



2012

FAMILY MINISTRY

A Beautiful Tapestry

St Andrews
FAMILY MINISTRY
GROWING GOSPEL-CENTRED FAMILIES

"A tapestry is a rich and varicolored, intricate combination of individual threads woven together to form a cohesive, striking work of art. We are God's tapestry. Alone, we are weak and fragile threads, but through salvation, we are woven together, each 'thread' belonging to all the others. We become... Strong! Durable! Truly Beautiful!"



:TESTIMONY

Ronny and Irene To

A Beautiful Tapestry

A night of Testimonies and Sharing...



Ronny and Irene To shared their testimonies

It was such a blessing for us to share our parents testimonies. It's God's wonderful grace and love for us. It's not about our faith in Him though it counts, it's not about what we have done or how we pray, it's all because He is faithful and loving and He wants each and everyone of us to be saved. God is amazing and His grace is enough for me!

“ It's not about our faith in Him though it counts, it's not about what we have done or how we pray, it's all because **He is faithful and loving** ”



Good food!



Good Fellowship!

“A Beautiful Tapestry” is such a relevant and appropriate title that I will even call it a “brand/logo” for the Family Ministry.

I think families will find it more helpful if teaching comes with testimonies that applies the “knowledge” bit into the specific circumstances.

Hence, instead of just talking about how to discipline children, it's far better to blend in theory/knowledge with testimony/experience sharing on how it applies/works out.

Love and blessings,
Ronny and Irene To



Kids enjoyed movies, pizza, popcorn and lollies
Good Fun!



Family Ministry

Children were running around everywhere, laughing, yelling and chasing each other. It was noisy and disordered; pizza was being devoured while toy cars and motorbikes were being driven. Parents were caught up in conversation, while at the same time doing their best to care for children that were asking to be pushed on the swing or helped down the slide.

At first glance this scene looked like chaos, but in reality it was evidence of a healthy and vibrant church community. It was the scene from a recent Family Ministry lunch in the playground after church. Many churches throughout the world are in decline and are void of young families, youth and children. However, St Andrew's is not such a church. The fact that we have so many young people in our church and joining our church is a clear sign of the fact that we are a growing and flourishing church.



Currently we have around from 320 families registered for our Sunday youth and children's programmes. This doesn't include the many families that come through our door each week and don't get around to registering their youth and children with us. Our Sunday Kidzone is constantly increasing in numbers and we have a large team of volunteers that teach hundreds of children. We also have about 120 youth registered in our youth programme. Darren and his leaders run an excellent Sunday worship with a fantastic youth band and on Fridays they run an after school programmes called Ignite.

As a result, St Andrew's Church has gained a reputation for its quality youth and children's programmes. People are continually migrating to St Andrew's Church because they want their families to grow spiritually and their youth and children to be well catered for.

“ We have also been able to offer internships to a number of youths... ”

With our 2020 Vision we want to capitalise on this reputation and use it as a launch pad into the lives of the families in our community. In Family Ministry we are convinced that this is the provision of a God-given doorway for us as a church to reach deeper into our local community. As a result we pray that the 2020 Vision will draw more people into his kingdom and into a relationship with Jesus. We are also keen to see the new Life Centre built so that as we continue to grow in numbers we will have the facilities to accommodate these many young families that God is bringing to us.

Another exciting aspect of our 2020 Vision has been the increase in size of our Family Ministry Team with the exciting additions of Carol Strydom (Children's Ministry Director) and Lisa Card (Women's Pastoral Worker). We have also been able to offer internships to a number of youths who have either come back to Hong Kong for their summer vacation, or are about to go to university. They have been a great help in our Kidzone, Youth, Music and Creative ministries.

Our team has already been active in many areas including the running of Marriage and Parenting courses, Kidzone and Youth, marriage preparation and weddings, as well as Growth Groups, pastoral care and family social activities. In addition to this, God continues to provide even more doorways into the community with additional school visits, a closer partnership with DGS & DGJS, possible expansion of our playgroup and the start of a weekly Kid's Club. This is the 2020 Vision being put into action!



