



the Cornerstone *Shepherd*



Volume Five
Summer 2011

Heard Around the CCC *Office*

Pastor of Care: CCC is delighted to welcome Pastor Rich Higby to its pastoral staff. He is new to CCC's staff, but is no stranger to our local community! A detailed bio on Pastor Rich is on our church website, www.cornerstonenj.org under the tab "Our Staff" in the "About Us" section. He just joined us in July, so if you were on vacation or somehow missed the announcement about his arrival here, you're not too far behind the times!

Kids: Kerri Niebles, who was out on maternity leave for a while this Spring and summer, is back at work. She and Sarah Marshall provided a seamless maternity transition time and now are geared up to work together to lead Cornerstone's various Kids Ministries.

Student: An official warm welcome can go out to

Nicole Vietri: she served as an intern in Youth Ministries for the past two years and has now joined CCC's staff on a part-time basis. She fills a much-needed female leadership role within the youth groups. Nicole is pursuing a graduate degree in Counseling, which is obviously equipping her with even more skill and expertise in her interactions with the youth at Cornerstone.

College and 20 Somethings: "Ignition," as this ministry is called, is running strong. It has, as the word describes, ignited! The buzz in this ministry, of course, is the transition of leadership, with Pastor Miguel Lau preparing to depart for India sometime in the early Fall, and Pastor Jonathan Frank is stepping in to lead the group. This transition is truly akin to the passing of a baton in a relay race, though, because Pastor Frank has been involved in Ignition's leadership for quite some time.

Register your Small Group *Online* 8/14-9/4

Online registration starts this Sunday, August 14. Visit the CCC web site to fill out the online form. This format has worked well for the past few years. New to shepherding or have questions about the process? Contact Susan Spoelstra for help or more information.

Save the Date: 11/20/11

Shepherd Dinner

This year's annual Shepherd Dinner is going to take place on Sunday, November 20 from 6:00-8:30 PM.

Please mark it on your calendar. The evening will include dinner and a program designed to enrich you personally as you serve God in leadership at CCC.



Ministry Connect 2011 is an event taking place on Sunday morning, September 18, from 10 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. in the lawn area between the two main campus buildings. This is an opportunity for everyone at Cornerstone to meet ministry leaders, discover a place to serve

using their gifts and talents, hear about upcoming ministry events, and to meet small group shepherds.

There is a space in the Small Group Online Registration form for shepherds to indicate if they will be present at this event. Let's have a strong shepherd presence at Ministry Connect 2011!

Summer SALT

A summer SALT session is bringing a handful of new shepherds into Cornerstone's leadership "fold." If you know of someone who wanted to or should have attended, but for whatever reason did not make it to this summer's SALT, please contact Pastor Curt or Susan Spoelstra. There's already talk of setting up the next round to equip more leaders this Fall.

