

“But then...”

By Allen Wakabayashi

Associate Pastor

“Coming to Sunday mornings was just not cutting it. The worship was fine but I just didn’t feel connected...but then....”

“Life had unraveled...I was doubting everything – my faith was taking a beating...could I hold on? But then...”

“I was just coasting along in my faith, enjoying the ride, not wanting to get too radical or crazy in my walk with Jesus...but then...”

But then what???
SMALL GROUPS!!!

Small Groups have the potential to provide deeper connection, wild adventure, and radical healing in all of our lives as we work together to see the Kingdom of God advance in our world. We are entering a new season in the Small Group ministry here at TCBC. As we refocus, restructure, and renovate our approach to Small Groups, there is great potential to see God’s vision for us fleshed out in exciting ways – to see us THRIVE and INFLUENCE for the sake of the Kingdom of God!

There are some things that can only happen in Small Groups. Small Groups provide a place of meaningful connection where you can connect with others in deeper ways than you do on a Sunday morning. They provide a context to hear from God

through His Word through discussion and dialogue rather than by listening to one person preach from the pulpit or reading it on your own. They provide contexts where you can find a place of safety and care in the name of Jesus when you are in great need. And they can become missional communities where you can serve and reach out with the love of Jesus together rather than doing so in isolation. Small Groups have the potential to be where we truly THRIVE and INFLUENCE in the name of Christ Jesus. And so in this new season of our Small Group ministry, we are hoping to reinvigorate our ministry to live out our full potential to see these kinds of things happen in greater ways.

Some key changes:

1. The Name!

We are going to drop the “Covenant Group” lingo and simply rename them Small Groups. This way, our Small Group ministry will be more accessible to newcomers and avoid confusion (“covenant groups? What does covenant mean?”).

2. Types of Small Groups

Based on what has already been happening in our Small Groups, we have identified 4 types of Small Groups – each one sharing the commonalities of community, input from Scripture, and outreach. The hope is that in clarifying 4 types of Small

Please see **SMALL GROUPS P. 2**

A new name, look for “The Son Times”

In keeping with the changes to our logo, web site and bulletin, it was decided that the Son Times deserved a facelift, as well.

The new logo didn’t fit very well with the old nameplate at the top of the newsletter’s front page, so a more modern design was in order. The new name also helps to emphasize the purpose of the newsletter—to connect members of the congregation with each other and the staff with the congregation.

The newsletter will now be used to list information that’s personal to the congregation—thank you notes, birth and marriage announcements, address changes, etc. These messages will no longer appear with the weekly announcements that are now posted on the web site. The newsletter will also feature articles from the staff. These include Pastor Shannon’s monthly article, Pastor Steve’s “Reflections From Worship” and Pastor Allen’s evangelism column. And we hope to include articles from other staff members, and even members of the congregation, as well.

For a complete overview and explanation of the changes made this summer at TCBC to our logo, web site and bulletin, please see P. 2.

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Updating our visual identity: logo, web site, bulletin

By now, you've probably noticed some changes around TCBC; changes to our visual identity, if you will.

On July 19 a new logo and re-designed web site were unveiled, and on July 26, a new bulletin format. These are big changes, but they are also exciting ones. The new logo is a more current representation of who we are as a church. A team of designers spent the last year coming up with this logo and put a lot of thought into what would best represent the mission of TCBC to the rest of the community.

The new web site is a more user-friendly and informative version of what we've had in the past. It has all the same information as the old version, and some exciting new features, as well.

The new bulletin format is designed to compliment the web site. We're switching to a half sheet bulletin and a monthly, as opposed to weekly, announcement brochure. The change is designed to save both money and trees, and to encourage the congregation to use the web site as the first source of information.

Below is a more in-depth overview

of each change, explaining more about why it was made.

Web site

With so many people communicating, social networking and doing business online these days, TCBC needed a better web presence. Features of the redesigned site include:

- Recent sermons, recent announcements, and upcoming events are all listed on the homepage.

