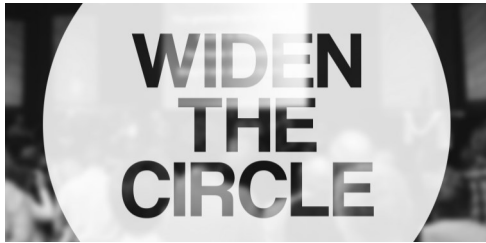


How can our church “widen the circle” of influence within our community? We believe it’s by enlarging our capacity for week-end ministry while continuing to work hard to have dynamic and effective ministries throughout the week. With this in mind, we are excited to shift to a multiple service format so that we can include more friends, family, neighbors and co-workers in the Kingdom of God!



**Why are we making this change?** *As a church, we are committed to doing our part to build the Kingdom of God by sharing His love with Flushing and the surrounding communities. We have currently exhausted effective children’s ministry space and are nearing our capacity in the gym for adult worship. We must be proactive to continue the mission God has given us.*

**How long will this continue?** *We have established a 4-month review process to make sure this format is accomplishing our objectives.*

**Will both services be the same for children?** *Our children’s ministries will function exactly as they do now (full nursery, toddler, Kid City and Club 56) at each service.*

**Will the worship service in the gym be any different?** *Our worship services will be planned exactly the same.*

**Is it possible to serve at one service and worship at the other?** *Absolutely it is and we hope many of you will do that. It’s a perfect combination!*

**Can I go to a different service each week?** *Yes you can. You may discover that having different service times will give you greater flexibility in scheduling your personal Sunday agenda.*

**What if I don’t like it?** *We are asking that we all give this some time. If you have strong feelings about the change, Pastor Terry is very open to discussing them with you.*

**How can I get involved?** *Pray. Invite. Involve. Pray that God will meet our need. Invite friends to worship with you. Get involved by volunteering today!*

# intentional

in · ten · tion · al

Adjective: Done on purpose; deliberate.

Experiencing Community | March 16, 2014

What’s the best “community” you have ever experienced?

What should Christian Community look like today?

What **Characteristics** make **Community** within the church unique compared to the rest of the world?

What **Blessings** flow from a healthy, authentic group of people committed to sharing life together?



Miss Something? That’s okay!!  
You can download this sermon at [flushingcommunity.org](http://flushingcommunity.org)



**What is Lent?** *The 40 day period of preparation before the celebration of the resurrection of Christ. The 40 days goes along with Jesus' 40 day temptation!*

### Day #11 :: Monday, March 17

**Being Transformed:** When you desire to become more physically healthy, there are usually things you need to STOP doing and other things you need to START doing. Over time, the continual practice of doing the right things and avoiding the wrong things will lead to overall fitness. It doesn't just happen by itself. (Too bad, right?!)

Spiritually, the transformation from death to life happens both, in a moment, and over the course of your life. You "believe" in a moment, but it takes a lifetime to be truly transformed. Your transformation doesn't just "happen," either. While Christ is the One who does the transforming, He will only do it with our cooperation.

**READ:** II Corinth. 5:17-18; Ezekiel 36:25-27; Romans 12:1-2 ; Phil. 1:6, 2:12-13

**Make it Personal:** Are you cooperating with God in His process of transformation? Or are you still conforming to the "world?" Are you patient with yourself in the process of spiritual transformation? Or easily discouraged? Do you feel like it's all up to you? What encouragement do you find from these verses?

### Day #12 :: Tuesday, March 18

**VOID:** When you're trying to make any kind of change, it's difficult to just STOP doing something. It works best if you replace it with something else. When you "get rid of something," it leaves a void... a vacuum. A vacuum WILL be filled with something. Unless you intentionally replace the "bad" with something "good", the "bad" will eventually get sucked back in to the void.

Spiritually, when you are attempting to eliminate a bad habit or behavior, consider replacing it with something positive. The Holy Spirit will help you discern what needs to go. Ask Him to show you what to replace it with.

**READ:** Ephesians 2:8-9, 4:22-32, 5:15-20; Colossians 3:5-14

**Make it personal:** Is God transforming your attitudes? Is it easier to see what you need to start doing? Or what you should stop doing? Are you "putting to death" the sinful behaviors and attitudes God is pointing out? Or are you making excuses for them?

### Day # 13 :: Wednesday, March 19

**FRUIT:** When we invite Christ to transform us, when we cooperate with Him in the renewing of our minds, when we "put to death" those things in us that are unlike Christ... it will show in the ways we interact with others. The apostle Paul called it the "fruit of the Spirit": virtues that grow in us, as we grow in Christ.

These are not virtues we can generate on our own. They are a direct result of the Holy Spirit's activity in our lives. The truth is, we all "bear fruit"... the question is, what kind of fruit is your life producing?

**READ:** Luke 6:43-45; Galatians 5:16-24; John 15:1-5

**Make it Personal:** What kind of "fruit" would you say your life is producing right now? What would others say? Are you trying to bear "good" fruit without being tapped in to the Vine?

### Day#14 ::Thursday, March 20

**LOVE:** "But the fruit of the Spirit is LOVE, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." What is real love?

Love is one of those virtues that has been cheapened and "dumbed down" by our culture. "Daytime TV love" is sleazy & fickle. "Hallmark card love" is cutesy & gooey. Celebrity love is brief. Rock & Roll love is confusing ("Love Hurts," "Love is a Battlefield"). Love comes in different varieties: we love coffee, we love our kids and we love a good bargain.

Again, what is real love? How do we know when we're "doing it right?" Are we loving and being loved like Christ loved?

**READ:** Matthew 22:36-40; I Corinthians 13:4-7; Luke 6:27-28, 32-36; I John 4:7-21

**Make it Personal:** What ideas in these verses do you find particularly challenging? Which aspect of love (from I Cor. 13) is the most difficult for you to consistently practice? Who do you find most difficult to love?

### Day #15 :: Friday, March 21

**JOY:** "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, JOY, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

Joy is a misunderstood virtue. Often, we use "happiness" and "joy" interchangeably, but they are different! Happiness has to do with "me"... with MY emotions, MY satisfaction with MY immediate circumstances. Think about how quickly we can move from "happy" to "unhappy!"

Joy, on the other hand, is on the inside. Joy isn't about "me," but almost always comes from NOT thinking about "me!" It's an inner peace and deep contentment that isn't easily swayed by what's happening around me. When bad things happens, you can still have joy!

**READ:** Psalm 16:11, 19:8, 28:7, 92:4; I Thessalonians 1:6; I Corinthians 8:2; James 1:2-3; I Peter 1:6-9

**Make it Personal:** Think of a time recently when you experienced a deep joy. What were you doing? Have you experienced joy, even while facing something difficult? If you're not experiencing joy in your life, examine if your life is "me" focused. How can you reach outside yourself to serve others?

### Day #16 :: Saturday, March 22

**PEACE:** "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, PEACE, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." Peace. You know when you have it and when you don't. Peace is not something you can fake or muster up. It's not something you can generate on your own by pretending to "not care what happens." You have peace, or you don't.

The kind of peace that God give is a sense of inner calm, an assurance that God has things in control, even when they seem very out of control. It happens when you let go of control and trust Him. This peace doesn't make sense in human terms... because it's not from us. It's a gift from God.

**READ:** Psalm 4:8; Prov. 14:30; Isaiah 26:3; John 14:26-27, 16:33; Philippians 4:6-7  
**Make it Personal:** Have you experienced the "peace that transcends understanding?"

Do you long for this peace? Only Christ can offer it. Have you let go of control to embrace the peace that He offers?