

NCD Action Plan Summary

For September '07 thru June '08

Based on congregational input, the NCD Church Health Team along with interested church members have developed a Action Plan to address the area of Passionate Spirituality throughout the Epworth community in the next ten months.

It is believed that a passion for God grows out of an intimate Love relationship with God that allows us to experience Him more fully in our everyday lives, and that it is through the practice of the basic disciplines of faith that this becomes possible.

It is also believed that one of the best descriptions of these disciplines is found in the book "Power Surge" by Michael W. Foss and are defined there as the "Six Marks of Discipleship". This book speaks to the amazing power and change that can be generated by a congregation's re-commitment to these basic faith practices.

The Six Marks of Discipleship are:

1. Pray Daily
2. Worship Weekly
3. Read the Bible daily
4. Serve at and beyond Epworth
5. Be relational and encourage spiritual growth in others
6. Give of your time, talents, and resources

While the main emphasis of the NCD Action Plan is on Discipleship, Experiencing God, and Passionate Spirituality, there is also a recognized need to overcome our fear of sharing our faith and to be able to embrace change and be more open in our relationship with other members and people in general. These are all related and can affect our passion for God.

The overall strategy of the NCD Action Plan for Passionate Spirituality is:

1. Ignite the “fire” with a Core Spiritual Team that will form small groups that hold each other accountable for The Six Marks of Discipleship and share everyday God experiences.
2. Grow the “fire” through Epworth leaders by starting to establish spiritual expectations for all leadership positions as well as encouraging support for NCD efforts in all areas of the church.
3. Spread the “fire” throughout the entire congregation, by encouraging members to “join-in” the journey to grow in faith, experience God more fully, and ignite a passion for God in their hearts.

To support these efforts, there will be Bible Studies during the year for Prayer, Faith Sharing, and Discipleship. Prayer warriors will lift up our church and members to God each day. There will be a Resource List for people who want to “dig-in” on their own, and a special communications effort will constantly encourage all of us to strive for a closer relationship with God through Discipleship. We pray that all these will fan the flames of Passionate Spirituality in each one of us and throughout Epworth.