

# North River Communities

What are we doing?

In order to support the spiritual growth of the church, North River is transitioning from a single large church that always meets together to a church made up of local Communities.

This is in keeping with our North River vision statement.

We are a diverse family of believers who answered the call to be disciples of Jesus Christ. We are being transformed by God's Word, His Grace, and the Holy Spirit.

Through small groups and deep relationships with one another, we imitate Jesus' ministry and join in His mission to make and mature disciples while we care for the needs of people. We do this to save as many as possible for the glory of God.

And our church motto.

Love God. Love people. Change the world.

## Communities

1. A "Community" is a group of Family Groups with a local focus. In many ways it acts like a small church, but it is not a separate church. (Please try to call them "Communities" instead of "Community Groups". It sounds less like church jargon.)
2. We have effectively had five Communities operating already: Intown, East, Deep South, North Campus, and South Campus.
3. We are adding six new Communities: Kennesaw, East Cobb, West Cobb, Central Marietta, North Marietta, and Marietta Square.
4. Each Community will have a leadership couple (most of whom are on staff) and a leadership team.
5. Each Community Leadership Team will make decisions about how to do 3 out of 4 midweek services each month (at 320 Austin Ave, by Community offsite, or by Family Groups), occasional Sunday services offsite, and additional Community events.
6. Each Community Leadership Team will provide training and support for each Family Group Leader to help every member mature spiritually, disciple each other, reach out to those outside the church, and care for the needs of people.
7. The Communities will intentionally be intergenerational (young, old, single, married) and diverse.
8. The renovated "Community Center" on the hill will be very valuable for all kinds of meetings and events that will be done in Communities. Centralized staff and facilities support the Communities.

2018 North River Communities



## Family Groups

1. A Family Group is a small group of members that helps each other grow spiritually through deep relationships with one another. They also meet regularly to share the Bible and reach out.
2. If you are in a Family Group, you can stay with that Family Group. Or your local Community leader can help you find a Family Group. Every member is encouraged to be a part of a Family Group.
3. Communities will give better support to the Family Groups. Communities make family groups more important and effective, not less.
4. If you want help getting involved with a Family Group in your Community, you will be able to do so during the midweeks in October.

## Questions and Answers

Why are we organizing in Communities?

- To support every member's spiritual growth better, in faith, relationships, and life.
- To allow a Leadership Team to focus on a smaller group.
  - Effective shepherding. Raising up new leaders. Making and maturing disciples.
  - Intentional discipling, mentoring, and one another relationships.
- To enable the North River church to grow numerically and spiritually and in influence in our local communities.

When will this begin happening?

- Wed Oct 3 - Communities "orientation" midweek <sup>1</sup>
- Wed Oct 10, 17 - Meet as Communities at the church building. <sup>1</sup> (MS, HS start in Communities)
- Wed Oct 24 - Trunk or Treat at 320 Austin Ave. <sup>2</sup> (No midweek Oct 31)
- Nov 7 - Life Stages at 320 Austin Ave. <sup>1</sup>
- Nov 14, 28 midweeks by Communities. <sup>3</sup> (No midweek Nov 21)
- Dec 5 - All Church at 320 Austin Ave. <sup>1</sup>
- Dec 12, 19 midweeks by Communities. <sup>3</sup> (No midweek Dec 26)
- Jan 2019 - Midweeks all together at 320 Austin Ave. <sup>1</sup>
- Sunday meetings are unchanged through at least Jan 2019

Have you thought about all of the complications with doing this? And how it affects Sunday services, the Children's Ministry, the EDGE Ministry, the Youth and Family Ministry, etc.?

- Discussions have been going on in these ministry groups for months (some places two years).
- The transition will be steady and sensible over the next year, with lots of ongoing consultation.

To whom do I talk to find out more information about Communities?

- Your Community leader. Your Family Group leader. Someone on staff. One of the elders.
- Anyone on the Community Transition Team: Tom Brown, Sherwin Mackintosh, Stephen Adkins, Alex Jackson, Tony Karamitas, Lin Ottenweller, Melissa Tulloch, Mike Johnson, Geoff Chiles, Vivian Hanes, Teregi Coleman, Anne Coleman, Jacinto Hall, Rochelle Hall, Michael Kodinsky.
- Come to midweek services in October, and pray for God to guide us.

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<sup>1</sup> On this midweek, there **will be** regularly scheduled midweek kids, MS, HS classes.

<sup>2</sup> On this midweek, because of Trunk or Treat, the schedule of classes will be completely different. Details to come later.

<sup>3</sup> There **will NOT be** regularly scheduled midweek kids, MS, HS classes. Your Community will make arrangements for them.

| <b>Community (Area)</b>                      | <b>Leaders</b>                | <b>Emails</b>                                             |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Kennesaw (includes Acworth, North Woodstock) | Sherwin and Debbie Mackintosh | sherwinmackintosh@nrcoc.com<br>debbiemackintosh@nrcoc.com |
| East Cobb (includes Sandy Springs)           | Tom and Kelly Brown           | tombrown@nrcoc.com<br>kellybrown@nrcoc.com                |
| Central Marietta                             | Jeff and Kristi Hickman       | jeffhickman@nrcoc.com<br>kristi.hickman@gmail.com         |
| North Marietta (includes South Woodstock)    | Matt and Enid Tchir           | matttchir@nrcoc.com<br>e_tchir@yahoo.com                  |
| Marietta Square (includes Austin Ave)        | Alex and Jasmine Jackson      | alexjackson@nrcoc.com<br>jazzjax14@gmail.com              |
| West Cobb (includes Smyrna, South Cobb)      | Teregi and Anne Coleman       | teregicoleman2@yahoo.com<br>magl001@yahoo.com             |
| Intown                                       | John and Vivian Hanes         | johnhanes@nrcoc.com<br>vivianhanes@nrcoc.com              |
| East                                         | Jacinto and Rochelle Hall     | jacinto.hall@gmail.com<br>rochelle.hall09@gmail.com       |
| Deep South                                   | Gary and Dena Adams           | gwadams01@yahoo.com<br>dena01@icloud.com                  |
| North Campus                                 | Cody and Kirstie Porter       | portercody05@gmail.com<br>kdpulliam@yahoo.com             |
| South Campus                                 | Jordan and LaToya Massey      | jordanmassey@nrcoc.com<br>latoyamassey@nrcoc.com          |