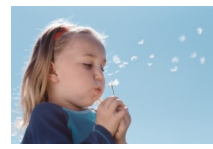


Pastor's Ponderings from Rev. Trish

In the last edition, I shared with you an introduction to Spiritual Leadership, Inc. I am truly being blessed as a part of this transformation team of the Louisville district. My small group meets 8 hours a month; it includes seven other clergy, the district superintendent, 2 coaches and 2 coaches in training. We are holding each other accountable to our spiritual disciples and to live as Christ calls us to live. In addition to the worship and accountability we are exploring leadership types, work and team types. We are at the beginning of the second cycle.



Part of the next steps is to create a team from the membership of Cooper that will go through the process with me; to look at the church's health and begin by taking ministries right where they are, clearing away obstacles to the Spirit's work, and help called Spiritual Leaders faithfully to journey together improving with each month and year that goes by.

The vision of SLI: Changing leaders & environments for a changed world for Christ. The Problem: What we have discovered - The Church in America is not what God wants it to be - Overworked, burned out pastors - Dying churches - Pastors struggling to turn the church around - Lay people with spiritual gifts, but no idea how to help the pastor or the church - The church not impacting today's society **A Solution:** SLI was formed to address these real problems in the church. It exists to help dying churches and struggling pastors, in part by training spiritually-gifted lay people who have no idea how to help the pastor or the church. Our vision is to create changed leaders, changed churches, and a changed world for Christ. (Rom 12:1-2; II Cor 3:18; Luke 9:23; Mat 22:37-40; 28:18-20; Rev 19:7). **Changed leaders:** We envision a new breed of clergy & lay leaders grounded in scripture and spiritual disciplines and with the joy of serving in their hearts (Ps 119; Lk 8:11-15; Eph 6:10-20; I Tim 4:4-5; Heb 4:12; Jms 1:19-27). They will be spiritual leaders, living balanced lives of influence who will impact the world for Christ (Ex 33:15-16; Mat 22:37-40; 28:18-20; I Pet 5:1-11). **Changed environments:** We envision churches who are freed from the desperation of ineffectiveness (Jonah 3; John 3). Instead, they are empowered by gift-based ministry (Rom 12; I Cor 12; Eph 4) and Spirit-led teams of clergy and laity leading together to change the church and thereafter the world. **Changed world:** We envision an ever-widening circle of changed leaders and changed churches, who therefore begin to impact their communities. Community transformation is the first step toward cultural and national transformation. **The mission of SLI: Discover, Develop, and Deploy passionate spiritual leaders and teams for the transformation of churches, organizations, and communities. The values of SLI: Our primary values are** Developing spiritual leaders who model a Christian community that learns and leads together - Creating environments that foster transformation - Establishing processes that produce fruit.

Nomination forms will be available during the first three Sundays of July. All persons that are nominated will receive an application. The applications will be reviewed by me, one of the coaches from SLI and a member of Cooper's leadership team. Please be in prayer for the selection of this team.

A couple of years ago, our church was looking for a delegate to attend annual conference. I asked what they do at this conference and the response I got was that it was boring and you sit in meetings all day. Speaking as someone that has now attended annual conference for the last couple of years, I agree with that person - you do sit in meetings all day voting on various items of discussion and electing new delegates to attend the general conference. However, I do not agree with the boring part. I have seen the joining together of laity and ministers that may have only come together this one time in the past year and greet each other with welcoming hugs. I witnessed the love of God and his people at work during those four days of conference. My son Andrew also went with me to conference. Can you imagine a sixteen year old asking to go back for an evening session to listen to an evangelist? Eddie Fox was that speaker and I had my doubts that he was going to inspire me but much to my surprise, he was an awesome speaker. I encourage all of you to listen to him if you ever have the opportunity. We went into the community as a group of 700 plus strong for one afternoon, hence "Afternoon of Service" and filled food baskets, school bags, health kits, went on prayer walks, planted flowers, visited hospitals, wrote agape letters, donated blood and this is just a handful of what happened in that one afternoon. We also raised \$82,000 for a mission project to build new Methodist churches in Thailand and Venezuela. The Kentucky Conference goal is \$120,000 so I am asking for your help to please give with your heart and empty your pockets for this chance to spread the word of Jesus Christ in other parts of the world. Called by Christ sent to sow, Vicki Mills



