

PASTOR'S PEN

Growing Toward the Light



This summer, my wife Chrystal has been tending a small vegetable garden in our yard. We are beginning to enjoy the fruit of all the careful cultivation – delicious cherry tomatoes and flavorful basil leaves! Seeing plants grow from seed never ceases to amaze me. What started out so small and seemingly insignificant grows up and into something so productive and rewarding. The plants receive the nourishment of fresh water and grow into the sunlight of the season.

Congregations like NCPC are in the process of growing in a similar manner. God waters us with His Word, and we grow in the Light of the Lord. We are meant to grow into the light, the positive memories of God's goodness among us, our gratitude for what God has accomplished in our midst, and our biblically-formed hopes for a faithful ministry.

Some strategies for organizational planning emphasize our deficits rather than God's abundant provision, focusing our attention on solving problems instead of appreciating our God-given strengths. This year at North Creek we'll be engaging in a different way of re-envisioning our ministry future and strategic plans. It's called "Appreciative Inquiry." Think of it as a fresh approach to planning for the future.

Appreciative inquiry is a way for the people of God to discern God's leading and imagine the future. It starts by a fresh appreciation of what we have seen God do among us in the past. We then engage in discernment to discover themes that might reveal the future God will lead us into. Choosing to forego bitterness and complaining, we'll allow God's Holy Spirit to pour fresh gratitude into our conversations about the future. And our appreciative conversations will reveal themes that will grow into the light, emerging into provocative proposals for our future as a congregation.

More details about the re-envisioning mission study process are on their way. At this early point in the process, make a decision today that you will be a part of it. God's word reminds us that each member of the body is important, and your participation will be one ingredient God will use to lead us into the light, into the future God unveils before us.

Joyfully in Christ,

Pastor Kurt