Interns:
Bryan Lee, Olivia Chen,
Dora Chu & Emma To

“ We long to see the lives of young families transformed by the message of the gospel of Jesus. ”

However, we want more than just expanding ministries and numbers of people being drawn to our church. We long to see the lives of young families transformed by the message of the gospel of Jesus. I am so encouraged when I hear stories of this clearly happening in the families of our church. Recently I have talked with a husband who has willingly quit his job because it frequently took him away from his wife. Or recently I spoke to a mother who decided to forgo a promotion for the sake of being able to spend more time with her kids. This is the 2020 Vision being worked out in the lives of individuals.

I see this as a momentous time in the history St Andrew's. Like Paul says in Colossians 1:28-29, he preaches Jesus so that all people may grow into maturity in Christ and he labours at this with all the energy that God provides for him. Please keep the Family Ministry Team in your prayers as we endeavour to do the same and as we seek to move forward with our 2020 Vision.



Dan Evers and Family

We hope that you too can get onboard with this vision and join us in this extremely exciting time for the young families of our church.

Dan Evers
Associate Minister,
Family Ministry

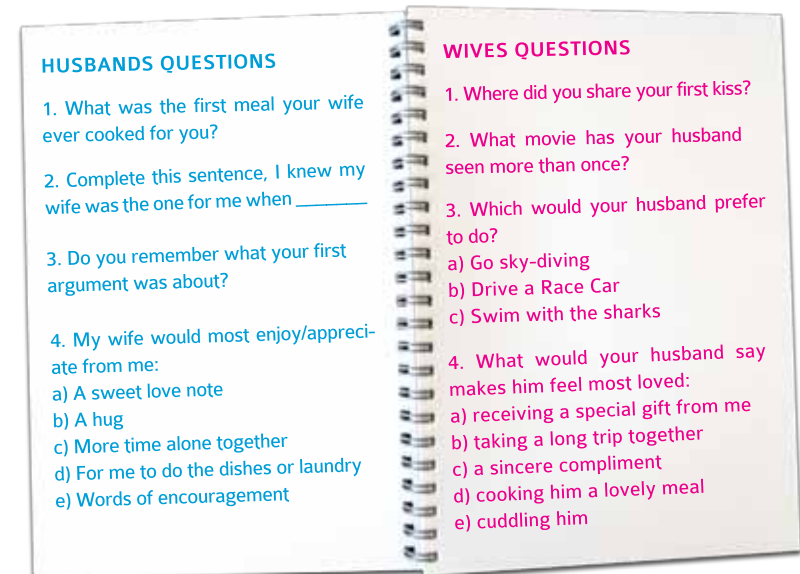
The Newlywed Game

How well do you know your spouse? From nervous chuckles to peals of laughter and exclamations, a fun night was had by all!



“ ...there were some hushed exclamations of “what?!” and “wait till we get home!” ”

At the Newlywed Game Event in October, four couples at a time took their turn upon the stage in front of the rest. They were separated and asked to answer a series of questions based on how we thought our spouse would respond. It was lots of fun! Here is an example of some questions:



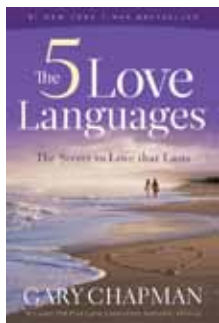
We were re-united back on stage to compare our responses and see if we might score some points. Couples either cringed at one another's replies (ahem, there were some hushed exclamations of “what?!” and “wait till we get home!”) or smiled with great delight and relief when their spouse's reply was correct.

Strictly speaking we don't qualify for the Newlywed Game as we've been married for close to 10 years. Although we went through PREPARE (pre-marriage counseling), our initial years together were still full of miscommunication and misunderstanding. We knew that the focus should be "we" but still much of our focus was on "me" instead. We know we need to turn to God for humility so we can always keep the "we" first, but oftentimes we just handle issues in our marriage with our limited human wisdom.



