

## Celebrating the Lordship of Christ

*The weekend of November 18-19, 2017 will be a work of God that very few of us will forget. That weekend Laurel Church served, and God truly blessed. During the hosted community bazaar on Friday, volunteers served at the Food Court with homemade soups, baked goods and drinks, with all the proceeds going to Joel and Amy McGee's language school in Peru.*

*Saturday evening, with the help of chef, Rob Horgan and a slew of volunteers we served a prime rib fundraising dinner to guests from across the county. The worship team sang, the JungleMaster Board shared, and we got to interact with Joel, Amy and Carmen via Skype from Peru. Howie Holz built a beautiful coffee table and bench to raffle. It was a fun-filled evening. But the blessings and work of God was yet to come.*

*The Monday after the dinner I received an email from a very astonished and humbled Joel McGee giving us an update regarding the dinner. I copied his note and place it here for edification and blessing. Thank you to all you worked so hard and trusted God for the results.*

*Praise the Lord!*  
*Bob Cameron*

November 20, 2017

Bob, I received an email from Joel last night. The final tally of the funds raised \$15,034.15!!

No, that's not a typo \$15,034.15! Praise God! The dollars aside (which is absolutely a huge blessing from God) this event was such an amazing blessing to us. It was so good to be able to see the folks, sing some worship songs along with you guys, and talk to you guys and even get some questions back from the audience. We absolutely loved and cherished this time. Gods' presence was definitely felt here. After we hung up I thought to myself I really don't care if even one dollar comes in, this was absolutely beautiful. I was also thinking now that we know it's a possibility, we need to plan for a

little more frequent Skype visits. Amy even jokingly (well kind of jokingly) said maybe we could join them every Sunday to worship with them (Amy really misses the worship time), me, I really miss the sermons, but I can get those online (and I do occasionally I'll miss a Sunday service here and stay home and listen to your sermon). Anyways, wow, what a blessing to us. I have also received some feedback from the board and not only was this encouraging to us, the McGees, but it was also a huge encouragement to the board members.

It's been a challenge for me to teach the board that JungleMaster wasn't solely Tom, that it was Gods' work that was happening through Tom and just because Tom isn't here anymore Gods work is still going to get done it just might look a little different than how it was being done through Tom and when it's time for me to go, Gods work will still get done. I can't help but think what a beautiful example of the body of Christ that we all got to experience. We can't begin to thank you and the Laurel Church Community enough for listening to the prompting of God to put this together.

Thank you, God, once again God, you proved your faithfulness and wholeness, you were present in both Laurel Church and in Arequipa, Peru! All the praises go to God.

Thank you again, the McGees



*There were many more that were just too camera shy.  
Thank you to all of you!*



## *“The Non-Christmas, Christmas Story”*

Vickie and I went to Barkley Cinemas last weekend to see the new movie, “The Man Who Invented Christmas”. It was very entertaining. It’s the semi-fictional story of how Charles Dickens penned *A Christmas Carol*. As I watched the movie, I was brought back to that familiar novella of Scrooge and Tiny Tim, the three ghosts, the transformation from a bankrupted worthless miser to a loving and generous human being. It’s a great tale that warms the heart and lifts one’s spirit; especially when Tiny Tim observes in the last sentence of the last page those iconic words: “God bless us, everyone”. The book and the movie are worth the price of reading and watching.

But as I reflected on Dicken’s creation, it struck me how we are drawn to the story: the wonderful power of transformation. It’s about how a self-centered, selfish and worthless individual becomes a loving, happy and giving human being. The problem is that although the story takes place at Christmas, it has nothing to do with Christ.

At the core of this transformation story is Scrooge recognizing how lonely and miserable he truly is. Realizing that his future would be in eternal torment, he makes a deal with the Ghost of Christmas Future to turn his life around and become a better person. There is no faith or turning to Christ. It’s all about being good enough.

Hear Scrooge as he makes his “confession”:

*“Good Spirit,” he pursued, as down upon the ground he fell before it: “Your nature intercedes for me, and pities me. Assure me that I yet may change these shadows you have shown me, by an altered life!”*

*The kind hand trembled.*

*“I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach. Oh, tell me I may sponge away the writing on this stone!”<sup>1</sup>*

“I will honor Christmas in my heart” is another way of saying that I’ll sincerely act like I reflect the practices of the qualities that are expected at Christmas all year around. In other words: I’ll change my behavior and that will save me from the miserable and fearful future.

