

## LIFE Groups

LIFE Groups (love, involvement, fellowship, and evangelism) are a vital part of the life of the Lafayette Church providing numerous opportunities for spiritual formation through teaching, prayer, conversation, fellowship, service, and play.

Each group determines its purpose and schedule to best meet the needs of the group for spiritual formation. Some groups meet weekly while others meet less frequently. Some meet for teaching, worship, and the Lord's Supper while others meet primarily to share a meal, prayer, and encouraging conversation.

To learn more about the LIFE Groups, contact a group leader.

Jim and Kathy Zeller and Carla Haley

Dave and Whitney deSambourg and  
Kevin and Cindy Fields

Les and Carol Keim and Ed and Jeanna Allstun

Jim and Linda Atkinson

Jack and Judy Cooper

Jeremiah and Anna Weaver

Jackie Roland and Phil and June Wilhelm

## Ladies' Bible Class

The fall session of the Tuesday Ladies' Bible Class kicks off on September 20. The class will have an opportunity to learn and grow with an 11 week series of video lessons filmed on location in the Bible lands and taught by Ray Vander Laan. The class will explore the world of ancient Egypt, its powerful pharaohs, and multitudes of gods. Exodus tells us that "the Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help ...went up to God." The first video series (five sessions), *God Heard Their Cry*, explores how God answers this cry and proclaims God to be Lord to Israel and their oppressors. The second series (six sessions), *Fire on the Mountain*, shows how the people learn to live together as God intends, what it means to be part of a community that loves God, and the lessons for us today. Please sign up today at the Welcome Center; the Discovery guide is \$10. Baby sitting is provided. Helen Totty facilitates this class that meets Tuesdays at 10:00am in the Worship Center or Prayer Room.

### Our Contact Information

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Bob's blog: [acceptableoffering.com](http://acceptableoffering.com)

Student Ministry website: [teenepic.org](http://teenepic.org)

### Our Gathering Times

Sunday mornings

9:00am Worship Gathering

10:30am Bible Classes

Sunday evenings

LIFE Groups in homes

Wednesday evenings

7:00pm Bible Classes & teenEPIC

# Spiritual Formation at Lafayette

Fall 2011



*"...until Christ is formed in you...."*

Galatians 4:19

# Sunday Gatherings

## When Helping Hurts

Have you ever wondered if what you (or the church) is doing to help the poor is really helping? This class focuses on ways to minister to the poor without unintentionally hurting them or yourself. This class takes time to determine real needs of the community rather than projecting assumed needs. The class is based on *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor or Yourself* by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert and class members are asked to purchase a book for \$10.55 (contact the church office for a copy).

The class will feature interactive discussion about topics like relief, rehabilitation, and development. Out of this discussion may very well grow ideas for your personal ministry and for Lafayette's ministry to better the poor.

Kevin Leahy teaches this class for adults with the expectation of preparation and participation from participants. The class meets in the Fellowship Hall.

## Seeking Significance

The busyness of life can leave us feeling as if we're chasing the wind and missing what matters. The things we observe around us often make it obvious that things don't always go as they ought. Jesus said a man's life does not consist of what he owns. A thoughtful person might ask "Well, of what *does* it consist?" How can we focus on what's significant? How can we *know* what's significant?

If a wise and experienced man were going to guide you through thinking about life, how would he go about it? In the book of Ecclesiastes, part of the Old Testament Wisdom Literature, he goes about it in a way that's not at all what you might expect. Ecclesiastes is one of the most difficult, most interesting, and most practical Old Testament books. This class deals with reflections on life in a way that would get the attention and capture the interest of people who do not attend a church of any kind. Invite a neighbor, co-worker, or friend. They may find the word of God has far more in common with everyday life than they ever imagined.

Dale Lundy teaches this textual study of Ecclesiastes in a mini-lecture/discussion format in the Worship Center.