Please see IDENTITY P. 3

SMALL GROUPS FROM P. 1

Groups, it will not only clarify the options available to newcomers but also identify the focus and aims of each Small Group with added sharpness and clarity for those of us already involved. The 4 types of Small Groups are:

a. The Bible Study Group: this Small Group's distinctive marker will be that they meet to study the Scriptures together.

b. The Life Stage Small Group: these Small Groups will be meeting around a common life stage for support and encouragement – examples include: young marrieds, young adults, married with children, etc.

c. The Common Cause Small Group: these Small Groups will identify a mission or ministry they would like to rally around for the course of a year and work together to actively support and participate in this endeavor. An example could be "the Empty Tomb Small Group" or "the Crisis Pregnancy Center Small Group." The hope is that we might have many different common cause Small Groups springing up here at TCBC as the Spirit leads

various people to start them.

d. The Support Group: this Small Group is for those who are experiencing significant crisis, trauma, and hardship so that they can find care, community, and support from others in the Christian family.

3. A Newcomers Small Group

Starting each semester, there will be a Newcomers to TCBC Christian Education class offered for 6 weeks. It will be an informal gathering hosted by one or more key TCBC leaders where people can find out about various parts of TCBC. Once the 6 weeks are over, any interested people from the class will join together in a Small Group that will be led by one of the Church staff for the remainder of the year. You can help us by directing anyone new to TCBC to join this class. This will become the key avenue of entry for anyone new to the TCBC community.

4. Investment in Leaders

The last key change is our increased commitment to invest and care for those leading our Small Groups and to provide training for all new Small

Groups Leaders. The plan is to provide intentional care and training so that Small Group Leaders can joyfully serve those in their Small Groups.

As we move into this new season of change in our Small Group ministry, would you consider the following:

1. Pray for our Small Group ministry – that God would move in powerful ways to move us forward to truly become a THRIVING and INFLUENCING church.

2. If you are not yet in a Small Group, consider joining one (for more info, contact either Christina Beatty or Pastor Allen).

3. Ask God if there is a particular burden He has given you for a ministry cause around which you could build a Common Cause Small Group. If you have interest in starting one, please contact Pastor Allen before the end of the month.

THRIVE!!! INFLUENCE!!! Let's go for it!

IDENTITY FROM P. 2

- An "e-mail this to a friend" link at the bottom of most pages to facilitate knowledge sharing.
- Better/easier/clearer iTunes subscription for the sermon podcast.
- More detailed announcement information than in the previous bulletin format.
- An archive of all newsletters.
- People can sign-up for either e-mail or RSS notifications when a new sermon podcast is posted. Other similar sign-ups are coming soon.
- People will be able to sign up for several events online, which will help the staff better estimate how many people are coming. The new site can also generate a reminder e-mail for the people who signed up for an event.
- Contact links for each ministry now go to someone directly within that ministry without first having to go through the office.

Bulletin

Faced with a tightening budget earlier this year, the staff brainstormed ways to cut costs. They found that more and more churches are cutting back on paper publications and favoring the Internet as their primary means of communicating with the congregation. Some churches are completely eliminating the weekly bulletin, but at TCBC, the staff felt it would be beneficial to keep a bulletin in the hands of the people who worship here each Sunday. The change from our current format to a half-sheet saves money on printing costs, paper and the time that the office staff puts into copying, folding and assembling the bulletin each week.

How will I get the weekly announcements?

Each month, the web site, newsletter and announcement sheet will be used to communicate what is going on at TCBC.

Announcements pertaining directly to upcoming events at TCBC—things like empty tomb work days, schedule changes, upcoming Bible studies, etc.—will be listed in a monthly announcement brochure, and in more detail on the web site. For members of the congregation who do not have computer or Internet access, copies of the announcements as they appear on the web site will be printed and placed at the welcome center each week.

Thank you notes, address changes and other personal notes will now be reserved for the church newsletter (in the past they had been printed in the bulletin announcements, as well) In addition to these items, the newsletter will include "Did You Know" snippets like marriage and birth announcements, a monthly giving update, announcements about events that take place outside of TCBC (such as the Women's Connection Luncheon) and feature articles written by the pastoral staff, and others in the congregation. In general, the newsletter will be geared more toward TCBC "insiders" – members and regular attendees.

