



# the Cornerstone *Shepherd*



Volume Six  
Fall 2011

This year's annual Shepherd Dinner will take place on Sunday evening, November 20, from 6:00-8:00 PM. We will "Keep it Real Around the Table" with a meal catered by Sanducci's and a program led by Pastor Curt, Susan Spoelstra, and a few of our own CCC shepherds. Please come to this evening designed to "feed" our church leaders: you, the shepherds of Cornerstone.

[click here to register](#)

<https://cornerstonenj.smartevents.com/public/events/shepherd-dinner-2>



## Register Art of Marriage Couples Retreat

The above is supposed to read "Register Online Art of Marriage Couples' Retreat." Something went wrong, and it's all jumbled up. If you know what the words are, you can sort of see it, but overall it just looks like a mess. Marriage can get like that: many start out looking great; but then over time resemble messy chaos instead of the beautiful ART marriage is intended to be. The upcoming marriage retreat is designed to come alongside all couples, encouraging and building up each one. Some may need to get a few things sorted out, as in the font problem above, and others may need a more drastic reworking on the canvas of their marriage. Whatever the case may be, there will be something for every couple.

The six-session video retreat, "The Art of Marriage" will be held at church on Friday night and Saturday during the day January, 20-21. Go to [www.familylife.com](http://www.familylife.com) for more information about this retreat, to see promotional videos, and to see other resources that Familylife offers.

Suggestions for Shepherds:

[click here to register](#)

<https://cornerstonenj.smartevents.com/2012-couples-retreat>

1. Set aside some time in your small group to watch the 12 minute "guided tour" video which gives an overview of the retreat, and to encourage couples represented in your group to attend.
2. Brainstorm possible childcare scenarios within your small group. Be creative! Some groups may want to bring the children together and have one couple provide childcare, while others attend, or group it so that couples trade off and only have to miss one session. The sessions are accessible on the web to retreat attendees, so if someone has to miss a session they don't have to completely miss out.
3. Look through the Familylife web site and consider hosting an "Art of Marriage" small group that would start in February after the retreat. Or, choose one of the other books or follow-up video resources for small group use.

## Winter Cohorts

Shortly, small group shepherds will be contacted regarding getting together in the winter, primarily on a Sunday morning, for a cohort meeting. This is a rich time of fellowship and interaction with Pastor Curt, Susan Spolstra, and other shepherds.

How's your small group going? Can't wait to hear!

## A New Small Group Especially for

### People Who Can Identify with Job

In a few weeks, Pastor Fred will be wrapping up this Fall's sermon series on the book of Job. We will then enter into the season of Advent and move on with our church year. It has been very clear, however, that many people in our congregation have resonated deeply with the life of Job. Therefore, we

are planning to form a 10-week small group that will start in January and focus on some of the issues that were stirred up during this very moving study. If you have an interest in helping to lead this group or want more information, please contact Pastor Curt.

If you make the Most High your dwelling--even the LORD, who is my refuge, then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent. For He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent. "Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation."

Psalm 91:11-16



Power lines down across the road, caution/high voltage tape across the gate, a red car parked blocking the street for days. An attendant keeping watch, so no one would get hurt. "He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you in all your ways..." came to mind.

Now, the car is gone, the power back on. But Psalm 91, and God's loving watch-care, is still real.

## Small Group Key Elements

Live a life worthy of the Lord, pleasing him in every way; bearing fruit in every good work...

part of Colossians 1:10  
(paraphrased)

Service

As a shepherd, keep an eye on your flock, tending and caring for your "sheep" during this season of the year. November and December can be very hard for some!

Fellowship

Prayer

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

Colossians 4:2

Scripture

Don't skimp on biblical content! All CCC small groups depend on God's Word for instruction and guidance for life.