Our natural inclination is to find ways around mentioning or acknowledging the centrality of Christ, which is the center and foundation of the celebration of Christmas itself. So many people desire the transformative power of love and happiness in their lives and if they can find some way of avoiding Jesus, they’ll take it. They, and sometimes, we, pray to intermediaries: angels, saints, spirits of the dead, i.e., grandparents, loved-ones, etc. We’ll make new year resolutions to be better persons. Better a bank of outside lights over our windows and doors than a single candle in the window symbolizing the light of Jesus.

From the beginning, *A Christmas Carol*, was a huge success. It had everything everybody wanted with no real substance. Now the bookstores, the Web and TV channels are being flooded with stories like “*A Wonderful Life*”, where miracles happen without The One who made the miracle happen.

It’s so easy to get caught up in the “*love, grace and happy*” feelings of Christmas and miss the mystery, wonder, true grace and joy of God coming as a person to live among us, die for us and live within each person who surrenders to Him through trusting in Jesus.

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year. It can be a bridge between the sacred and the secular: the truth and the fiction. Trees, tinsel, lights, gifts, secular Christmas music and even Dicken’s *A Christmas Carol* can be a way to lead people to a new understanding of transformation and new life. But it will take willing people to be the light of Christ through our actions, our priorities, our words, grace, patience and love to our families, friends and neighbors.

Let us be very clear this Christmas season to whose God we pray and worship when we recite blessings like the last words of *A Christmas Carol*; “God bless us, everyone”

See you at worship.

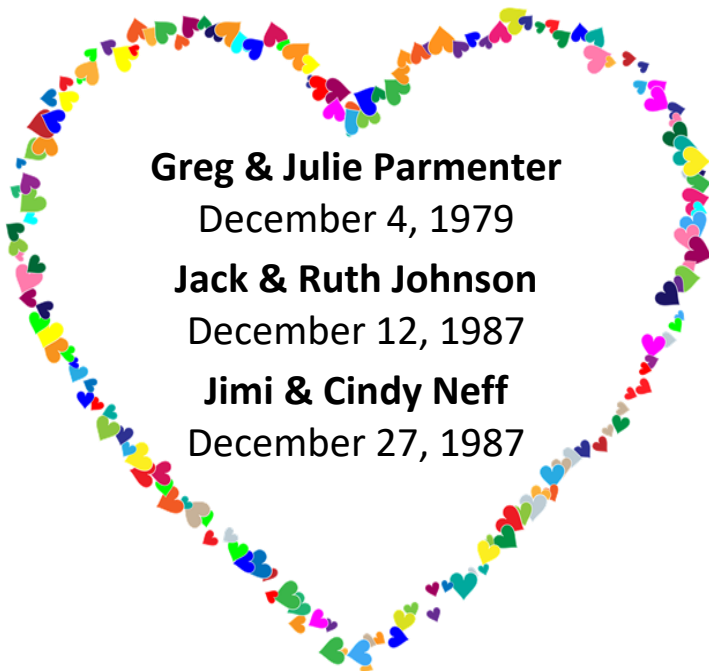
*Robert Cameron*

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Ephesians 1:3

<sup>1</sup> Charles Dickens. *A Christmas Carol* (Kindle Locations 1146-1150). Prabhat Prakashan. Kindle Edition.