Logo

A good logo is: Distinctive, memorable and timeless, and simple enough that it can be applied to a media spectrum as broad as paper to plastic and t-shirts to Web sites. Most importantly, a good logo communicates the unique qualities of its brand, which refers to a company or organizations' visual identity.

So what did our old logo communicate about the uniqueness of our brand? Unfortunately, that's where we lost people. It was hard to tell what our old logo symbolized, let alone what it said about TCBC as a church.

So about a year ago, a logo team set out to create a new visual iden-

tity for TCBC.

The team, which over time consisted of Ron Walder, Caleb Walder, Lee Ann Galaway, Erika Nelson, Jessie Scheunemann, Steve Jaeger, Jason Mock and Erica Elliott, spent months brainstorming, sketching and designing on computer, and in the end, offered up the below logo as one of their top picks.



They liked it because they found that, in the case of TCBC, words are too abstract to give meaning in a symbol; the logo gets too complex and different people interpret it in too many different ways—which was the problem with our old logo.

The team explored a lot of the symbols associated with the Christian church and tried to incorporate these. But too many of these symbols are associated with a denomination. TCBC is a very diverse church. To try to do a logo with some of these denomination-specific characteristics may make some people happy, and others uncomfortable.

The team felt the final design represents the diversity of our church. It is simple and clean. The color gradient represents movement and diversity, while the classic & modern fonts represent the juxtaposition of old and new, modern and timeless at TCBC.

The logo doesn't associate our church with a particular denomination or stereotype of the Christian faith. And instead of incorporating symbols into a new logo, the team relied solely on the name of our church and an accompanying design style to portray the uniqueness of TCBC's brand.



Summer Fun Day Camp 2009 Praise Report

By Kay Miller

Minister of Christian Education

“Are you going to have camp next week?”

It almost broke my heart to tell the little international child “no” when I was asked that question the last morning of camp. He didn’t want camp to end. What an affirmation that God had indeed answered our prayers – as if I needed another affirmation.

Each summer God surprises us over and over again with wonderful answers to prayer as we open the doors to the Orchard Downs Community Center for our outreach to the international community centered there. This year 81 children came through those doors at least one day and attendance averaged 70-71 children per day! We NEVER expected this many children to attend. By comparison last year we welcomed 63 children with an average attendance of 54-55.

But more important than those numbers was the opportunity to place Bibles in 20 homes which had NO Bibles. Early in the week, a couple children asked what a Bible was because they had never heard of it! At that point we realized we couldn’t wait until Friday to give out the Bibles, but instead gave them out on Wednesday. Please be praying that these Bibles would bring spiritual fruit into the families represented by these children. This ministry is about the children, but the bigger picture is the opportunity to place Bibles into families, some of whom return to closed countries and many are potential world leaders. In addition to the Bibles, the children received Jesus DVDs. In all, 37 international children attended the day camp this year. Please be praying for Dave and Ruth Krehbiel



as they follow up with the families. We do know that one mother has visited TCBC a couple times because of what she observed at the camp.

Answers to prayer, how can we count the ways? Here’s a few examples:

- Early permission from the housing authority allowed us to get the publicity out early and get the camp on the family calendars.
- TCBC kids reached out to the campers in friendship willingly.
- At least 20 TCBC youth group members, led by Youth Pastor Neil Nelson, helped with everything from set up, to childcare, to crafts, to games and more.
- 4 international youth also assisted.
- 31 adults made up the volunteer roster, which included several internationals.
- Cooperative weather – it rained the night before, it rained immediately after camp one day, but never during camp.
- Wonderful story tellers made the Bible stories come alive while teaching eternal truths.
- A great music team led some really fun music filled with spiritual truths.
- Safety for everyone, yes a few bumps and bruises, but nothing else.
- A great turnout for the family picnic on the last day – we used 175 plates!



