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Blessings of a Small Group
Joanne Zehnder, St. Andrew's Member

Almost ten years ago Bart and I joined St. Andrew's after moving to this area. Because St. Andrew's is much larger than the church we left, we felt the need to find ways to get "connected," knowing that we did not want to just be "Sunday morning spectators." Along with the Nasviks, longtime dear friends, we each invited two other couples for Bible study in our homes. After two couples dropped out in the first year or so, two new couples joined our study group. We are still meeting almost monthly for prayer, study and fellowship, rotating host homes and facilitation of discussions. Over the years we have used various published Bible studies, *The Purpose Driven Life*, and now are discussing different sermons compiled in *Sermons from Duke Chapel*.

God has blessed us with deep and meaningful friendships as we have studied His Word together, encouraged and offered prayer support to one another, prayed for our church, and done many fun things together. I have come to realize that true fellowship occurs only when we take the time to get real with each other. We have lifted each other up through many joys and sorrows, achievements and disappointments in the last nine years. The time together has helped us grow deeper in our relationship with Jesus Christ and made us more accountable to one another as we participate in discussion and hear others share insights.

We are inspired now to help form and nurture many more small groups at St. Andrew's. The potential is great for Christian growth through small groups!