## This Month's Anniversaries



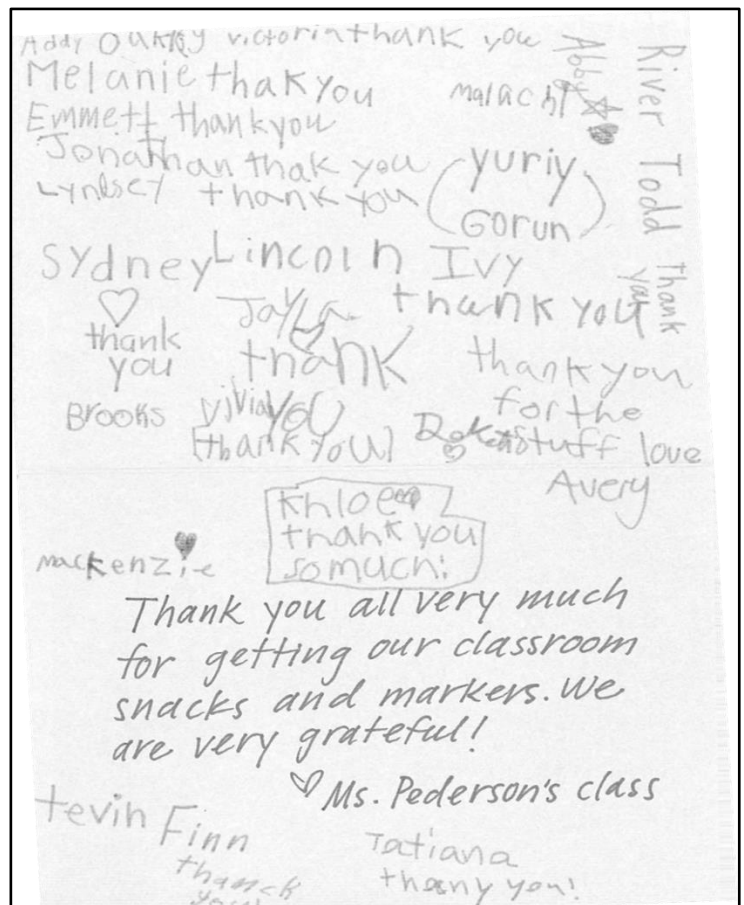
## "Thank You Laurel Church!"

Thanks so much for the Composition graph paper notebooks received in the Meridian High School math department. They will be put to great use over the next few months.

Mr. Shick!  
Meridian High Math Guy

I just want to thank you for fulfilling my wish for Meridian Middle School. Arriving at school today, there was a nice surprise waiting on my desk for students who come to the health room needing supplies. What a blessing!!!! Thank you again for serving lunch for all employees of Meridian School District and having all the supplies that we could pick from at the beginning of the year to be able to start the year fresh.

Feeling the blessing,  
Brenda Aamot





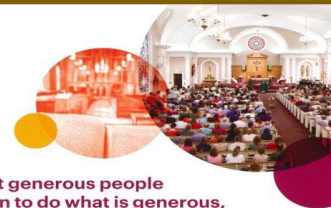
## Make your plans now...

December 3-17<sup>th</sup> are the days we are collecting using the Worship Center's Xmas Giving Tree for New Way Ministries and receiving the Offering for Retired Ministers & Missionaries. We are also going to be having a Children's Christmas Program and Christmas Caroling to three Healthcare Facilities. Contact the Church Office for more Information on these activities.

The Laurel Share Room is in need for some volunteers to help set up for their Christmas Get-Together. Contact the church office for more information if you would like to volunteer.



Retired  
Ministers &  
Missionaries  
Offering  
2017



"But generous people  
plan to do what is generous,  
and they stand firm in  
their generosity."  
— Isaiah 32:8 NLT

## Generous Congregations

This offering supports those who  
have donated 15 or more years of  
their lives to God's service.

We are collecting  
December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
through  
December 17<sup>th</sup>

Check the Bulletin Board for more information.

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



Sunday  
December 24<sup>th</sup>  
@10:00am

New Way  
Ministries  
Christmas  
Fundraiser

For each \$20  
collected, we will  
add an ornament  
to the tree

December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Through  
December 17<sup>th</sup>

New Way Ministries  
offers shelter and  
nurture for mothers  
in need

The money goes to the  
caring for moms in  
need at New Way  
Ministries



Join Laurel Church Christmas Morning For  
Some Uplifting Caroling @ 6:59am

## Laurel Share Room

Christmas get together will be on  
December 14<sup>th</sup> 10am-2pm.  
Setup will be held December 13<sup>th</sup>  
@5pm in the Fellowship Hall.  
Contact the church Office if you  
would like to volunteer.