A New Small Group Especially for

Working Women

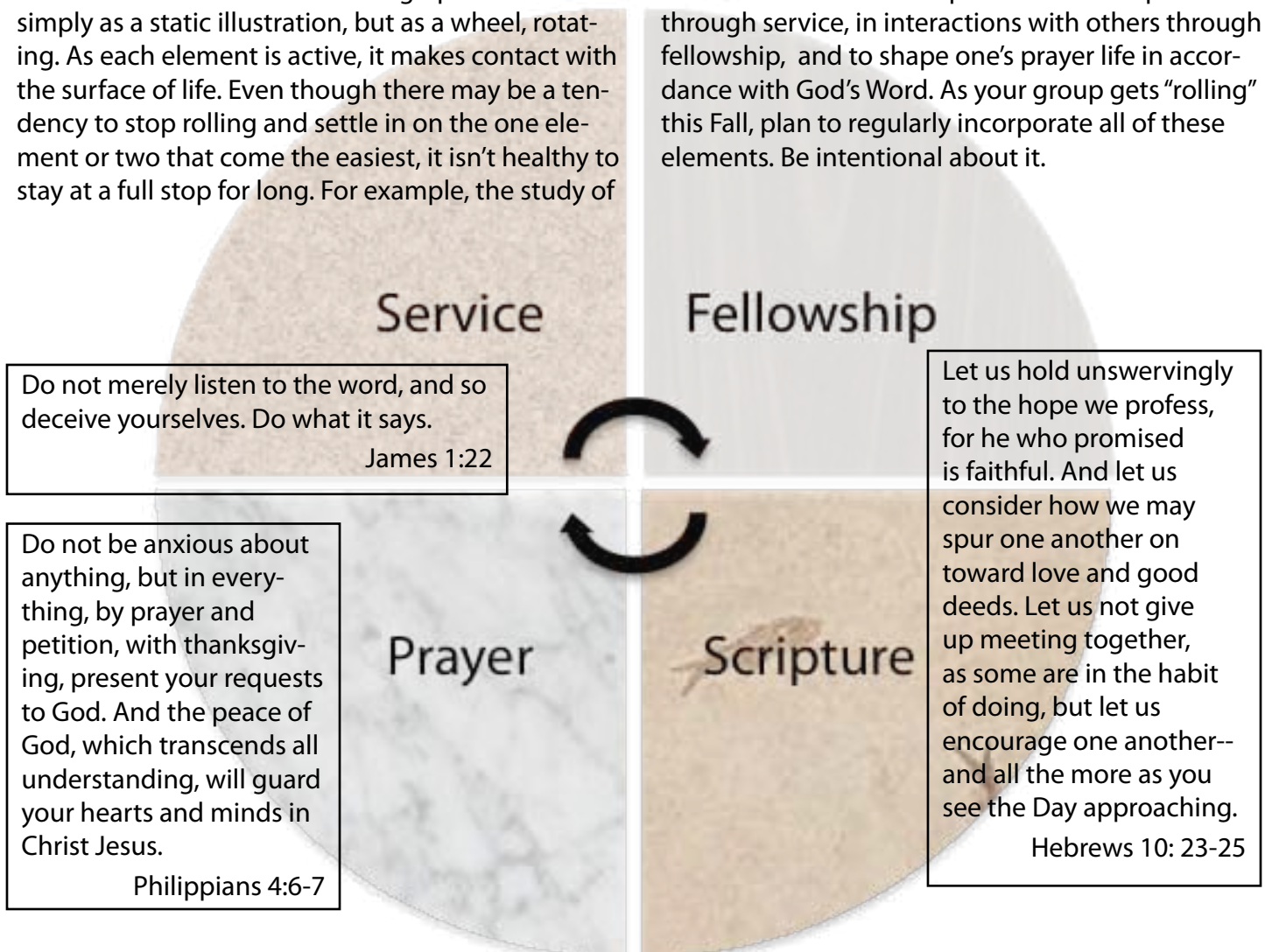
One of the women who is going through SALT this summer is interested in starting up a new small group that would meet early on Friday mornings. Does this pique your interest? Surely there is another lady shepherd out there who is open to helping lead this kind of group! We would love to

see this develop into a vibrant ministry serving CCC's many women in the workplace. This co-shepherd need not be a working woman, as long as she has a passion to serve this dynamic demographic within our church community. Please contact Pastor Curt or Susan Spoelstra for more information.

Small Group *Key Elements*

Service, Fellowship, Scripture, and Prayer are key elements to all small groups, central elements in the life of a Christian. Picture the graphic below not simply as a static illustration, but as a wheel, rotating. As each element is active, it makes contact with the surface of life. Even though there may be a tendency to stop rolling and settle in on the one element or two that come the easiest, it isn't healthy to stay at a full stop for long. For example, the study of

Scripture is essential, but simply amassing knowledge is not going to produce fruit in one's life. This is what's also needed: to put its truth into practice through service, in interactions with others through fellowship, and to shape one's prayer life in accordance with God's Word. As your group gets "rolling" this Fall, plan to regularly incorporate all of these elements. Be intentional about it.



A Small Group Resource Guide is available of recommended study materials. (In email, it's an attached pdf.)