- The on-line registration system was really helpful.
- Creative crafts and snacks added to the fun atmosphere.
- Children learned to “Search for Buried Treasure” in God’s Word for treasures that will *last forever*.

In response to an excellent gospel presentation on Friday, one international child told his leader he had prayed the prayer with the teacher at the end of her message.

Thank you for your prayers and your support for this ministry. This was our fifth camp and each year it seems to get better. A special thank you to all the volunteers, you are awesome! To God goes the glory for a wonderful week of camp.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CONT.

Adult Christian Formation Classes

In order to more accurately reflect what Adult Christian Education Classes are designed to do, this ministry is being renamed Adult Christian Formation Classes. Paul told the Romans “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind....” Romans 12:2. Adult classes are planned not to just give book knowledge or intellectual stimulation but to foster spiritual transformation and to renew minds with a Christian worldview in order to make wise decisions and grow spiritually. The classes are planned to compliment the preaching and small group ministries and are not a replacement for them. If you are serious about your desire to grow in your relationship with Christ and be transformed, these classes are part of the ‘package’ offered at TCBC to assist you in those goals.

New classes begin August 23rd

It is the power of God’s Word that changes lives so it makes sense that if you want to grow spiritually you must be studying God’s Word personally. **Beginning August 23rd at 10:45 AM you will have a choice of two classes with that goal in mind.**

- Norman Hubbard will be teaching a class based on his upcoming book titled “Calling God Names” which looks at seven Old Testament names for God used by the Israelites.
- Torrence Sparkman will be leading a study of Bible leaders in order to glean principles of leadership from their examples.

Also offered this fall...

- “Welcome to TCBC” for visitors and new attenders will be offered during the 10:45 a.m. hour beginning Aug. 23.

(This class will be used to greet and meet visitors and new attenders to help them connect and assimilate into TCBC. You can help by bringing visitors and newcomers downstairs to the fellowship time and encouraging them to stay for the casual introduction to TCBC while you attend one of the other classes.)

- International Discipleship Class beginning Sept. 13 at 9 a.m. Led by Maggie Courtright and others, this class is designed for international students or those who have a heart for the nations. Participants will gather for a time of teaching, sharing and prayer as they discuss starting and continuing a relationship with Jesus. The primary resource will be the book of Acts, looking at how God worked in the lives of the early followers of Jesus.

Further class descriptions will be available on the TCBC web site.

TCBC is blessed with an incredible number of excellent teachers with background and expertise on a broad range of topics who are willing to share their gifts on Sunday morning. Already a number of these gifted teachers have indicated a desire to be available this coming year and the calendar of classes is beginning to be filled. Details will be announced as they become finalized on the TCBC web site.



life is
difficult*

* study hard

DID YOU KNOW?

Did You Know?

- Kaelyn Faith was born on June 7th to TCBC missionaries Steve, April & Andrew Volle.
- TCBC alumni Will & Tiffany (Meier) O'Brien had a baby boy, Liam, on June 2nd. Proud grandparents are Bill & Mindy Meier.
- Isabella Caroline was born to Steve and Amy Jaeger on July 23. She weighed 9 lbs. and was 21 1/2 inches long.



THANK YOU!

Thanks to those who helped with KidsTime Wonders of Worship

This summer in KidsTime we are taking an in-depth look at each component of the TCBC sanctuary service. We hope to help the children understand why we do what we do...and to equip them to be active participants in corporate worship. So far we have talked about:

- How to get ready for worship on Saturday night
- "Out loud" worship with hymns and the praise band
- "Be still" worship as we listen to the choir
- Praying along with the pastor

We send a huge thank you to our special guests who have helped us learn about the service: Janet Watkins, Randy Torbeck, Pastor Steve Jaeger, Pastor Shannon Caughey, Dizzy Deano, and Al Bert. Our third graders have been great "radio interviewers" to get to know our special guests and the part they play in our church service.

WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING?