Caroline and Danny with their 4 children

“ Much of our marriage is about learning how to speak each other's love language, and learning how to commit to make God the third strand in our cord of marriage. ”



Fortunately our Marriage Mentors introduced us to the book **The Five Love Languages**. We learned that there are five ways to express (and receive) love – physical touch (eg. hugs and kisses), quality time (one on one time, i-Phones set aside), words of affirmation (eg. honey, well done!), acts of service (eg. doing things for one another) and giving each other gifts. We learned that everyone has a primary love language (ie. one that the person feels most loved by when love is expressed in that form) and that we have to express our love to our spouse in his or her primary love language for our spouse to truly feel our love.

Much of our marriage is about learning how to speak each other's love language, and learning how to commit to make God the third strand in our cord of marriage.

Attending the Newlywed Game helped us re-focus on the "we" again. We look forward to more such events!

The Newlywed Game



Iris and I were really delighted to be invited to the Newlywed Game, organised by the Family Ministry. We've been regular attendees at St Andrew's for a while and it seemed a great way to get to know more people. But when we found out about the format of the Game, we were actually a little bit nervous...The game involves trying to guess the answers that your partner would give to a series of questions. I'm not sure I'd be able to guess my wife's answers after six decades, let alone the mere six months that we've been married!

As it turned out, we needn't have worried. The atmosphere was really relaxed and it was great to meet other new (and not so new) married couples. And we all seemed to do a wonderful job of getting what seemed like most of the questions wrong! In any case, our memories of the laughter, food, and fellowship that evening will stay with us for a long time.

The evening was really important for the two of us, because it was the first time we'd really got involved in the life of St Andrew's beyond turning up for Sunday services. A great legacy for Iris is that, as result of meeting Lisa (Women's Pastoral Worker), she is now a regular member of the Ladies Growth Group, which meets every Wednesday morning. So we're really grateful to Lisa, Dan (Associate Minister of the Family Ministry), all at the family ministry for organizing a great night out!



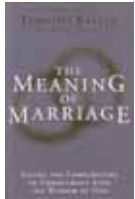
What !?!

“ The atmosphere was really relaxed and it was great to meet other new (and not so new) married couples. ”



The Meaning of Marriage

“My greatest impression of the book is that it elevates marriage, making it something beautiful and holy and lovely.”



A marriage is one of the most intimate, joyous, and yet potentially damaging relationships any person can experience. Given its complexity, it's important that we keep thinking, reflecting and working on our marriages, seeking to understand God's intention for them.

With his wife Kathy, Tim Keller (author and pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City) has written 'The Meaning of Marriage'. Quite simply, it is the best book on marriage I have read. Whilst immensely practical, the major strength of the book is its gospel-centredness. It invites the reader deep into the gospel of Jesus Christ and shows how it extends to every part of marriage. The book is comprised of eight chapters that flow logically from the biblical basis for marriage all the way to the sexual relationship within marriage.

The Kellers speak from the powerful combination of Scriptural grounding and real-world experience. They have been married for almost four decades, and like us have sought to raise their children in the challenging surrounds of a highly urbanized setting.

My greatest impression of the book is that it elevates marriage, making it something beautiful and holy and lovely. And with it comes friendship and companionship and sex and everything else God has packaged into the marriage relationship. I cannot commend it highly enough. Look out for it in the coming few months on the church bookstall.

Rev Alex McCoy
Associate Minister

Gospel Centred Family



A "Gospel-Centred Family" by Ed Moll and Tim Chester is a well-defined, concise and practical study guide for Christian parenting. Its layout is simple and succinct. Each chapter begins with a clearly stated key principle, followed by a scenario, appropriate accompanying Bible verse, questions that encourage reflection and some ideas to put it all into practice. Highly recommended!

