

# Life Groups at WCC

By Pastor Dave

One night this week, I had the whole family in the mini-van as we were traveling from point A to point B. As in all of the Brooks family travels, point A isn't usually very interesting. Neither is point B. It's the journey *between* the two that is really interesting. Anyway, on this crisp January evening, my blissful visions of a peaceful car ride were interrupted by a "disturbance in the Force" (AKA - an obnoxious odor which shall remain nameless). The decibel level in the van soared as the three other children expressed their disapproval. And I wanted out. Was it too much to ask for a peaceful van ride? So in a moment of desperation, I enforced an impromptu session of "The Quiet Game." That game still works in our family (I know... many of you are saying "Ahhhh, I remember when that worked with our kids"... You don't have to tell me, I'm fully aware that this too will pass.) Anyway, on this night the game worked and I enjoyed my peace (for about 45 seconds).

It was during that silence that we drove by Prairieview School on University Ave. Upon seeing the school, Nicolas broke that silence by saying,

"Look Dad, there's our church!"

After Kaelyn yelled, "Ha, ha, you lose" and Clorrisa gently remarked "You just lost, too, Kaelyn", I began to think of what Nic said.

"Look Dad, there's our church."

That statement really got me thinking. Part of me thought that the statement was wonderful. I liked the fact that he didn't know the building as just a school. He saw it for its most significant purpose: a church, a place to worship God and make followers of Jesus Christ.

But part of me began to ponder this statement. Why is it that we tend to associate "church" with a building? At WCC we've always stressed the biblical truth that the church is a living organism of people, not a building or an institution. In fact, I once told Clorrisa that if our church ever built a building, I wanted to put a sign out front that read "NOT Waukeewauke Community Church". Clorrisa gently smiled and replied, "That's about the dumbest thing I've ever heard." She has a point. What would a visitor do with a sign like that - or the UPS man for that matter? (God has blessed me with a wise and *very honest* wife).

If there is a concept that I could upload into hearts of all the people who attend WCC, it would be this one. "The church isn't somewhere we *go*...it's WHO WE ARE!" You and I are the church. When you go to work, you're the church. When you pick up your kids from school, you're the church. When you talk with your neighbor while shoveling the sidewalk, you're the church. And when you walk down the path that follows Jesus Christ, you are the church. The church isn't a building. It is people.

The way we view "church" is paramount to how we relate to the church. If we are honest with ourselves, most of us would admit that we view church as an institution. It's a service we attend, a program in which we participate, and an organization to which we give our time. It's an institution which provides us a service. And we expect results from an institution. When we don't get the results we expect, we let someone know.

But the church isn't an institution. It's an organism. It's not a service, or program or charity organization. The church is people who gather together.

Honestly, it's a little overwhelming when each of us realizes "hey, I'm the church". It's a huge responsibility to carry out the mission of the church. But God never said "You, alone, are the church."

He said "You, together, are the church." This is the picture He paints in Acts 2:42-47. The text says, "All the believers were together...."

This is why I'm so excited about Life Groups at WCC. They are a chance to come together and BE the church. WCC has two primary vehicles through which we can carry out the mission that Christ has given us: To Make Followers of Jesus Christ. Our Sunday Morning Service is one of those vehicles. Life Groups are the other. What are Life Groups? Life Groups are small groups of Christ-Followers that gather regularly for *intentional discipleship in community*. We're learning how to be the church, and we're doing it together. We are learning the teachings of Jesus Christ, and getting involved in each others lives.

I Thessalonians 2:8 reflects my heart for us as a church. Paul said, "We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God *but our lives as well*, because you had become so dear to us." Life Groups are an opportunity for us to share "our lives as well." Together, we'll learn and follow the teachings of Jesus. Together, we'll do life.

If you've actually read this far, I know you must have a hundred questions. But I'm hopeful that one of your questions is "How do I get involved in a Life Group". If you're asking that question, then we want you to get involved. Just send a note to the church office, and when the next group forms, we'll get you in it. ([wcc@WaukeeCommunityChurch.com](mailto:wcc@WaukeeCommunityChurch.com))

Thanks for being a great group of people who is willing to go along on this incredible journey of planting a church. Thanks for your prayers and encouragement. Most of all, thanks for loving and serving Jesus. I love this Church, because I love all of you. You ARE the Church.

In Christ,

Pastor Dave