TCBC Choirs Starting Soon

Calling Singers of All Ages! The choirs are waiting for you! *"Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of his name; Make his praise glorious! --Psalm 66: 1-2*

What a wonderful opportunity we have before us to use our God-given gifts in worshipping Him through music! Please join us, whether you are a veteran choir member or one who has thought about singing in the choir but never taken the step!

- **Children's Choir will begin on Monday, August 17 from 4:00 - 4:45 PM in Discipleland**
- **Adult Choir will begin on Wednesday, August 19 from 6:30 - 8:00 PM in the Sanctuary**

Summer Schedule

Sundays, July 12-August 16:

10:15 a.m. Worship Service

(Children's programs for infant through third grade only.)

International Women's Connection

Volunteer Opportunity

The International Women's Connection (IWC) meets in the TCBC Fellowship Hall, every WED morning, from Sept – early May. We meet from 9:00 -10:00 am for an English class, and 10:00 – 11:30 for various programs. The purpose of the IWC is to provide international and American women a place to meet for friendship and opportunities to learn together. Any interested American women are welcome to join our meetings at any time.

Babysitters Needed

The International Women's Connection will be needing babysitters to provide childcare for our meetings every Wed from 9-11:30 am, starting September 9. These are paid positions. Please contact Ruth Krehbiel if you are interested.

Items needed for annual garage sale

One special event we hold every September is a "free garage sale" to provide basic household items to the international community. This year it will be on **Wednesday, Sept. 16**. We would appreciate donations of furniture, bikes, household items and children's clothes or toys. We do not have a storage area to hold these so if they could be brought to the church 1-2 days before the sale, that would be perfect. Any questions – please contact Ruth Krehbiel.

WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING? (CONT.)

Kitchen Items Left Behind

A variety of pans, serving dishes and bowls have been accumulating in the kitchen following potlucks and cook outs. If you see something that belongs to you on the table in the foyer, **please claim it by August 9th**. Remaining items will be either added to the kitchen collection or donated.

It's Time to Volunteer in CE!

Volunteer rosters for fall are being planned already. While many of our college students are returning this fall, many also graduated or are doing internships, student teaching etc, and this means we have an opening for you to serve in a children's class. One of the most pressing needs is for preschool lead teachers, when we return to the full morning schedule, in addition to classroom assistants. The TCBC baby boom of 2007-2008 is filling the preschool classrooms almost to overflowing. In order to provide a safe environment in which teaching can take place, it takes many hands to assist the little ones. Also we have a special child who benefits from having one on one assistance. If you would like to learn more about these opportunities or any other opportunities in the children's ministry, please contact Kay Miller, Minister of Christian Education, by calling the church office or by making a post on the TCBC web site.

Family Resource Day

Hundreds of families receive prayer, school supplies, food, medical care and clothing during the annual Family Resource Day, hosted this year on **Saturday, Aug. 8** by the Christian Mercy and Justice Network (a unity group among the churches of Champaign-Urbana). **Come and participate!** Nearly 100 volunteers are needed throughout the week before the event to load backpacks with supplies and on Aug. 8 in the morning to pray with families, help families carry items to their vehicles, offer water to those waiting in line, direct parking, host children's activities and more! Contact Jaime Olson to sign up or to get more information. This is a great activity for a family or small group to participate in together.

C-U Christian Women's Connection

The August C-U Women's Connection luncheon will take place at **12:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 25** at the Round Barn Conference Center in Champaign. Jamie Davis of the American Red Cross will give a presentation, music will be provided by Kim Pagel of Mahomet and the speaker will be Rachel Snodgrass of Sheboygan, WI, speaking on the topic, "In and Out of Control." Tickets are \$11.00. Reservations should be made by Aug. 21 by calling 356-3186.

