

November 2007

Dear North Shore Fellowship,

"So I exhort the elders among you...shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight..." 1 Pt 5:1-2

We're serious about this! Our mission to **enjoy and embody Jesus Christ to the North Shore, Chattanooga, and the world** requires that every member of our flock be under care! With a membership that has doubled in the past year-and-a-half, that's a challenge! But we believe every sheep needs a shepherd, and every believer possesses gifts to help one another grow. So we must structure and equip our church body to *participate in the gospel together*.

As you know, this fall we have initiated major effort to get more of our church body into fellowships around the city. Our hope is that through our **fellowship groups**, we would *participate in the gospel* by caring for one another and moving out together for mission in the city.

This fall, Al, Robby, and I have distributed pastoral responsibility according to an oversight plan that encompasses where everyone lives in the greater Chattanooga area. As **pastors**, we are overseeing our **overseers**. They are overseeing **fellowship group facilitators**. And fellowship group facilitators are overseeing **each member involved**. We're just beginning. It's not at all perfect. But it's actually beginning to help us shepherd this flock more faithfully.

Al Allison, our small groups director, serves as the area pastor for Lookout Valley, Signal Mountain, Red Bank, Soddy Daisy, and Dayton. He is responsible to help **Jim and Catherine Eldridge** oversee Lookout Valley; **Tom and Laura Ryan** to oversee Signal Mountain; and **Bob and Lil Andrews** to oversee Red Bank, Soddy, and Dayton.

Robby Holt, our assistant pastor, serves as the area pastor for Brainerd, East Ridge, Southside, Downtown, Highland Park, St. Elmo, Flinstone, and Lookout Mountain. He is responsible to help **John and Dianne Zeglen** oversee Brainerd and East Ridge; **Gary and Pat Lindley** to oversee Southside, Downtown, and Highland Park; **Roger and Sarah Lambert** to oversee St. Elmo and Flinstone; and **Mike and Judy Rulon** to oversee Lookout Mountain.

I, (**Gary**) serve as the area pastor for North Chattanooga, Rivermont, Hixson, Harrison, Ooltewah, East Brainerd, and North Georgia. I am responsible to help **Roger and Mickey Vieth** to oversee North Chattanooga; **Rodger and Suzanne Piersant** to oversee Rivermont and Hixson; **Dick and Sarah Allen** to oversee Harrison and Ooltewah; and **Steve and Cindy McIlvaine** to oversee East Brainerd and North Georgia.

We pray that relationships would develop so that when the good, the bad, and the ugly are going on in your life, you would *share your life* with your fellowship group. We also pray that a *sense of mission* would develop in your group for your neighbors. As the Lord gives you desire for particular people or groups of people, we hope you will bring this desire to your fellowship. Perhaps others will share in your desire to reach out!

Each **fellowship group facilitator** has responsibility to care for the members of the group. Each **overseer** has responsibility to see how he can help fellowship group facilitators develop healthy fellowships where people participate in the gospel together. Each **area pastor** has responsibility to support and assist each overseer under his care.

Our hope is that structuring ourselves for pastoral care and mission in this manner will empower every member of our fellowship to minister to one another, provide every sheep with multiple layers of care, and move us out in mission within our neighborhoods and other spheres of influence in the city. So, please *participate together in the gospel* as North Shore FELLOWSHIP!

Grateful for you,

Gary Purdy