

GIRLFRIENDS' GETAWAY

March 20-22 (FRI. 3 PM – SUN. 12 PM) @ Koinonia Conference Grounds

For women of all ages, come explore what it looks like to be brave, to encounter God's brave plan for your life, and to engage with a fresh community of brave women. Space is limited, so be sure to sign up soon. The early bird cost is \$175. The regular cost (after March 1) is \$185. Sign up at westgatechurch.org/brave.

DISCOVER WESTGATE

NEXT Sun, Feb 22 (1-4 pm) @ WestGate Saratoga

If you are new to WestGate or have been around a while, and have not yet connected into community, this is a great place to begin. It is a relaxed way to hear our church's story and vision for Six40 Discipleship from Steve & Dana, as well as to meet others looking to connect. A free meal and childcare are included. Sign up at westgatechurch.org/discover-westgate.

LISTENING WORKSHOP

NEXT Sat, Feb 21 (9 AM - 4 PM) @ WestGate Saratoga. Cost = \$20

How well do you listen? The quality of your listening skills impacts your marriage, your parenting, your friendships, and your work relationships. It is a key to loving others and to being known. Join us as we learn and practice how to listen with warmth, respect, and understanding in this interactive workshop. Sign up at westgatechurch.org/listening.

PEACEMAKER WORKSHOP

14 weeks, Thursdays starting March 12, 7-9pm @ WestGate Saratoga

Resolving Everyday Conflict is a DVD and deep discussion-based study that teaches what the Bible says about conflict and relationships. The Gospel is about God's love that reconciles us to him, and peacemaking takes that reconciling love and applies it to our relationships here on Earth. Together we will explore some topics such as: the root cause of conflict, when to overlook an offense, what makes a good apology, what forgiveness really means, how to deal with difficult people, and more. Join us on Thursdays for 14 weeks starting March 12 from 7-9pm at the Saratoga campus. Email kristin@kristinlawrence.com to sign up. \$8 cost for workbook.

SINGLE & PARENTING

Tuesdays in room 305 (7-8:30 PM) @ WestGate Saratoga

It's not too late to join WestGate's Single & Parenting support group! If you're a single parent, you're probably tired, overwhelmed and feeling a bit underappreciated. Single & Parenting groups exist to share tips and parenting wisdom that will help you find rest, hope and encouragement. Contact Shauna Pepitone at shauna.pepitone@gmail.com for more info. Be sure to include "Single & Parenting" in the subject line.

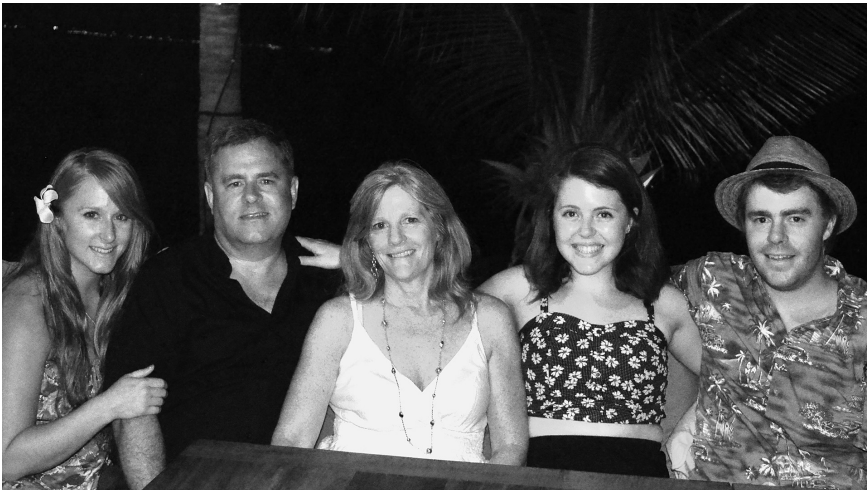


LISTENING AS A CATALYST

A Story about the Listening Workshop by Mike McGeoy

A number of years back, Six40 Life sponsored the same one-day Listening Workshop that is coming up again next weekend, on February 21st. As the leader of a Men's Life Group, I was encouraged to go and learn some "listening" skills, which are always important for those in leadership at any level. I had been considering going back to school to get a graduate degree in the counseling field, and this workshop seemed appropriate. I figured, if nothing else, it would help me be a better leader to the men that I served.

What I got out of the workshop was so much more than just some new communication skills to use in a Life Group. Looking back on it now, I can say that this workshop was a catalyst that started the ball rolling for me eventually enrolling at Western Seminary to pursue a Master's degree in Marital & Family Therapy. The workshop delivered all that it promised and more as I began to practice the skills that it taught. As the workshop advertises, "listening" is really a gift that we can give to our spouses, our children, our friends, and those we work with. I highly recommend this workshop, and pray that it be a catalyst for you as well.



