



# COMMUNITY MATTERS

a service of the Community Groups Team at Cuyahoga Valley Church

FEB / MAR 2011

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

## Community Matters Training Is Upon Us

ATTENTION all Community Group leaders! Community Group leaders along with small group leaders in every ministry at CVC will gather together early in March for a church-wide training event. As usual, we are really trying to enable your attendance by offering this same training event at two different times. The two available sessions are:

- Saturday, March 5th from 8:30am - 11:30am (8:30-9am breakfast)
- Sunday, March 6th from 1pm - 4pm (1-1:30pm lunch)

Childcare is available at these events (upon request). Please choose one of these two dates to attend. Also be thinking of any potential leaders in your group that you would like to invite. If you are not a group leader, but are considering becoming one, you're welcome to join us. **RSVP to Jackie Puliafico, [jpuliafico@cvconline.org](mailto:jpuliafico@cvconline.org), (440) 972-2252** with which session you're attending, how many are coming, and the details of your childcare needs.

This *Community Matters* training will be focused on the topic of "Caring Through Prayer." The training will feature guest speaker, Pastor Joe Abraham. Here's what Pastor Dale Piscura said about Joe:

*"Pastor Joe has been a servant of Christ and the church of Greater Cleveland for over three decades. He has sought to be a kingdom builder giving himself sacrificially for the cause of Christ throughout Northeast Ohio. God has used Joe within Cleveland's Christian community as an example of a shepherd-leader. He is dear friend and fellow warrior."*

Here is what Pastor Rick Duncan said about Joe:

*"I have known Joe for over 20 years. Every other Monday, I meet with Joe and a few other spiritual leaders for growth and accountability. Joe is truly one of the most respected and loved local church pastors in NE Ohio. His ability to serve the greater body of Christ minister across racial, cultural, and socio-economic barriers has made him to be a leader of leaders. I am honored to count him as a co-laborer and as a friend."*

We believe it will be a challenging and impactful event. We look forward to seeing you all there!

—Community Groups Team

## Looking Ahead

### Missions Connect

Sunday, February 27th from 5-7pm and  
8:30-10pm at CVC in the  
lower level

### Community Matters Training

Saturday, March 5th from 8:30-11:30am  
& Sunday, March 6th from 1-4pm

All group leaders or those considering becoming  
a leader should plan to attend

### Balanced:

#### Gaining & Maintaining Financial Stability

Sunday, March 6th 9:30am-10:30am  
& Wednesday, March 16th from 7-8:30pm

### How to Study the Bible

Wednesday, March 16th from 7-9pm

### Walk Thru the Old Testament

Wednesday, March 16th from 7-9pm

### Ladies Latté

Monday, March 7th & April 4th from 7-8:30pm

### Ash Wednesday: Concert of Prayer

Wednesday, March 9th from 7-9pm in the  
CVC auditorium

### Women's Craft & Fellowship Night

Friday, March 11th from 7-10pm

### WellSpring Women's Ministry Spring Lunch

Saturday, May 7th from 11am - 2pm

## Book of the Month



### Crazy Love by Francis Chan

This book has been recommended at least once in recent sermons for the CVC body to read. It is available for purchase on Amazon.com or just about any other book retailer.

For small groups, a DVD is available featuring short videos for the purpose of discussion. If your group would like to use this study, please contact Dan Fries, [dfries@cvconline.org](mailto:dfries@cvconline.org), (440) 972-2274.

Published by the Community Groups Ministry of [Cuyahoga Valley Church](http://CuyahogaValleyChurch.org).  
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## ***Recommended Study Plan***

Our Community Group decided recently to move away from a packaged study and start basing our group discussion on the prior weekend's sermon. Some of the advantages of this approach (compared to a typical group study) are:

- Each person in our group is forced to pay attention during the sermon (or watch it online before group)
- The key themes, texts, and applications from the sermon are reinforced midweek (we meet on Wednesday night)
- Decisions and questions from the sermon can be shared and followed up with during group meetings.
- An increased sense of unity and connectedness with the rest of CVC church family will result.
- There is one less decision to make in regard to what our group will study next.
- Study materials are free and there are no worries about collecting money.

Our goal is to begin publishing a study guide for each sermon that will be made available to group leaders. If you're interested in getting this study guide, please contact me at [dfries@cvconline.org](mailto:dfries@cvconline.org), (440) 972-2274.

–Pastor Dan Fries

## **How Is Your Group Serving?**

We hope you took advantage of the Serve Connect in January. Those who attended discovered some great opportunities to use their gifts and talents to serve the body of Christ here at CVC. Even in a group, it is easy to have a blind spot in the area of service and outreach – members can get so focused on nurturing their head and their heart that their hands grow idle. We hope the Serve Connect and the upcoming Missions Connect (see date in right column) will inspire you to step out of your comfort zone and be the hands of Christ to others. Community Group leaders, Tim & Cindy Smith, have shared with us how their group serves together. I hope it encourages you!

*I'm Cindy Smith and my business is catering. My husband Tim is a general contractor. We have had many wonderful opportunities during the almost 3 years our group has been together, to use our skills along with our community group to serve at CVC. A few examples include making and selling pulled pork sandwiches to raise money for the Impact youth group. Tim's Saturday morning men's group along with the men from our couples group put a roof on a woman's house and the women prepared and served lunch to the workers. We catered lunch for the Community Group Leaders training session where we prepared soup, salad, sandwiches and brownies! The men were even making tiny meatballs for the Italian wedding soup while they had a baseball game on TV. We all have had a great time working together, and the positive feedback we received make's it even better.*

*Recently, Brian Howell asked me to cater the Worship Arts Team Christmas party, and I knew our group was ready to step up again and serve. Since the majority of our group has never worked in a restaurant, they were a bit nervous, but their generous hearts won, and there we were all dressed in black and white, ready and excited to serve approximately 100 people that have done so much for our church. We made punch and coffee, prepared and served salads, served and replenished a buffet dinner of pot roast, chicken in a mushroom cream sauce, stuffed shells, potatoes and green beans, cleared plates, refilled water, cleaned up spills, prepared and served cherries jubilee for dessert. Afterward we gathered in the kitchen together to devour the leftovers. Everyone did an amazing job!*

*An anonymous donor paid for the dinner and included a gratuity in the check. We had a great time as a group at our Christmas party planning what to do with our tip. We decided to donate the money to Laura's Home, which is a woman's shelter that is part of the City Mission. We went as a group on a Saturday afternoon to tour the facility and present our check. What a blessing that was for all of us to see the fruit of our hard work. We had a good connection before, but these projects have really given us the opportunity to grow in our relationships with each other. Of course we had to have lunch afterward too, our group loves to eat!*

**Are you "on mission" for Christ? A great way to find out about mission opportunities is at the Mission Connect at CVC on Sunday, February 27, 2011. from 5-7pm and 8:30 -10:00pm!**

## **IGNITE: Read 365 Key Chapters in the Bible**

For 2011, we are asking everyone to read through at least 365 key chapters of the Bible. Imagine the kinds of conversations we can have throughout our church family if we are all reading through the same scripture passages together, encouraging and teaching each other toward greater passion along the way. Let's join together in this reading plan, looking to see how God will speak to all of us through His Word in 2011.

Pick up your copy of this guide at the information table.

**Ignite your passion for Jesus, the One who invites you to live passionately.**

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