

Restarting and Reenergizing Small Groups

From: M Bret Blackford (bret_blackford@yahoo.com)

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Cc: bret_blackford@yahoo.com

Date: Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 09:43 AM CDT

Andrew and Devin,

You both have a great heart for Small Groups and clearly understand their importance to the life and health of our church body. With that in mind, I'd love your help as we consider how best to restart and communicate about our Connect Groups.

My current thought is to invite all Connect Group leaders (see attached list) to join one of our Elder meetings in November. That gathering would give the Elders and Ministers a chance to emphasize the importance of these groups and to encourage group leaders to serve as *shepherds* for their members. We'd also like to create a rhythm where Small Group leaders can share their group's blessings, needs, and concerns with the Elders for prayer and guidance.

Our goal is to reenergize Small Groups and increase engagement across the McKnight body—ideally, everyone would be part of a group or regularly connecting with others in meaningful ways.

Since you both bring fresh perspectives from other churches and experiences with what works (and what doesn't) in small group ministry—and since you're young, energetic, and “funky fresh” (as the kids say)—I'd love for you to be champions and cheerleaders for this effort.

Would you be willing to help me with this? We have Elder meetings on **Monday, November 3** and **Monday, November 17**. Do you think November 3 would be too soon to invite the group leaders to join us?

I appreciate your input and ideas!

— Bret

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: M Bret Blackford <bret_blackford@yahoo.com>

To: Steve Awtrey <steve.awtrey@gmail.com>; Matthew Bardowell <mbardowell@gmail.com>; Hannah Grimshaw <hkgrimshaw@gmail.com>; Keaton & Kathy Jones <keaton.jones@sbcglobal.net>; Jeff McGlawn <jeffmcglawn@gmail.com>; Jeff McGlawn <jmcglawn@mcknightcrossings.org>; Michelle Blackford <michelle_blackford@yahoo.com>; Alexander Hill <alecwanda@sbcglobal.net>; Dale Simpson <d1226ws@gmail.com>; Steve Jones <jonesy.steve69@gmail.com>; Jerry Mickey <jmickey0327@att.net>; Dave Weiler <dave-n-amy-weiler@juno.com>; landcstrickland@gmail.com <landcstrickland@gmail.com>; Jeff Kryder <gjkryder@gmail.com>; Judy Miller <judy.mzzthang.miller@gmail.com>; Linda M. <lmuelles5217@gmail.com>

Cc: MX MXElders <mxelders@mcknightcrossings.org>; Mxministers Blackford <mxministers@mcknightcrossings.org>; Eric McPherson <emcpherson@cfserve.org>

Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2025 at 06:17:04 AM CDT

Hello everyone,

I'm reaching out to each of you who help lead or guide one of our small groups—whether that's a Bible study, a ladies' class, a breakfast group, or another regular gathering. Thank you for the ways you serve and help create spaces where we can grow closer to God and one another.

At McKnight, we know that life is hard and that the church body is essential for living a fulfilling life that honors God. While Sunday worship is vital, it doesn't give us enough time to really share in each other's lives. That's why we value these smaller gatherings — they give us opportunities to encourage one another in practical, meaningful ways.

As the fall season begins, I'd love your help updating our picture of small groups. Could you please reply with the following information about your group?

- Do you still lead or co-lead a group?
- Where does your group meet?
- Who typically attends?
- Would you be open to others joining?
- Do you need any help with study material?

We'll be sharing more information about small groups in the coming weeks, but in the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have questions or need support. I'm excited to see how God will use our small groups this year.

Grace and peace,
---- Bret



McKnight Crossings
2025 Small Groups

Leader(s)	Jeff Kryder & Steve Awtrey
Location	Bread-Co Webster
Date	Thursdays
Time	7:00pm
Members	
Open/Closed	Open

Leader(s)	Jeff Kryder “Life Lab”
Location	Bread-Co Brentwood
Date	Tuesday (every other week)
Time	11:30am
Members	
Open/Closed	Closed

Leader(s)	Dale Simpson & Alex Hill
Location	Simson & Hill homes
Date	Day (every other week)
Time	11:30am
Members	
Open/Closed	Open

Leader(s)	Bret Blackford & Jeff McGlawn
Location	MX building
Date	Wednesdays
Time	7:00pm
Members	
Open/Closed	open

Leader(s)	Michelle Blackford “Ladies Class”
Location	MX building 4 th floor
Date	Tuesday
Time	10:30am
Members	Various
Open/Closed	open

Leader(s)	Dave Weiler
Location	Kay Heintz in Crestwood
Date	Wednesdays (1 st & 3 rd from Sept-May)
Time	7:00pm

Members	
Open/Closed	open

Leader(s)	Eric McPherson
Location	Chris Jones or Carrie Strickland homes
Date	Sunday (1 st & 3 rd)
Time	evenings
Members	
Open/Closed	Closed

Add:

Steve Jones

Keaton Jones

Patrick Proger