in 2010. If you would like to pledge your prayer support, contact Brian From (bfrom@gebible.org).

25 families have pledged their financial support to Four Corners Community Church in 2010 for a total of \$24,780.

50 people are participating in the Sunday morning *Love and Respect* class, focused on strengthening marriages and led by Mark and Sue Macaluso.

2010 Budget

A proposed budget for 2010 is available. You can pick up a hard copy at the Welcome Booth in Rathbun Hall on Sunday mornings, or you can request an electronic copy by emailing Evelyn Simmons, Director of Operations, (esimmons@gebible.org).

The proposed budget for 2010 represents only a 1.6% increase from last year's budget.

All members and regular attenders are asked to attend the annual budget meeting on November 15 @ 6:00 p.m.

If you are unable to attend and would like an absentee ballot, contact Marsha Larkins (mlarkins@gebible.org).

Shepherding

Part of living in a community of faith includes working through disagreements. Conflict is inevitable, but a commitment to preserving the bond of unity is the call upon the life of every follower of Jesus.

As shepherds, the elder board is regularly called to help resolve conflict between members of the church.

With an eye toward strengthening the conflict resolution skills of the board, Dave Wiegman read and gave a report on the conflict resolution strategies outlined in the book titled *Peace Maker*, by Ken Sande.

Membership

Scott Brennecke and Mark Tucker taught our fall membership classes on October 11, 17 and 25. The process of membership at GEBC includes:

- Attending the membership class.
- Completing an application.
- Interviewing with the elders.
- Standing on a Sunday morning to be formally presented and received into fellowship.

This years class was attended by fifteen adults, and they are scheduled to be presented to the congregation on December 6. We thank God for adding these men and women to the fellowship.

Able to Teach

Paul writes that an elder must be "able to teach" (1 Timothy 3:2). Toward that end, it is a regular discipline of the Elder Board to study Scripture together, and we are currently studying and prayerfully discussing the topics of marriage, divorce, remarriage and restoration.

Our goal in our study is primarily to provide clarity on these topics and to be able to teach what the Bible teaches.

It is our belief and prayer that by strengthening our understanding of the biblical design

for marriage we will strengthen the marriages of GEBC and the integrity of our community. We also believe that clarity on these topics will help combat the decay of the institution of marriage within our modern culture. It will also support and encourage the staff of GEBC in their efforts to counsel couples in crisis, as well as prepare couples considering marriage for a life-long commitment.

Admittedly, our study on these topics has progressed more

slowly than we first imagined, but we are encouraged in the process by feedback we received from the Leadership Advisory Team (LAT).

Part of the LAT's role is to provide feedback on topics being discussed by the Elder board, and their insights were helpful in our effort to provide greater clarity.

Please join us in praying for the strengthening of marriages at GEBC.

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