



SWC

CONNECTION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF STERLING WOOD
OCTOBER 2016– VOLUME 3

FALL: The Leaves Are Changing & So Are We

Sterling Wood Church is in the midst of transition. It's exciting to be a part of the next chapter in our church life, but it's also uncomfortable...Let's see what Brandon Cox from Saddleback says in the excerpt from [pastors.com](#)

Want to Grow? Things Will Have to Change

I get asked by many church leaders a rather basic and heartfelt question...how can we grow? How can we reach more people? How can we bring to life a seemingly dying movement? And my answer is always the same...Change.

I'll be accused of being too pragmatic, but I find great biblical precedent for this principle. God moved Abraham from Ur, Joseph from Canaan, Moses from Egypt to the desert and back again, David from the field to the palace to the cave to Hebron and finally to Jerusalem, Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem, Paul to Antioch...you get the picture. God even allowed

great persecution to hit the church in its early days in Jerusalem (Acts 8). Why? To force them from their comfort zone out to every nation with the good news.

Yes, I know the central message of the gospel of King Jesus and the truth of God's Word is perfect and will never change. But the culture around us is in a constant state of flux and our method of communicating eternal truth must be adapted to each new generation, or we risk irrelevance and obsolescence. There stand across Europe and North America thousands of empty cathedrals and church houses as a testament to a brutal truth: God's Spirit has moved on, and we haven't caught up to Him. We need to trust God and change with Him.

Church Events

- Oct 2: Men's Breakfast, Newcomers Class
- Oct 5: AWANA Coins for Missions
- Oct 13: Mom to Mom
- Oct 15: Ladies Brunch
- Oct 16: One Service Begins
- Oct 19: AWANA Missions Night
- Oct 22: Solemn Assembly
- Oct 23: Church Family Lunch
- Oct 26: AWANA Costume Night
- Oct 30: Business Mtg.
- Oct 31: Trunk or Treat

What's happening?

The Transition Team is meeting every Sunday to examine the current reality of Sterling Wood Church and make recommendations for moving forward. One of those recommendations is the ONE family, ONE service, ONE vision campaign where the entire church will meet together for one service at 11:00 a.m. on October 16. During this time, we will focus on connecting with the Lord and each other in the Fresh Encounters Bible study in Sunday School and Life Groups. We are encouraging everyone to join a Life Group during this six-week period. Please pray for our Transition Team as they seek God's Will for our church.

Seeking God's Face?

Interestingly, the city of Houston pastors are also calling everyone together to "Meet at the Cross of Christ" on behalf of the many changes in our city, nation, and churches to seek the Lord in worship, fasting and prayer. Their theme? ONE Hope, ONE Faith, ONE Lord. Sound familiar? Join us at the Husky Stadium at HBU, 7502 Fondren Road, Houston, TX on Oct 22



ONE VOICE ONE CHURCH MANY EXPRESSIONS

The Greater Houston SOLEMN ASSEMBLY

ONE VOICE • ONE CHURCH • MANY EXPRESSIONS

ONE HOPE ONE FAITH ONE LORD

OCTOBER 22 2016 HUSKY STADIUM HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY 7502 Fondren Rd., Houston, TX

Pre-Worship 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM Solemn Assembly 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

A time to come together in the Spirit of Joel 2 and 2 Chronicles 7:14 crossing denominational, racial, generational, and political preferences to meet at the cross of Christ on behalf of our city and our nation.

A CALL TO GATHER

to seek the Lord in worship, fasting and prayer

RSVP ONLINE

This is a fully funded gathering; registration is not required to attend, but we want to make sure that we are prepared for everyone to join us.

Reserve your spot for this FREE event at

WWW.THEGHSA.ORG



Autumn

The Changing of Seasons

As the fall season approaches, things begin to change: from leaves changing colors and falling, to the cooling temperatures (which isn't much when you live in Houston). Our church is going through its own season of change. While we know that the seasons must and will change, we have to remember God means change in our lives to be a good thing for us.

For me and my wife we have had our share of season changes as Autumn has come. Six and a half months ago, Ashley and I welcomed Autumn Elaine-Marie Maley into our family by way of adoption. Before becoming a parent, you think that you are ready for this change. Then when reality sets in you look back and realize that the preparing you did wouldn't be enough for this life changing adventure. We've learned that experience makes parenting a little easier. As we walk through the day-to-day stuff, we're able to learn from our experiences and be better prepared for what may come ahead.

Before Autumn (the baby), Ashley and I were able to go to do something at the drop of a hat and without much preparation. Now, we have to do a little more planning to go out. Instead of sleeping as much as we like, we now have to get up in the middle of the night for feedings and diaper changes. We have to schedule our meal times based on when Autumn will need to eat, and even then we've had our share of cold dinners. And now, with her growing, we have some struggles with putting on clothes (it's like wrestling an octopus). Even so, it has all been a blessing! God has changed our lives through this adoption. He has placed this beautiful, smart, goofy, amazing blessing of a baby into our lives for a reason. We know that God calls us to share His love with the world, and one way for us to do this is through the gift and ministry of adoption. We can't begin to express how much love we have for Autumn. We never thought that we could love something so much! God has changed us, through Autumn, from not only husband and wife but to a father and mother and we will never be the same!

I think the same can be said for this season we're in at Sterling Wood. A lot is changing, and some of it isn't easy. We may not have been fully prepared for all of it, but we're learning as we go. Ultimately, Sterling Wood may never be completely the same, but that's okay. God has brought on this change to be an asset and a blessing, and He will see us through it.

Peace,
Skyler

See you at the Pole September 28, 2016



North Shore Elementary



North Shore High School

