

ANTIOCH COMMUNITY

May 2012

A portion of the skyline of NE Minneapolis as seen from the top of the Mill City Museum in Downtown



Antioch Grows Up celebrating a new season

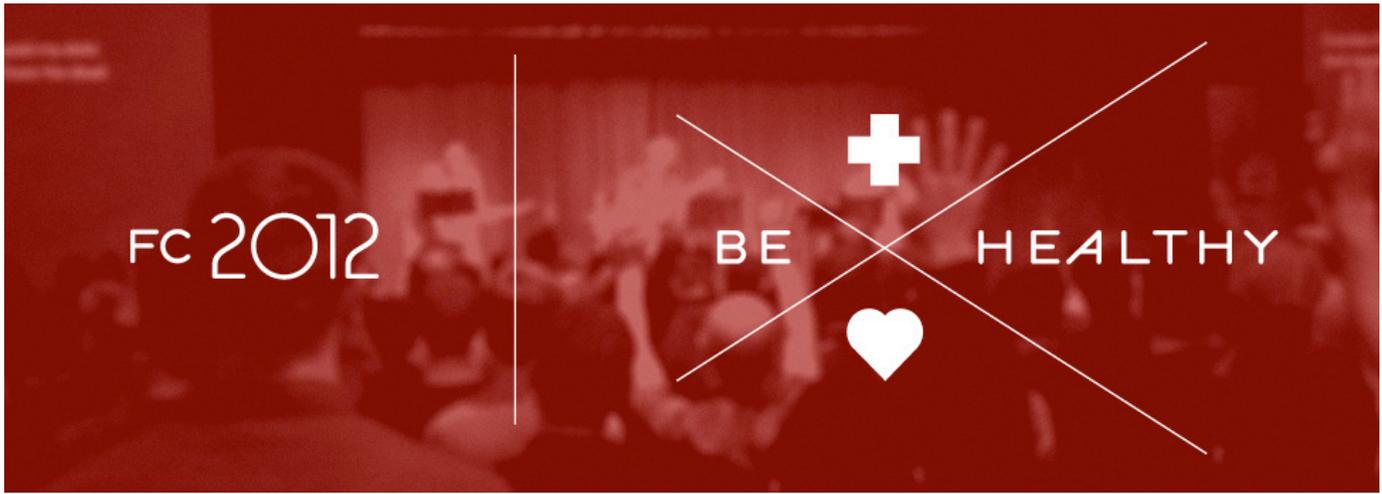
On April 17th, Antioch Community Church was officially welcomed into the Evangelical Free Church family! Church plants are typically given three years to become financially stable and prove they have a viable ministry, so at the annual business meeting of the North Central District, we were affirmed no longer

as a church plant but as a full-grown church.

This was an interesting idea to explain to our people, whose first question was, “Have we not been a church so far??” To clarify, Pastor Jamie explained, “It’s like going from diapers to big boy pants.” No one is

going to forget that analogy for a long time!

We feel so blessed to be a part of the EFCA laboring for the gospel alongside so many other great churches. And we are very excited to see what the Lord has in store for the next phase of Antioch’s journey.



Fight Club 2012: Be Healthy

By Pastor Andy O'Rourke

The movie *Fight Club*, starring Brad Pitt and Edward Norton, premiered in 1999, and quickly became a "cult classic." While it was definitely not Christian in content, this movie resonated with droves of men as it explored themes of violence, aggression, and masculinity. Moved by our passion at Antioch to engage young men with the gospel of Jesus Christ, two years ago we hosted a one-day training event for men called *Fight*

Club; however, unlike the movie, our conference was thoroughly gospel-centered and focused on the way men of all ages can pursue biblical masculinity.

On April 14th, in partnership with the Acts 29 Network we held our third annual men's training day entitled, *Fight Club 2012: Be Healthy*. The line-up of speakers for the day was made up of local church planting pastors who served the attendees well on the theme of living as a healthy man of God. Messages can be downloaded online at fightclubmn.com. We look forward to hosting a similar *Fight Club 2013* event for men next April, so stayed tuned!

Taking SHAPE learning about ourselves

By Coley Bloomquist

Already in 2012 Antioch has seen incredible growth. Yes, we are growing in numbers, but we are also growing in maturity. Like a human body, the Church body grows in size, goes through transitions, and reaches maturity. One of the tools we use to help our people mature is a course called S.H.A.P.E. This six-week intensive guides us through learning about our Spiritual Gifts, Heart passions, Abilities, Personality, and life Experiences.

The students take assessments like Myers-Briggs Personality Type and Strengths Finders 2.0, and spend a lot of time reflecting on their lives and how God has made them. The goal is not to simply analyze ourselves to death, or to appease our egos and talk about how complex we are, but rather to become good students of ourselves so that we can think

critically about where Christ is calling each of us to serve in the Kingdom. We have found that S.H.A.P.E. can illuminate things about anyone and help them see how God can uniquely use what He has given them for His purposes.

This year's group had single folks, newly married couples, an engaged couple, and a middle-aged married couple. That diversity led to vibrant conversations about life direction, identity, personality, and preferences. It's not just the 20-somethings who are asking these questions!

