

September 2006

The first member of the first small group was Andrew, who then brought his brother Peter and so on. We know the history of the effects of the work of that first Christian small group, because we are beneficiaries of that work. The Early Church obviously started small whereas we find ourselves in a large church. Large can mean impersonal and that can lead to ineffectiveness as well, if members do not become involved. The same Holy Spirit stands ready to help us to regain the vibrancy that empowered the Early Church.

St. Andrew's "Small Group Taskforce" is planning an exciting introduction for those who might be interested in investigating joining a small group. Most of us on the committee have been involved in one or more small groups – I am no exception. I now realize that once you have experienced a small group, it is likely that you will find yourself joining more. I have participated in many such groups, but the one I would like to tell you about is a bi-weekly meeting of six guys who experience most small group benefits listed below. We are currently enjoying the stimulating insights offered by a slow walk through C.S. Lewis's "Screwtape Letters."

**Benefits of small group:**

- **Share common interest**
- **Share service opportunities**
- **Bible study**
- **Sharing life's problems**
- **Prayer**
- **Fellowship**

The common thread here is sharing. Sharing makes the load lighter and the job easier, because our various talents and experience, together with the leading of the Holy Spirit, enrich not only our lives but those around us. Next month you will learn more about the introductory program we are planning for early next year.

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