## The Principle of the Path

How do you get from where you are to where you want to be? In this class based on Charles Stanley's book by the same title, the college-age adults will explore practical ways to determine direction and focus in life. The class is facilitated by Dennis Enix, Greg and Dawn Malcolm, and Joe and Jan Johnson.

## teenEPIC

The Middle School class is studying *One-Another Relationships*. Living out the Christian walk can be difficult. God never intended for us to walk alone. The phrase "one another" is in the New Testament nearly seventy times. We are intended to live in community with one another. Our actions - the way we live out our personal walk (positive or negative) can greatly

impact the lives of other believers. Only by investing in relationship with one another can we expect to feel the full impact of the Spirit's transforming power in our lives. Mike and Lee Ann Brown teach this class in the Middle School room.

The High School class spent the last year stretching and growing in the knowledge of the Holy Spirit, and the understanding of what it means to not be just a "pew warmer." Now they are studying *Radical* in order to keep the same momentum in challenging and pushing through their comfort zones. Our hope is this group of young people will learn to live for, serve, and follow Jesus with radical abandonment! Dave and Whitney deSambourg teach this class in the EPICenter.



The conversation will begin with the gentle nature of God's love, acceptance, forgiveness, and care and then move to insights about how Christians can be shaped and formed by this love.

If you want to be more accepting, more forgiving, more loving -- this class is for you.

## Embracing the Love of God

In today's world many people fail to experience the powerful freedom and healing of God's grace. As a result, people -- Christians included -- too often experience judgment rather than the love that is the vital essence of the Christian life.

This class will get back to the basics of understanding the power of God's love to transform our hearts and our important relationships and thereby fulfill our deepest spiritual needs.

*Embracing the Love of God* by James Bryan Smith is used as a resource, but reading the book is not required. Bob Clark teaches this class in the Worship Center.

## Praise Team

Lafayette's Praise Team meets on Wednesday evenings to facilitate the focus and vision of our praise and worship, as well as to blend and master the songs chosen for each of Lafayette's worship gatherings.

# Wednesday Gatherings

During each class, we begin with a time of discussion and prayer for any member's needs, praises, or desires. This is followed with singing the songs chosen for the next assembly which may include learning new songs or improving upon familiar songs. If time permits, music that has perhaps never been part of a Lafayette worship is introduced in order to expand our knowledge and repertoire of songs.

Participation in a group like this is not for everyone, but if you are a singer (whether soprano, alto, tenor, or bass), you might want to participate. Those who read music and have choral experience can be especially helpful with this ministry.

This group facilitated by Alan Shepherd and Whitney deSambourg meets in the Prayer Room.

## teenEPIC

Wednesday night Youth Group is the backbone of the Lafayette Student Ministry (teenEPIC). Our Youth Group comprised of 6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> graders is a place and group unlike any other.

A warm, safe and unconditionally loving environment fosters our student-led small groups which are designed to engage various topics and Biblical truths that challenge out teens to grow spiritually, take ownership in leading both in the youth group and the church, as well as develop a thirst for the Word of God.

Worship, study, fellowship, and fun are all

jam-packed into our hour together. These times together are vital in providing the ingredients for students to be engaged in one another's lives and develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

teenEPIC is led by Mike and Lee Ann Brown and meets in the EPICenter.

## Children

Babies and Preschool, taught by Dave Wilhelm's staff, meet in the Cradle Roll Room.

Kindergarten-2nd grades, taught by Mary Lou Enix, meet in room 6.

3rd-5th grades, taught by June Wilhelm, meet in room 7.

## Special Gatherings

Cooks' Night Out is held at 5:45 p.m. on September 14, October 12, and November 9. Each month a different LIFE Group plans the menu and provides the food for this special time of fellowship. Each person is asked to pay \$3 to cover the cost of the meal. Even at that low price, the meals are always tasty! What's more, the table conversation at Cooks' Night Out is a great way to get to know your church family. Getting to know each other is an important step in the spiritual formation process.

On Wednesday, November 23, everyone will meet in the Worship Center for a special time of giving thanks to God during the Thanksgiving season.