

LARGE GROUPS at BEFC

Get Growing.....Stay Growing

"But **grow** in grace
and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."
(II Peter 3:18)

Richard DeHaan shares the following thoughts on Peter's directive:

"Life is never static. It's impossible to maintain spiritual status quo; if you don't grow, you retrogress! One of life's great tragedies is the Christian who, in his middle or older years, is less loving, less kind, less generous, less faithful, less gentle, and less self-controlled than he was right after his salvation. In direct contrast, one of the most beautiful things in the world is a believer who steadfastly, though perhaps not spectacularly, grows in Christian virtue and knowledge year after year! He becomes more and more like the Savior!"

Since part of our mission at Buffalo Evangelical Free Church is to encourage "increasingly intimate and contagious relationships with God and each other," and since one of our core values is to "know God better and to do what we can to deepen our relationship with Him (Passionate Spiritual Life)," **the purpose of our LARGE GROUPS is provide a weekly setting (Sunday Mornings between our Worship Services) whereby all our adults will be challenged to keep growing and to staying growing "in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."**

Our LARGE GROUPS are also "Life Stage Communities" They provide participants who share **a similar life stage** an opportunity to study God's Word, enjoy fellowship and share life. The environment is one in which members are cared for, missed when they are not in attendance, prayed for when they are hurting, celebrated when they experience success.

Initially four LARGE GROUPS will be organized based on a person's "life stage."

1. 20's and 30's Leaders: Steve and Diane Huston, Hutch and Cathy Hutchcraft
2. 30's and 40's Leaders: Mark and Kali Pelham, ?
3. 40's and 50's Leaders: Kirby and Pam Klingelhofer, Jeff & Jeanne Olson
4. 50's and beyond Leaders: Bill and Marj Porter, Gene and Rosie Persian, Darrel Trontvet

The age spreads allows our adults to choose the "life stage" with which they most identify. The names of the LARGE GROUPS will be determined by the group members after they are organized. Additional large groups could be organized in the future to meet particular needs...i.e. single parents, divorce recovery, etc.

Four tracks have been developed to allow each LARGE GROUP to experience balanced learning through the year.

1. **Biblical**....i.e. a book study, a character study, Old Testament Survey, New Testament Survey.
2. **Theological**....i.e. develop a part of our doctrinal statement that will enable us to consider what we believe and why we believe it.
3. **Practical**....i.e. explore the application of Biblical principles to areas of our lives like parenting, finances, etc.
4. **Elective**....i.e. a LARGE GROUP chooses a particular topic or aspect of the Christian faith that they would like to explore together.

LARGE GROUPS WILL BEGIN ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 at 9:45 AM

Initially all 4 groups will develop a course entitled BUILD COMMUNITY. Based on the book of Acts covering the following topics:

Sept 23 Filled with the Spirit Acts 1:1-11
Sept 30 Walk in the Spirit Acts 2:1-24
Oct 7 Devoted to Each other Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-35
Oct 14 Encourage Each other Acts 4:43-37; 9:23-30; 11:19-26; 15:36-41
Oct. 21 Devoted to the Word Acts 2:14-42; 6:1-7; 8:26-35
Oct. 28 Becoming Bold Champions of the Gospel Acts 3:1-4:20

One of the advantages of having LARGE GROUPS meet between worship services will be opportunities for joint sessions.

Our missionary, Kim Lee,
will speak Sunday, September 16
at 9:45 in the Worship Center

To assist us in the selection and preparation for classrooms, please indicate on your NEXT STEP card the Large Group that you are planning to join. Just write the numbers 20-30, 30-40, 40-50, or 50+ by your name.

On Sunday, September 23
Let's get growing and stay growing!