# Laurel Church

## 2018 Church Covenant

Each year we offer followers of Jesus the opportunity to become a corporate member of Laurel Church. Corporate membership is a way to publicly commit to the ministry and mission of Laurel Church as well as say that you are willing to be accountable to the Laurel Church community with your maturing faith in Christ. Because of the transient nature of our culture we practice annual renewal of membership.

If you have been in the past a member of Laurel Church, please prayerfully read the 2018 Church Covenant and consider renewing your Covenant by signing the Because I believe...

in one God, who:

- is three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
- is eternal, creator, sovereign, loving and Lord of the Universe.

in Jesus Christ:

- His deity and humanity, God's only Son;
- His virgin birth;
- His life without sin;
- His substitutionary death on the cross for the sins of all people;
- His bodily resurrection from the grave;
- His ascension into heaven;
- His promised return to judge the world.

in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, who:

- comforts the hurting;
- convicts people of their sin;
- leads and converts people to belief in Christ;
- teaches the world of God's truth;
- indwells the believer in Christ with God's eternal life;
- and gives gifts for ministry in order to proclaim God's love, grace and salvation to the world.

in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, and that they are:

- inspired by the Holy Spirit;
- absolutely trustworthy in all matters;
- the only authority for faith and practice in the Christian life.

in the resurrection that makes possible to all:

- eternal life with God for those who believe in Christ;
- eternal separation from God for those who do not believe in Christ.

in the church:

- the regenerate and universal "Body of Christ";

Covenant  
inserts in your  
church  
bulletin on  
Sunday



mornings. If you are interested in becoming a Covenant Member of Laurel Church, contact the church office and we'll set up a class with other interested persons to answer your questions and walk through the process of becoming a Covenant Member.

- the "Priesthood of all Believers"
- the local autonomous congregation of saints as the physical representation of God's Kingdom on earth;
- the association principle that understands the need to work with other believing congregations for the glory, purposes and pleasure of God.

and having affirmed my faith through baptism, I agree to enter into a covenant relationship with the people of Laurel Church. As a covenant member I will, with God's help and to the best of my ability ...

- participate regularly in the worship and training of the Church in order to mature as a child of God,
- serve faithfully in the ministries and outreach activities of the Church,
- support the mission, vision, values, Pastors and leadership of the Church,
- seek resolution of differences and conflicts privately and graciously as Scripture requires,
- endeavor to tithe and give generously to the financial costs of achieving the mission of the Church,
- intentionally practice the disciplines of worship, prayer, study, service and community,
- let the love of God's Spirit flow through me to those with whom I come in contact.



I stood there and took it in. Here I was on “day one” of a completely new journey for my life. I was excited for sure, but more than a bit nervous not knowing what to expect. My life

had changed so much. I looked around at my “peers,” close in age yet I felt so different from them. They didn’t know what it was like to be responsible for someone else’s life or be devoted to a cause greater than themselves. I wished there was someone that understood what I was experiencing to help me. It was my first day of college and I was a veteran.

I have some exciting news to share! Recently, the Lord has provided me a way to serve those who are in the same position that I was over 20 years ago as I have officially accepted a new role in Cru, now serving as the National Leadership Development & HR (LDHR) Director for a part of the Campus Ministry called Valor.

Valor is Cru’s direct ministry to ROTC Cadets, Midshipmen, and Veterans on campus (just like I was!) on universities all across the United States. This is an amazing opportunity to serve other Veterans like me as well as help impact the Armed Forces for Christ by taking the gospel to the future military officers on universities across the country. The strategic value in reaching military leaders for the Kingdom is paramount!

To learn more about Valor, you can visit:  
[www.valormovement.com](http://www.valormovement.com)

The best way I can describe my new role is to say that I am responsible to ensure “mission readiness” for all our Valor and Lifelines missionaries. This includes recruiting, new missionary on-boarding, team allocation, ongoing training and development, theological development, team health, and missionary care.

Diana and I are grateful for your partnership in our ministry with Cru and are excited to see how He is going to use you impact lives for His Kingdom through the Lord’s work through me in Valor and through Diana among immigrant and international people living in north Seattle. Again, thank you!