TREASURER'S UPDATE FOR JUNE 2009

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>		
Giving	\$53,231	\$60,566	(\$7,335)	Opening Reserve	\$142,360
Expenses	\$60,819	\$60,566	(\$253)	Change	\$ (7,588)
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Excess (Short)	(\$7,588)		(\$7,588)	Reserve Remaining	\$134,772

August 2009 Prayer Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Praise God for all the wonderful summer CE volunteers!	3 Pray that God will show TCBC how to be a thriving and flourishing church.	4 Thank God that we live in a place where we can worship freely and spread His Word without persecution.	5 Pray for students and instructors as they finish up break and prepare for a new semester.	6 Pray for wisdom for the missions committee as they meet tonight.	7 Pray that God will bring additional people to join the Business Administration committee.	8 Pray for a smooth transition in worship and music as TCBC goes through changes.
9 Pray that covenant groups incorporate community building, God's Word, and outreach.	10 Praise for God's prompting people's hearts in the area of giving this spring.	11 Pray that God will continue to guide us in the privilege of giving.	12 Pray that the worship planning committee will have wisdom to plan meaningful worship.	13 Pray for wisdom for planning adult CE classes for the fall semester.	14 Pray for our parish campus ministry partners as they prepare to welcome new students.	15 Pray God would move those who desire to worship Him through singing to come to choir practices.
16 Thank God that He has blessed us with a day of rest each week.	17 Pray for new students as they adjust to leaving their homes for the first time.	18 Pray for international students, who must adjust to a new culture as well as an academic environment.	19 Pray for students who have to come to college when there are difficult things happening at home.	20 Pray for students who are searching, that they will find Jesus Christ.	21 Pray for all students, that their experiences will bring them closer to God.	22 Thank God for the students, who bring vibrancy to TCBC.
23 Pray for Pastor Allen and others as they reach out to students on Quad Day.	24 Pray for a smooth first day of classes.	25 Pray for the TCBC leaders at the leadership retreat today, that they will feel refreshed and focused.	26 Thank God for the diversity He has given to TCBC.	27 Pray Business Admin comm. will allow God to guide all aspects of their activities, values and goals.	28 Pray for Small Group ministry as they launch new ministry plan.	29 Pray for students as they look for a church home. Pray that many would find a home at TCBC.
30 Pray for new people in church to be able to feel welcomed and loved.	31 Pray for wisdom in how to place people in covenant groups.					

August Birthdays

John Jung 08/01
Sally Ivaska 08/02
Brad Niemerg 08/02
Jan Wetzel 08/03
Brian Boughton 08/05
Kristina Engberg 08/06
Kim Mills 08/06
Emily Hartstirn 08/07
Wendy Michels 08/08
Tim Rowell 08/08
Joshua Caughey 08/09
Lara Canales 08/11
Brandon Carter 08/11
Dick Jamison 08/11
Marillia Majercak 08/13
Don Day 08/14
Teofilo Carrillo 08/15
Nanci Erkert 08/16
Emanuel Martin 08/16
Trevor Risinger 08/16

Rebecca Rodgers 08/17
Matthew Purnell 08/18
Christopher Powell 08/19
Sue Foreman 08/20
Sarah Beth Campos 08/22
Brandon Smith 08/22
Scott Althaus 08/23
Jaime Olson 08/23
Wes Goudy 08/26
Maggie Courtright 08/27
Carrie Blount 08/28
Marissa Olson 08/28
Zachary Olson 08/28
David McNamara 08/31

Wes & Victoria Goudy 08/05
Sam & Rachel Nelson 08/05
Chris & Emily Jewell 08/06
Bruce & Jan Miller 08/07
Keith & Susan Nachtigall 08/07
Pete & Sue Foreman 08/08
Michael & Bonnie Halcomb 08/08
Clint & Shelly Stearns 08/09
Tim & Ruth Mininger 08/10
Matt & Michelle Schwenk 08/13
Ron & Louise Walder 08/16
Phil & Amy Lewis 08/17
Darrel & Sheila King 08/19
David & Kara Preston 08/19
Ron & Nancy Angerer 08/20
Jon & Connie Bryan 08/25
Bill & Marilyn Secor 08/25
Tim & Jordan Gillins 08/30
Lance & Betsy Gorrell 08/30

August Anniversaries

Brian & Lauren Mann 08/02
Jeff & Sandy Yockey 08/02
Fred & Judy Kolb 08/04
Steve & April Volle 08/04



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