

# MAC News

*Leading Men to Live a Life of Significance in Christ*

Check out the website!  
[www.macministries.net](http://www.macministries.net)

## Men Abiding in Christ Ministries in Action-

- No Man Left Behind training sessions with the men's leadership team at Wieuca Baptist Church and 1st United Methodist.
- "How to Ignite Your Men" seminar March 8-9 at FPC Morganton, NC.
- March 29-30 men's retreat for Wieuca Baptist Church.
- "How to Ignite Your Men" seminar June 28—July 1 at the Christian Life Conference, Montreat, NC.
- Men's Discipleship Groups on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.
- Thursdays—One-on-one discipling.

## Where's Your Hub?

I just wrapped-up a weekend retreat and the theme was "Where's Your Hub?" Most of these 30 men know their Hub needs to be in Christ but our conversations pointed out the difficult struggle we have doing this. I heard men share their struggle with WANTING to stay fruitful in the midst of LIFE.

I found my preparation for this retreat to be less than what I desired. Don't get me wrong, all the T's were crossed and the I's dotted however I would have liked to have spent more time praying beforehand for those attending and for the church itself.

I have 3 more church retreats before the end of March and I'm aware of my need and commitment to be more dependent on my Hub to help glorify God more on these weekends. I am finding most men do struggle with keeping Christ as the Hub in their life. A Hub is a place that offers rest, ignition, re-focus, fuel, protection, and security. I have people in my life helping me not to seek for these things in other places but to abide in Christ alone. I pray that this ministry can help men and churches establish that same accountability and environment to help men abide in their faith and bear fruit.

I thank you again for your part in helping to enable this ministry to carry out its purpose to work with churches in establishing communities of men know for their faithfulness to Christ. Please continue to pray that I remain committed to Christ, who is my source. I also ask that you pray for guidance as I have conversations with four new churches showing interest in working with the ministry and to provide clarity on how I can best serve these men and churches.

- Pat

### A NOTE FROM BRIDGET'S HEART...

*Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised." Job 1:20b-21*

About a month ago, Pat asked me to write my section of this newsletter. Some of you may know that this is not something I jump on right away. While I appreciate your positive feedback to what I write, and I feel it is important to add my perspective of what's happening in our lives and in my mind, I really don't enjoy the task of writing.

So about a month ago, I had just returned from Grand Cayman from a wonderful vacation with my sister. Through her hard work with Apple Education Sales, she earned a week-long Caribbean vacation and invited me to be her guest. I was so happy to help her out! I was reflecting on all the blessings we had in our life. We celebrated a wonderful Christmas season with family and friends, we have been blessed with the means to purchase a newer, more reliable van, and I enjoyed a wonderful week at the beach. Thank you, God!

Shortly after my return, Pat called me one morning with news that any parent dreads to hear. The two-year old son of some friends of ours had passed away during his afternoon nap. Having a two-year old son of my own, I grieved for this

mother and father and prayed that somehow, God would comfort them in their loss. Pat and I stood in line at the funeral home for two hours to be able to hug them and share our condolences with them. This faith filled couple received friends and loved ones for seven hours that day. I thought that surely, they would collapse and wondered how they were able to withstand the physical and emotional toll this was taking in their lives.

The following Monday morning, we received a phone call from Pat's Mom. Our brother-in-law, Rick Kool was in ICU with complications from the flu. That phone call was the beginning of the end of our life as we knew it. Rick died on Wednesday. Pat and I were able to spend time with he and Eve in the early Wednesday morning hours. It was a privilege to be able to serve them both in that way.

While I do not know the depths of grief that my friends are experiencing over the loss of their son, nor do I know the pain of the loss that my sister-in-law, Eve faces each minute of the day, God has answered my questions about how His people endure the physical and emotional toll that such tragedy takes in our lives. Through Him, with Him, in Him. In all things, He rejoices with us, in all things, He grieves with us. He is always with us. Though we do not understand why precious people in our lives die or are sick or why we have healthy children or get to go to Grand Cayman, I know that God has a perfect plan. It is all that I can count on and believe in. There is nothing else in this world that can provide such Hope. Praise be to God!

## Men Abiding in Christ Ministries

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### MAC MINISTRIES IS CALLED TO SERVE GOD BY:

- *Partnering with churches to build sustainable ministries for men.*
- *Discipling and coaching church leadership teams to develop a vision and purpose for intentionally growing their men.*
- *Launching and developing environments where relationships can be fostered with each other and with the Lord.*

**\*\*If you prefer to receive this newsletter via e-mail, please notify me at  
pat@macministries.net**

### MINISTRY UPDATE

- Please consider this opportunity to help the Ministry as we strive to increase our monthly pledged contributions by \$800.
- I invite you to join 90 others as part of the Prayer Team. This Team is intentional in praying for the protection, sustainability and growth of the Ministry. Please contact Jim Ford at jimbecford@aol.com or (678) 429-9089.
- Please join me in welcoming Scott Ebert and Scott McLain as new Chairman and Treasurer respectively to the Ministry Board of Directors.
- Continued needs: HP Model 96 & 97 print cartridges for office printer; postage stamps; copy paper; and gasoline vouchers.

## GOD AT WORK THROUGH MAC MINISTRIES

For over a year, our men's ministry has supported Men Abiding in Christ Ministries. As the men's group staff sponsor I was assured the group was a worthy cause, but I knew little of the ministry. Several months ago I was approached by Pat MacPherson for a meeting. As Director of Program for a large church, I am often asked for meetings with various third party ministry groups and generally decline out of hand due to limitations of time and resources to engage them.

Because our men's ministry had a relationship with MAC Ministries, I agreed to meet with Pat. That meeting and the vision Pat shared with me has done more to impact my ministry and our program potential at

Marietta First United Methodist than anything I can think of.

Pat has created a strategic, sustainable model for ministry which is very compelling and inviting. We recently concluded a men's retreat that Pat coordinated and through it we were able to identify a core need to coach the existing men in our ministry to welcome and engage new men on a one to one basis. This concept we feel will be the backbone of redeveloping and redefining what our men's ministry is about.

Pat's vision for discipleship as the focus of our efforts with various methods and various outcomes has helped to revolutionize how we invite our ministry team leadership into thinking

about and going about fulfilling the mission of our church. The concepts Pat has shared with us will help us provide a context for our ministry teams that we have been searching for over the past several years. We will transform not only our men's ministry, but all of our adult ministry areas because of Pat's leadership, vision, and willingness to stay with us through the implementation process. I look forward to working with Pat and being in partnership with MAC Ministries in the time ahead.

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Director of Program  
Marietta First United  
Methodist Church