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# WSGN

WESTSIDE SMALL GROUP NETWORK



## NEWSLETTER – August, 2019

And He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. ~ Matthew 4:19-20

### *WSGN Bruthas and Friends,*

*Grace and peace to all of you. “First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world. For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son, is my witness as to how unceasingly I make mention of you.” ~ Romans 1: 8-9*

*This is a very cool time in WSGN’s seven-year journey. We’ve seen some amazing growth in our ministry for which each of you has been an integral part. Perhaps you’ve been a shepherd, leading men to discipleship by providing new member leads, or maybe you’ve provided a written testimony. You might be one of those guys that we see at all our events, whether it’s a Fire Pit, service project (mucking Harvey devastated homes or helping our Somebuddy Cares outreach), or WSGN Movie Night. Some of you are using your gift of teaching in your weekly group study and others have given generously of their financial treasures. Whatever your level of participation or support, we are extremely humbled and grateful for you because we know there are many parts to the body and all of them are needed (1 Corinthians 12:12). THANK YOU!*

Today, we are 177 disciples strong, in 19 groups, representing 30 church congregations in Houston. We are led by the Holy Spirit and a deeply experienced Board of Directors who share my passion for this ministry. A Discipleship Council was formed, which is comprised of one representative from each group and meets on a quarterly basis to pray for and focus on the forward vision of our ministry. The Discipleship Council, through their various committees, are organizing our first WSGN Annual Retreat, our ongoing Service Projects, and gathering resources to foster the growth and health of each group. Last, but not certainly not least, we've been fortunate to have Tera Rush serving as our Ministry Coordinator. Among her many duties, Tera assists in organizing events, keeps our website current, coordinates communications (including this newsletter), and handles our bookkeeping.

Moving forward, we plan to circulate a monthly newsletter. Please let Tera or me know if you have something newsworthy to include and we will do our best to squeeze it in. We hope you will frequently check the website for updates on events and let us know if there is an event you would like us to add. As always, we are always looking for photos of your group in action ... these photos could be of anything from sitting at your weekly gathering place, on a weekend retreat, or serving God in our community and beyond.

Finally, stay tuned for announcements of upcoming events and potential branding changes and most importantly ... Keep seeking Jesus Christ and you will find Him.

Real men...Real Discipleship.  
Clint

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## **Featured Group of the Month: The 13**

*Brett Anderson, Rick Bradford, Chris Arend, David Baay, Rick Chapman, Scott Cofran, Walt Denny, Gregg Donovan, Matt Flemming, Michael Gilbert, David Miller, Alan Seidensticker, Drew Tingleaf, Brian Zahn (formed in Spring 2006)*

"**The 13** is a group of men focused on growing in their love of Christ while processing life together as Christian men. What started innocently, God meant for something bigger than we could have ever imagined. We have been meeting for over 13 years rotating leadership and weekly facilitators studying the Bible, sermon notes, and instrumental books and materials. Some of our favorite memories are our annual family Thanksgiving service projects and Living Water International trip to El Salvador." - *Chris Arend*



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***Events Calendar: see more dates at [WSGN Events](#)***

[MDPC: Men's Life Kick-Off Breakfast with Dave Peterson](#)

August 24 @ 8:30 am - 9:30 am

[MDUMC: Men's Life Kick-Off](#)

September 3 @ 6:30 am - 7:30 am

[St. John Vianney: ACTS Retreat for Men](#)

September 5 - September 8

[MDPC Men's Life Fall Series: Man Alive!](#)

September 10 @ 6:30 am

[Toolbox Lunches: 9/17/2019 Tim Dunn The Houston Club](#)

September 17 @ 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

**PLUS**, mark your calendars:

**1st Annual WSGN Retreat** January 10-12, 2020

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## *WSGN Discipleship Council Update*

In December 2018, WSGN sent out a plea for each small group to prayerfully nominate one representative to serve on the newly forming WSGN Discipleship Council (DC). The spots were filled quickly!

The DC meets 4 times each year with the following purposes:

- Promote fellowship in discipleship
- Strategize on the future vision of WSGN's discipleship ministry
- Foster relationships between small groups
- Identify trends of what's working and not working within our groups – sharing best practices
- Find ways to strengthen and challenge our existing groups to deeper growth and accountability – make sure our groups are thriving and preparing for the storms they're sure to face
- Brainstorm on outreach/service projects, joint mission trips, and an annual retreat among other ideas – organize the resources to make it happen

DC Members serve 2 years as representatives of their respective WSGN groups. Having already met 3 times in 2019, these guys have prayerfully given their time, ideas, and talents to retreat planning, fundraising dialogue, group health checks, WSGN-wide service projects, and more. The current DC reps are as follows:

Brooks Howell (FISH), Bucky Farrow (ManU), Clay Cossey (Ironmen), Clay Weaver (Kingsmen), Ed Everett (SOBs), Eric Bach (Cross Heirs), Jason Barrett (BOSS), Jeff McCord (UFC), Jeff Taylor (BAM), John Eyster (Salty Dogs), Kevin Burleson (MOB), Mickey Peters (BBC), Mike Walker (BMOC), Scott Cofran (13), Steve Simonich (GAIMers), Tim Howard (SOL), Tod Higginbotham (Misfit Boys), Will Haley (BOBs), & Mark Pillsbury (MIA).



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## *WSGN Job Seekers*

Did you know that WSGN posts resumes of members currently seeking a job?

Visit [WSGN Job Seekers](#) to view the resumes and help them out with any leads you may have (or potentially hire them!). To post your own resume, please email it to [John Yochum \(MOB\)](mailto:John.Yochum@capitalone.com) at [john.yochum@capitalone.com](mailto:john.yochum@capitalone.com).

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## *Ministry Focus: Somebuddy Cares*

This new WSGN ministry seeks to connect our small group disciples to elderly men in alternate care facilities such as retirement, assisted living, or nursing homes who are lonely and might not

have family close by to visit them. The goal is to cultivate meaningful relationships between WSGN disciples and these elderly men across multiple nearby facilities.

The initial commitment is one hour each week to visit one of these facilities. In the future, WSGN will have a website portal where members can sign up for specific events at these facilities.

Recently, WSGN disciples have attended two monthly breakfast meetings at Brookdale Retirement Center near Memorial City, and new relationships are already forming. At the July meeting, residents who attended really began to open up and ask more questions about our families and life stories. The director at Brookdale has now asked us for flyers and business cards, and plans to include a piece in their resident newsletter next month. So, we are excited about their interest in our mission. Want to get plugged in? Contact **Paul Palmer (MIA)** at [pepalmer@yahoo.com](mailto:pepalmer@yahoo.com).



Photo from Somebuddy Cares at Brookdale Retirement Community Center on July 12, 2019. In attendance were Paul Palmer (MIA), Tom Staksus (GAIMers), Mike Strachan (GAIMers), Alan Engberg (GAIMers), Keith O'Connor (GAIMers).

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### ***Tera's Find: Men Doing a Good Work***

We are often motivated by the actions and generosity of others and this month I was inspired by the good work of Rodney Smith, Jr.

Check out Rodney's story here: [Duke Cannon Good Folks Project No. 005 Rodney Smith, Jr](#)



*Credit: Duke Cannon Supply Co.*

"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6



**GIVING ONLINE** - WSGN is a Christian non-profit supported by an amazing family of donors. We depend on your generosity to help offset operating costs, candidate recruiting, marketing, events and scholarship for events, and now personnel costs with the recent addition of our Ministry Coordinator. We appreciate both your prayers and financial support as we strive to cultivate disciples of Jesus Christ.



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