

# VITALITY PATHWAY



In this  
Issue:  
Individual  
Team  
Updates

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## *Clarify the Mission* *Barry Lynch*

The Clarify the Mission sub-Group has been working on two key objectives. First, we were tasked to evaluate the current Mission Statement. A key part of this process was to evaluate our Mission Statement as if we were someone who has yet to believe or is not currently attending our church. This approach can enable us to more clearly communicate to those who may have interest in joining our church family.

The second objective has been to brainstorm a variety of possible alternatives to our current Mission Statement. This was accomplished during two meetings in July. A summary of our work will be presented at the next Vitality Team Meeting in September.

## *Relational Covenant* *Jeff Koehler*

The relational covenant team has met several times and have put together a first draft which will be presented to the Vitality team in September. We will meet one more time to talk about possible ideas on implementation and communication of the covenant document.

## *Biblical Story* *Mike Erickson*

Our mission is to agree upon a biblical story that represents our church body. Our group has gotten together three times and have plans for two more get togethers.

The group has discussed our individual biblical stories and started to put together a story that mirrors our congregations. We should finish our work in the next month or so.

## *Pervasive Prayer* *Mike McCain*

James 5:16b reminds us that "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." Personally, I like the way the KJV renders it. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much!" Much can be accomplished for the Kingdom of God through fervent, pervasive prayer. In the works as we move forward is another life stories night as well as a "prayer stories night." The emphasis will be on how the Lord has answered prayer in the lives of our people. Stay Tuned!

# *External Profile*

*Sara Barber*

Kristin Schmidt, Tim Swanson and myself make up the External Profile Team.

Tim has taken on researching the MissionInsite Website, which gives us information on our community demographics. I have interviewed an NLS school social worker, the area food shelf director, a therapist that practices in the community, and most recently our own Youth Pastor, Matt

Christiansen, who gave insight into our youth group's demographics and needs.

Community needs that have been identified by these individuals include: child care shortages, financial needs, mental health issues among all age groups, chemical dependency issues and challenges within the family unit, such as divorce and family conflict.



## *Learn from History*

*Pastor Kevin*

The History Task Force for our Vitality Team has been as we have put it, looking at 'vitality through the rear view mirror.' As you might expect from our title we are looking at our 'ethos' and 'church culture' from a historical perspective. Using Annual Mtg booklets and historical documents we have pieced together quite an impressive 128 year timeline!

Three of our seven meetings have been hearing story from three key groups of people, four senior men and five senior women with lots of history in our church along with a conference call with each of our four past living

pastors. We are seeking and finding themes that mark who we are and what we must preserve in our mission moving forward. Secondly what must be left behind, discarded and guarded so as not to be repeated from our past. Where did we seize the circumstances as they presented themselves and where might we have stumbled, that we might learn from our own mistakes. We are working on a Heritage Sunday, Oct. 6th, where many of our findings, both story and timeline, will be shared in church and Sunday School along with SS on Oct. 13th. Come and join us as we look back to look forward!

*He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.*

*Ephesians*

*4:16*