The Marriage Course

No matter what season your marriage is in, it can always do with strengthening in some area. A 7-week course designed to help you communicate better and nurture your relationship.



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“...definitely recommend the course for **all married couples** at St Andrew's as a fun, helpful and rewarding way to invest in the most important human **relationship** in your life.”

We were excited when we heard that St Andrew's would be running the Marriage Course and realised we'd be able to join in, as we'd heard good things about it previously – even before we got married three years ago. We weren't quite sure what to expect, but knew that time spent on strengthening our marriage would be a great thing! Turns out it was even better than we could have anticipated!

We loved the weekly sessions that we got to have together: listening to wise counsel and learning from the experience of Nicky and Sila Lee, the couple who gave the talks on the DVD we watched each week, then having time to reflect on and discuss things specific to ourselves, our marriage and our relationship. Nothing about the course was cheesy or embarrassing, and there was no group discussion or feedback required. Just great quality time together as a couple, followed by really useful guided 'homework' discussions to have during the week to practise the principles we'd learned about.



Married Couple:
1. Katey & Steve Kenworthy



“ ...great foundations to help us continue to grow in **love, respect** and mutual understanding of one another. ”



The Marriage Course materials steered us into conversations that might not have occurred otherwise – and these were all very beneficial. We particularly appreciated the discussions on how to listen and communicate well, and learning some steps we can take to do this especially with regard to difficult issues or in areas of conflict. We have really benefited from this and have found it easier to be more open with each other as a result. We also had the opportunity to express what we appreciate most about each other, which was very encouraging, as well as to identify the things that make us each feel most loved. These are great foundations to help us continue to grow in love, respect and mutual understanding of one another.

We definitely recommend the course for all married couples at St Andrew's as a fun, helpful and rewarding way to invest in the most important human relationship in your life.

Blessings and love,
Katey & Steve Kenworthy

*Married Couples: 2.Jade & Adrian Poon
3.Iris & Will Smith*



Children's Ministry



“ ...to Share the Gospel, **Build Community,** Love the City, **Love Jesus** and Teach the Bible ”

Go and ask a couple of children in our church if they can name all the pastors in our church? You might even ask them, what is this pastors' favourite food or favourite mode of transport? Then move on to have them share with you what are our 5 Values at St Andrew's Church?

I bet not even you know the answer to some of these questions. For the month of February our Pastors were telling stories about kangaroos trying to swim, being trapped in a cave for eleven hours, having to find missing Koala bears and showing us painted toe nails, and you thought you were having fun in church! All of these stories pointed to one of our 5 core Values.

As we continue this year, to Share the Gospel, Build Community, Love the City, Love Jesus and Teach the Bible we hope to put our values into practice by doing teacher training with our teachers, starting an additional day for our Friendship Garden Playgroup and running a Children's Summer Camp on top of our normal Summer Sunday Programme.

We always have space for more helpers and volunteers, so if you are interested in joining this most rewarding ministry, please feel free to contact me.



Carol Strydom
Director of Children's Ministry



Children's Ministry

“ We often learn from children how to worship God. They aren't afraid to do it in their own special way. ”

One thing that excites me every week is to lead a bunch of kids in singing songs for Jesus. It is lovely to experience and watch those little ones dancing and singing from the top of their lungs. We often learn from children how to worship God. They aren't afraid to do it in their own special way. We have one song that the children really like a lot; John 3:16. We have been singing it while learning the St Andrew's Church 5 core Values.

By the way, you don't have to have a pretty voice to lead a bunch of happy kids in Kid-zone. You need only to love the Lord and to lead kids to worship God.



I have a desire to help children use their gifts to praise God. It started when Esther and Eliza Evers saw me preparing some songs for Sunday and Eliza told me that she could play "Seek Ye First" on the piano. I asked whether she would be brave enough to play it during the worship time. She did and her sister, Esther, played the flute. It was great! Joanna Poon, Stephanie Poon, Lianne Leung, Lauren McNeil, Howard Ng and Wesley Honey all joined in. You might have seen some of them play in our last Family Service.