The most exciting part is seeing people who never thought they could be used in the kingdom develop into meaningful partners in the gospel. While we will probably never have many programs at Antioch, this course is one that has proved pivotal in our development and we are looking forward to the Lord continuing to change lives through it!

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

1 Corinthians 12



Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load.

Galatians 6

Gospel-centered, life-transforming understanding of what it means to truly carry one another's burdens. To be the church family that God has called ACC to be, we need to take the relationships we have and the characteristics of them mentioned earlier and go deeper.

This means prayerfully asking "How are you?" and not just using that phrase as a way of greeting. Praying for someone, checking in with them after a period of time, following up with them when you see them again, patiently walking with them and speaking the truth in love. We all need to realize that we do not have to have everything together to carry another person's burden. We do not have to be "on the mountain top" spiritually to carry another's burdens. Sometimes we feel we do not want to burden others with our burdens, when it is as easy as sharing that burden with them and then saying, "Now how about you? Can I pray for, help you in any way?" We also do not have to totally understand the other person's burden to help.

Carry One Another membership and community life

By Pastor Jamie Buchanan

One of my roles here at ACC as Pastor of Community is to be a part of membership interviews. We value membership because we value "family". It is exciting to listen as people tell their stories of transformation as to how the Gospel has changed and is changing their lives. I am trying to pray and ask God to show us how to grow into a genuine, authentic Christ centered community.

I noticed a pattern through the interviews as well as in conversations with other "family members" of ACC. While most feel we are pursuing authenticity by having fun together, talking about scripture together, encouraging one another, and praying for one another there is an element of depth that is missing.

That element comes from Galatians 6:2 which says, "Carry one another's burdens and thus fulfill the law of Christ". On Sunday, May 27th I will be preaching on this passage and the scripture surrounding it to attempt to get a better

I have a tendency to always want to fix people and there are many negative results that can come from that mindset. Relationships are time consuming and messy! What Jesus went through on the cross for us was way worse! I challenge you to prayerfully read and meditate on Galatians 5:16 to Galatians 6:10 and allow the Holy Spirit to open your eyes up to the burdens of other around you and allow others to carry your burdens!





Justine, Coley, Danae, and Hailey at Camp Shamineau to help out with New Hope Church's Women's Retreat.

Building relationships is by far the most effective discipleship training tool we have at our disposal. While we are yet not doing many programmed events for the women of Antioch, we have a high priority on gospel-centered relationships among our women. Through Community Groups and everyday friendships they are learning to live out what it means to be iron sharpening iron, without the training wheels of a programmatic focus. It has been a challenge for some to rely simply on exhorting one another in the truth and doing life together, but the effect is proving to be life changing. I am really excited to see what the Lord has in store for all of these amazing women!

--Coley Bloomquist

2011 By the Numbers...

- 9 Community Groups
- 120 Committed Attenders
- 53 Members
- 3 Baptisms
- 26% Growth
- 75% of Attenders in Community Groups

Prayer Requests

- Multiplication of Community Groups this summer and fall
- Continued faithful giving by our members
- Ministry opportunities in the city during the summer
- Pillsbury Elementary Carnival June 1, where we are volunteering
- Andrew Peterson begins a Church Planting Residency with Antioch in July with the intent to plant a church in Fall 2013

Porterbrook: Twin Cities

an exciting new partnership for leadership development

By Pastor Andy O'Rourke

From the very beginnings of Antioch Community Church we've had a high value for leadership development. There is especially a need to raise up leaders from among younger generations, after all, these men and women are the leaders of the future church. Our passion is to identify potential leaders, equip them for ministry, and empower them to serve Jesus in whatever role or setting he calls them to.

PORTERBROOK LEARNING SYLLABUS

FOUNDATION YEAR				ADVANCED YEAR			
Character	Bible & Doctrine	Church	World	Character	Bible & Doctrine	Church	World
Gospel Living	Understanding God's story	Missional Community Life	Apologetics	Living the Cross & Resurrection	The Bible in Missional Perspective	Missional Church & Church Planting	Engaging with Context
Gospel Relationships	The Holy Spirit	Keeping it Missional	Evangelism	Pastoral Care Part One	Bible Teaching in Missional Perspective	Gospel-Centered Leadership	Engaging with the Urban Poor
Gospel Change	Union with Christ	Church History in Missional Perspective	Culture	Pastoral Care Part Two	Bible Truth in Missional Perspective	Beyond the Church Plant	Engaging with the City

info@porterbrooknetwork.org

This coming September we are taking a more intentional step toward our goal to raise up leaders. In partnership with the *Porterbrook Network* (porterbrooknetwork.org) and Trinity City Church (trinitycitychurch.org) in St. Paul, we are launching monthly leadership courses. In all, *Porterbrook* has designed 24 courses that stretch over a two-year period; a curriculum centered around the themes of "gospel, mission, and community." Everyone who participates in these courses will gather one Saturday each month for an interactive seminar covering the reading, studying, and processing they've done for each month's course. We expect a diverse spectrum of participants including new Christians, potential leaders, current leaders, future pastors and church planters, and even individuals currently serving in vocational ministry. Taking this next step in developing leaders is an exciting time in the life of Antioch Community!