Your Missionaries,

*Ryan & Diana*

PRAYER & PRAISE

- Please pray for me as I transition in to my new role on the National Leadership Development & HR Team serving Valor.
- Please pray that the Lord would use Valor to reach ROTC Cadets, Midshipmen, and Veterans on Campus to impact the world for Christ!
- Please continue to pray that the Lord would use Diana to reach the nations through international and immigrant families in the Seattle area!
- Praise the Lord! This last weekend Diana hosted “Freinds giving” in our neighborhood, essentially inviting “the World” to our home.
- Please Pray for Diana as she looks at mobilizing volunteers and church partnerships to increase the gospel witness in our community.



Campus Crusade for Christ

*Dear Lamel Baptist Church, Nov. 21, 2017*  
*What an amazing year it has been! We give thanks to God for you! Thank you so much for your prayers and financial support this past year. You have been an anchor and encouragement to us. We have seen God open up many opportunities for the Gospel and have seen two neighbors trust Christ this year! Your giving and faithfulness has helped make that happen. Thank you for your generosity, investment in us, and heart to see God's kingdom established. May God richly bless you for your sacrifice to Him.*

*Your missionaries, Ryan & Diana*

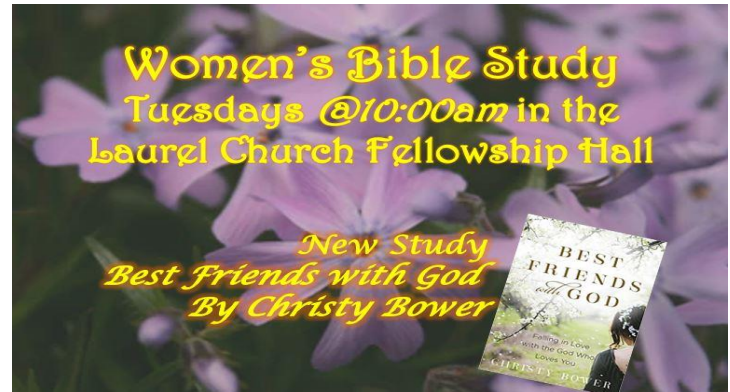


# Current Small Groups

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR MORE INFO ON THESE GROUPS @ 360.398.1761

## Sunday Morning Line-up

- 9:00 a.m. Nursery & Childcare Opens
- 9:00 a.m. Disciple Hour for all ages
- 9:15 a.m. Worship Team Practice
- 9:30 a.m. Hosting Team
- 9:45 a.m. Fellowship
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
- 11:00 a.m. Fellowship
- 11:00 a.m. Sermon Based Group




**Women's Bible Study**  
**Tuesdays @10:00am in the**  
**Laurel Church Fellowship Hall**

*New Study*  
**Best Friends with God**  
*By Christy Bower*

## **MEN'S GROUP**



**Wednesdays :**  
**10am in the Fellowship Hall**  
**And**  
**6:30pm in Room 101**

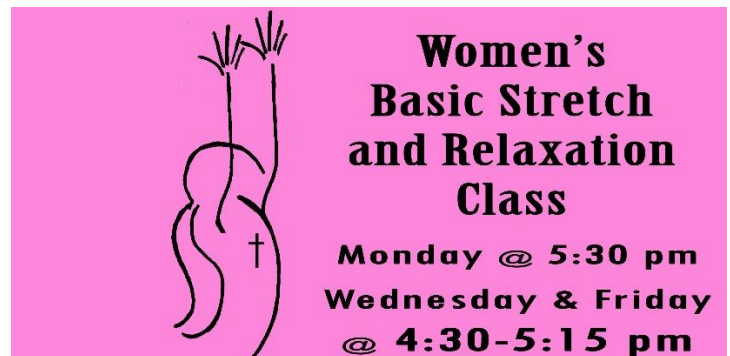


**A Women's 12 Step**  
**Spiritual Journey**

**Mondays @6:30pm**  
**in Room 101**  
**at Laurel Church**

## **"FRIDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP"**

*Rob & Jill Horgen host a fun fellowship group on the first Friday of each month. They will meet at a local restaurant, for a fun relaxing evening of friendship & eats. Contact the church office for contact info and more details for this group.*



