

SMALL GROUPS/ LIFE GROUPS

1973

In January, two Bible studies were offered on the Book of Galatians. A small group of 8-10 people studied Galatians. Meetings included personal sharing, conversational prayer, and group silence.

1974

Thirteen weeks of small group meetings in homes began in September, "*Living, An Experiment in Faith.*"

Unique Cell groups – Men's group, limit 7; women's group, limit 7; *The Edge of Adventure*, met for thirteen weeks

1987

Pastor Farrar commented that "new love and unity is evident in the church family, and attribute it in part to the small groups formed in the church after the Lay Renewal Weekend held in May."

1988

Small groups began to meet January 24, 1988

2005

After many months of prayers and preparation, beginning in the fall of 2004, the 40 days of Purpose Campaign Kick-off, Superbowl for God, was held January 22, with a video presentation by Pastor Rick Warren as well as singing and half-time refreshments. Groups began meeting the week of January 23. Fourteen homes committed to host the studies, which ran from mid-January – March 6. The studies were complimented by the related Sunday morning sermons. A Mission Fair was held in February, with ministry groups represented to recruit participants. A number of the home groups continued to meet in an on-going basis after the campaign was over.

2006

Men's breakfast was held jointly with the 40 days of Community Prayer Breakfast. Through small groups in people's homes, there was a church-wide study of Rick Warren's "*40 Days of Community.*"

2010

Beginning in the spring of 2010, the church encouraged all members to join a small group to meet within their homes on a weekly basis. For several years, the Discipleship/Small Group Committee selected the studies, which usually included a DVD, leader's guide, and participant workbooks. A few are mentioned below in the subsequent years. Beginning in 2015, the committee urged the groups to discuss the pastor's sermon, delving deeper into the message meaning, instead of using a purchased Bible study. During the summer months, most of the small groups suspended meetings until the fall but a church-wide study was usually offered in the sanctuary, with break-outs for discussion. Food, fellowship, and a movie were also offered as part of the summer studies.

Summer church-wide study in sanctuary "*Secrets of the Vine*"

Fall Bible Study: *Crazy Love*, by Francis Chan, 90 participants

Ladies Bible Study – Fall Mornings- *Ruth- Loss Love, and Legacy* by Kelly Minter

2013

(July) Warner Eckman stated there were 72 participants in the last study entitled, *Five Things God Uses to Grow Our Faith*. The summer program began July 17 at 6:30p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Small Group Leadership Committee member Warner Eckman's motion passed that the staffing of the Small Group Leadership Team should be identified by the 2013 Nominating Committee and thereafter. It was explained there would be a four year rotation of committee members.

2014

Paul LoRusso reported the Small Group Committee's fair was well attended. The next small group study, *One in a Million* by Priscilla Shirer, began mid-January.

A five week summer study, John Ortberg's *The Me I Want to Be*, began July 16 in the fellowship hall. Thirty adults participated. Dessert and childcare provided.

Fall study had 65-70 people attending the various small groups.

2015

Small Group study, *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist*, began in January with 93 participants. Pastor Harmon encouraged everyone to read the book prior to when the study began.

Six new names were added to small groups at the Small Group Fair held January 11.

A new small group with nine members was formed to meet Sunday nights, hosted by Greg Essick and led by Frank Jurius.

The second study complemented Pastor Tripp's Sunday sermons on Galatians with each of the groups discussing the book and sermons.

No church-wide study during the summer but the groups were encouraged to meet six to eight times during the summer months "to play, serve and pray."

Julie LoRusso announced that the name of the Small Group Ministry has changed to LIFE Group, an acronym for Loving People Investigating God's Word, Fellowship Together, Evangelizing Others. Bible studies would continue along with the fellowship, but there was to be more of an outward focus and reaching out to others.

2016

Paul LoRusso reported that 85 people attended the LIFE Group Luncheon held January with 10-12 new people joining groups

2019

Spring -*Real Life Discipleship Training Manual*—a church-wide study conducted within each LIFE Group.

Church held a five-week combined summer LIFE Group study in the fellowship hall. The study began after the 4th of July holiday.

Two LIFE groups continued to meet over the summer months.

The LIFE Group committee sponsored a summer movie and dessert event.

Movie night, Aug. 21 "Break Through" was presented.

2020

Annual LIFE group luncheon was held at end of January.