WEEKLY SERVICES

<u>Day</u>	<u>Campus</u>	<u>Event</u>
Sat	Saratoga Saratoga	Worship Services, 5 & 6:40pm No JHM (<i>Jr. High Ministry</i>) this week
Sun	Saratoga & South Hills South Hills Saratoga South Hills	Worship Services, 9:30 & 11:15am JHM (<i>Jr. High Ministry</i>), 9:30am, Youth Room HSM (<i>High School Ministry</i>), 5pm, Gym HSM (<i>High School Ministry</i>), 7pm, Youth Room
Thurs	Saratoga	L2 (<i>College & Young Adults</i>), 7pm, Theater

COMING UP

Find more info under "More" and "News & Events" on our website.
Questions? Email staff@westgatechurch.org.

Listening Workshop - Sat, Feb 21, 9am-4pm
Discover WestGate - Sun, Feb 22, 1-4pm @ WG Saratoga
KIDZTOWN LIVE - March 4, 5:30-7:00pm @ WG Saratoga
Peacemaker Workshop - 14 weeks, starts March 12, 7-9pm @ WG Saratoga
Baptisms - March 28/29, all services
Explore - Sun, March 29, 11am-1pm @ WG Saratoga
Restore (Addiction Recovery) - Tues nights, 7-8:15pm @ WG Saratoga
Single & Parenting - Tues nights, 7-8:30pm @ WG Saratoga
GriefShare - Mon nights, 7-9pm @ WG South Hills
Divorce Care - Tues nights, 7-8:30pm @ WG Saratoga

GIVING

UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF 02/08/15

General Offering:
Received: \$102,002
Budgeted: \$102,506

Fiscal YTD: (09/01/14—02/08/15)
Received: \$2,698,624
Budgeted: \$2,627,138

WestGate Water: (09/01/13—02/08/15)
Weekly Recycling Total: \$427.08
Inception to Date: \$30,312.99
42.1% toward our 8th well—in Guatemala

LOUD Compassion/Missions YTD:
02/08/15 - Current Received: \$555,061
Pledge Cards: 183
Please note: any designated missionary gifts will be applied to the LOUD fund.

**Got questions about giving, OR
want to set up online giving?**
Visit: www.westgatechurch.org/give

MythConceptions

Pray and Grow Rich

“If I _____ right, God MUST bless me.”

(work, pray, parent, do relationships, live, eat, study, do church, etc...)

Two Growing Religious Categories in the West:

_____ and _____

“It didn’t work for me.”

Two Aspects of Blessing we must understand

- 1) Blessing for effect (*eulogia*—opposite is cursing)
- 2) Blessing for value (*makarismos*—opposite is woe)

Blessing: Now and Not Yet

¹²For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous
and his ears are attentive to their prayer,
But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

¹³Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good?

¹⁴But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened.”

¹⁵But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

1 Peter 3:12-16

What does it mean to pray in Jesus’ name?

What can we expect?

How to pray

“This, then, is how you should pray:
“ ‘Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.’
Matthew 6:9-13

How to be blessed

¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

¹⁹In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.
1 Timothy 6:17-19

There is an inequitable distribution of both goods and opportunities in this world. Therefore, if you have been assigned the goods of this world by God and you don't share them with others, it isn't just stinginess, it is injustice.
-Tim Keller

All Scripture references are from the NIV unless otherwise noted

Get more...

Free CDs of our sermons are available in the Saratoga lobby after the service.
WATCH, LISTEN TO and get the NOTES & DIGGING DEEPER for the sermons online at
www.WestGateChurch.org under “More -Weekend Experience” [updated on Sundays at 3pm]

MythConceptions

Part 4

QUESTION 1:

Do you ever think that God owes you? That “If I do _____, then God will bless me?” What words do you place in the blanks, and what is the basis of those thoughts?

QUESTION 2:

Blessing is a term seldom used outside the Church today. What does it make you think of?

What does it really mean?

QUESTION 3:

How does Jesus define *blessing*? Consider Matthew 5:2-12 and Luke 6:20-31 as starting places in Scripture.

QUESTION 4:

How you pray demonstrates not only how you view blessing, but how you view God. How do you pray?

How did Jesus pray?

What does it mean to pray in Jesus’ name?

QUESTION 5:

What do you treasure?

What does Jesus say about what we treasure? Consider Luke 12:15-34 and Matthew 6:19-34.

How do these Scripture passages inform our view of God’s blessings?

These questions are designed specifically with Life Groups in mind, to help you apply the teaching to your life.

Not in a group? Browse for a group online at www.westgatechurch.org/known OR contact groups@westgatechurch.org to find the right one for you!