After learning about the SAC 5 core Values in Kidzone, I will again encourage kids to play more songs for Jesus. You won't know how wonderful I felt watching them! My prayer is that more children will develop their talents and offer them to God.

Zara Villalba
Pastoral Worker

Children's Ministry

“ I Really enjoyed coming over to this church because it's let me make new friends and let me know about God... ”



Over the years I felt really happy and excited learning about God. Long before I went to church I had small little bibles and I'd read the stories over and over again. Over the years I read those stories, I asked myself, "Are these actually real?" So I learnt you need to pray with your hands clamped together so I kinda' did two fists and I said "hi lord I wish that I will get candy soon." The next day my mom came with the powdery kind of candy which came from a small bottle. So when I was 8 I said to my mum, "mommy, can we go to Alison's church?" then she said "Lianne, We're going to church...Just not Alison's. We're going to Auntie Irene's church!" That's how I got into this church.

When I first came to St Andrew's Church I thought I wasn't going to fit in. But partly because I was wearing a dress. But that was because it was mother's day. Then after a few weeks I settled in and had fun classes at 11 and met my very first friend, Shemiya. She wasn't like me at all though. She was more quiet while me having fun and chatting a lot with Austin, Emma and Josephine. But anyways I Really enjoyed coming over to this church because it's let me make new friends and let me know about God and I Really enjoy doing the activities that the teachers assign us!





Ignite on Fridays

“ ...to spend more time going deeper into God’s word. It’s almost like a youth Growth Group. ”

In October 2011 St Andrews Youth got a whole lot better. A lot of the youth wanted to meet, learn and have fun outside of Sundays. So we decided to start a midweek youth group on Friday evening 6-8pm though truth be told people just started showing up as soon as school finished.



Dora Chu (Youth Intern) and Darren have loved starting this new meeting. It’s a chance to kick back and take a breather after a long week at school. We play a lot of fun games that we simply can’t play on Sundays because of space and we are able to spend more time going deeper into God’s word. It’s almost like a youth Growth Group. Darren really likes it as it’s a great chance to get to know each other better and the highlight has definitely been the Ignite Christmas Costume Party.

We would love even more youth to join us and encourage parents to send their kids down. Get in touch with Darren for more info and please keep praying for this ministry.

Darren Pollock
Youth Director



Our Prayer

God truly is a God of relationships. The Father of Families. I stand amazed at how he uses the people in our lives to draw us to him; loving us through one another.

Our constant prayer is that we seek God faithfully through His Word and by His Spirit in all we do! We want to help families identify and use their gifts of grace to edify, encourage and challenge one another to grow and mature in Christ. We hope that through this, the spiritual community of St Andrew’s Church will be built up so that our ministry is multiplied and the Gospel preached, reaching out into the community of Hong Kong.

To be able to serve the women and families of St Andrew’s truly remains to me a blessing beyond description!



Lisa Card
Women’s Pastoral Worker

WANT TO CONTACT US?
Email: family@standrews.org.hk
We’d love to hear from you.

Look out for

Ways to Serve our Community Love Hong Kong...



STAKC –

our after-school kid's club for pre-teens
Ages between 7 to 11



Growth of "Friendship Garden"

launching another day of our Mom's and tots community playgroup



Children's Summer Camp

midweek in late July



The Parenting Course

5 weeks, May /June



A Marriage Conference "To Love & To Cherish"

October

Also stay tuned for



A Beautiful Tapestry

June



The Newlywed Game

September



SAC Families Retreat

November

Family Ministry - Good Food! Good Fellowship! Good Fun!

Can You help us bridge the gap?

Family Ministry Love the City Team

Looking for inspiration and people to help us bridge the gap into the communities of Hong Kong (work, school, recreation...).

Email family@standrews.org.hk with your ideas/suggestions.



Contacts

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