Our nursery is in the process of being totally revamped. This new nursery starts officially September, 2011. Marty Birt and Karen Allen are co-handling this new venture and request volunteers. There will be two people in the nursery each week to watch these precious children. We are practicing radical hospitality, and want new families, as well as current families, to be able to enjoy the morning services while their young children are safe, and taught about Jesus through loving care from our Cooper volunteers. All volunteers will have a background check. No two people can do it all. Please see Marty or Karen to sign up to play with these babies. How fun is that? Remember-- God said, "what you do for the least of them, you do for me."

Opportunities for Ministry

- Cards for Military and their families...contact the church office for more information
- Remember the weekly MISSION BOX! Be a part of outreach in our Cooper Community
- Cooper Memorial sponsors Cub Pack, Boy Scout Troop, & Venture Crew 190. Any boy 1st grade through age 20 is invited to become a part of this vital ministry. Contact Rusty Hudgel 338-0381 for more information.
- The Radical Hospitality Committee is looking for people to be hosts for the groups that use our building (ex. scouts, line dancing, etc). You would be there to talk with the people and help if they need anything. If you are interested or want more information please contact Rusty Hudgel.

Sacred Stitches
Do you crochet, knit, or sew? Be a part of our prayer shawl ministry. Call the church office or see Vicki Basham for more information about joining this ministry!
Donations of yarn always appreciated!

The Journey class will start a series in the fall about "Women of the Bible." This is not a class just for the girls, there is plenty to learn from these strong women. Guys, we have been studying "Men of the Bible" for years, now its the ladies turn. We hope to add more men to our class as an equal perspective is always nice for discussion and we tend to have many. Bring your open mind and heart and join us for a spell -- we are a might friendly bunch, real laid back, and 100% dedicated to learning more about the word of God.

What I am doing today is important because I am exchanging a day of my life for it.
-Unknown

Forever Young
Meets 4th Monday of the month.
AARP
Meets 3rd Thursday of the month.
Lydia Circle
Meets 1st Tuesday of the month.

Have Devotion Will Travel
Beginning in Sept we will have small groups visit the members who can't get out for Bible Studies. We hope to have 3 or 4 groups of about 3 people. A short devotion will be taken to share together and simple dessert. This will be a way for all to continue their growth through fellowship with other Christians.

Girl Scout Troop 808 would like to thank the church for allowing us the use of the facility this past Girl Scout year. We look forward to our next meeting year as Brownies and the continued support from Cooper Memorial.

Line Dancing
Each Tuesday night
Beginner level 6:15 PM walk-thru steps
6:30-8:30 Class Cost \$3.00 per person
bigalofamerica@aol.com or call 502-643-2786

September 21st we will kick off Wednesday evening activities. It's the International Day of Peace, so we will have an international theme that evening. Watch for announcements about other classes & activities that will be offered during the fall.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Upward Basketball Season!!!!

September 17: Upward Fall Yard Sale, Bake Sale and Hot Dogs
October 10 -17: Registration mailed out to previous players and passed out registration at schools
November 11: Last day of Early Registration
Evaluation Begins: November 15 and 17 6:00-7:30/ November 19 Evaluation 9-12:00 and chili cook off and silent auction 1-5:00
December 3 TENTATIVE skills clinic 2-4:00
Practice: Week Ending Dec 10
Christmas Holiday 18Dec11-02Jan12
Games begin Jan 7 through Feb 25
TENTATIVE Upward Banquet: March 3 1:00 any make up games will be played before banquet