

St. John's Cottage Meeting Summaries

May 2006

Fellowship & Relationships

Items listed in this category do not match on a one-to-one basis with an existing Ministry within St. John's. Rather, they give insights into the mood and spirit that was present during the time of these important Cottage Meetings. The tone became less intense, the longer George continued to hold these meetings. Feelings were raw on certain topics, and divisive issues had clouded the optimism and comfort of our congregation.

One of the best healers to issues of strained relationships is opportunity to express those feelings to those who are good listeners, and who can make changes.

There are many positive comments about the friendly people, the wonderful food, enthusiasm, faithfulness, and opportunities for fellowship. Optimism weaves throughout the "Likes", "Dreams" and "Changes" shared.

The desire to heal differences comes through loud and clear, and makes it worth each reader's time to review these "Dreams" and "Changes". Inclusion, recognition, sociability, and involvement permeate the comments, as well as a real sense of hopefulness for the future. Members have felt left out in various ways, but have been willing to be open about the desire to strengthen our bonds and our trust for each other as a congregation. Trust cannot be mandated, but the presence of it can surely be felt over time, as cues are taken from these comments, and positive enactment occurs where possible.

Although many of the comments grouped under "Fellowship and Relationships" are hard to quantify or to rush to success, these topical areas CAN be a good barometer to evaluate positive change in the future.