**Women's**  
**Basic Stretch**  
**and Relaxation**  
**Class**

**Monday @ 5:30 pm**  
**Wednesday & Friday**  
**@ 4:30-5:15 pm**



**LAUREL ARCHERY CLUB**

**Wednesdays 6:30-8:00pm**  
**at**  
**Laurel Church**  
**162 W Laurel Rd**  
**Bellingham, WA**

**Yearly Registration Fee of \$15**

Call the church office @ 360.398.1761 for more details or visit our website at [www.laurelchurch.us](http://www.laurelchurch.us) to download a registration form



**Women's Aerobic Walking Class**

*Walking Aerobics burn more calories than a stroll around the park!*

**Monday @ 4:30 pm**  
**Wednesday**  
**and Friday**  
**@ 3:30 pm**  
**in Rm. 201**

**....dare to get fit!**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h2 style="text-align: center;">December 2017 Activities Calendar</h2>					1 3:30pm Women's Aerobic Walking Class 4:30pm Women's Basic Stretch & Relax Class 6:30pm Friday Night Fellowship	2 8:30am MBSF Leaders Mtg.
3 9am Discipleship 9am Sunday Morning Nursery 10am Worship, Nursery & Children's Church 11:15am Sermon Based Group	4 8:30am Classical Conversations 4:30pm Women's Aerobic Walking Class 5:30pm Women's Basic Stretch Class 6:30pm Women's 12 Step Group 7pm 4H Meeting	5 8am ZLO 9am Share Room Stocking 10am Ladies Bible Study 6:55pm Men's BSF	6 10am Men's Group 3:30pm Women's Aerobic Class 4:30pm Women's Basic Stretch Class 6:30pm Men's Group 6:30pm Archery Club	7 8am ZLO 10am-2pm Share Room 7pm Worship Practice 7pm Trail Life 7pm Heritage Girls-Christmas Party	8 3:30pm Women's Aerobic Walking Class 4:30pm Women's Basic Stretch & Relax Class	9 8:30am MBSF Leaders Mtg.
10 9am Discipleship 9am Sunday Morning Nursery 10am Worship, Nursery & Children's Church 11:15am Sermon Based Group	11 8:30am Classical Conversations 4:30pm Young Life Family Night 4:30pm Women's Aerobic Walking Class 5:30pm Women's Basic Stretch Class 6:30pm Women's 12 Step Group	12 8am ZLO 9am Share Room Stocking 10am Women's Bible Study 6:55pm Men's BSF	13 10am Men's Group 3:30pm Women's Aerobic Class 4:30pm Women's Basic Stretch Class 5pm Share Room Stocking/Christmas 6:30pm Men's Group 6:30pm Archery Club	14 8am ZLO 10am-2pm Share Room 7pm Worship Practice 7pm-8pm Trail Life -Awards Banquet	15 3:30pm Women's Aerobic Walking Class 4:30pm Women's Basic Stretch & Relax Class	16
17 9am Discipleship 9am Sunday Morning Nursey 10am Worship, Nursery & Children's Church 11:15am Sermon Based Group	18 8:30am Classical Conversations 4:30pm Women's Aerobic Walking Class 5:30pm Women's Basic Stretch Class 6:30pm Women's 12 Step Group 7pm Church Board Meeting	19 9am Share Room Stocking	20 10am Men's Group 3:30pm Women's Aerobic Walking Class 4:30pm Women's Basic Stretch & Relax Class 6:30pm Men's Group 6:30pm Archery Club	21 7pm Worship Practice	22 3:30pm Women's Aerobic Walking Class 4:30pm Women's Basic Stretch & Relax Class	23
24 9am Discipleship 9am Nursery 10am Worship, <b>Christmas Program</b> 11:15am Sermon Based Group 7pm Candlelight Service	25 <b>Christmas Day</b> 6:59am Christmas Caroling	26 7pm Sig's Saddle Tramps	27 <b>Rolling Thunder Prayer Day</b> 3:30pm Women's Aerobic Walking Class 4:30pm Women's Basic Stretch & Relax Class 6:30pm Archery Club	28 7pm Worship Practice	29 3:30pm Women's Aerobic Walking Class 4:30pm Women's Basic Stretch & Relax Class	30
31 9am Discipleship 9am Nursery 10am Worship, Nursery & Children's Church 11:15am Sermon Based Group						