

Ministry Profile:

miniChurch



Taking the step to join a miniChurch has proven to be one of the greatest steps I've ever taken," said Janet Worrell. "Being a part of a miniChurch has not only enriched my life in many unexpected ways, but has also helped bring joy and healing to my heart."

Approximately eight months ago, Janet joined a miniChurch. The step to be vulnerable and be a part of a miniChurch was something she had avoided for many years. "Protective walls were my barrier, hindering me from connecting deeply to others," Janet explained. "I began to see that this isolation was resulting in stunted growth as a disciple of Christ, and my heart was lacking peace and joy."

Janet became very ill this past summer with the *Epstein Barr* virus and was grateful to be surrounded by the loving, caring members of her miniChurch family. Their visits, meals, cards, texts, prayers, encouragement, and transportation to

doctors' appointments made her feel she wasn't on a painful path alone.

"I felt the tangible love of God through the selfless actions of these beautiful friends," added Janet. "Being a part of this eclectic group of real and broken people just like myself has helped me to be willing to trust others again. Being close to other Christians who desire to follow Christ has helped me in my own desire to be transformed into the woman God wants me to be. I have found true joy in connecting to the body of Christ in an intimate, real way through my miniChurch. My heart fills with a smile just thinking about each one of them and how precious they have become to me!"

Dave Krilov is FAC's pastor of miniChurches and small groups. It brings him great joy to witness men and women following Jesus together and practicing the New Testament "one another" passages. "Our vision for miniChurches is 'disciples making disciples,'" explained Pastor Dave.

"Disciples who follow Jesus are being changed by Jesus and are committed to the mission of making disciples. This happens in fellowship with other Believers. We can't live the Christian life as well apart from the real community the Bible describes the Church to be. Joining a miniChurch is joining the vision and movement of disciples making disciples."

Dave first became involved in a miniChurch after he and his wife, Maria, were married in 2002. Both Dave and Maria deeply believed that they needed to be in close fellowship with other Believers in order to grow as Christians and improve their marriage. Over time, they went from being in a miniChurch group to co-leading a group. Then eventually, they were leading a group.

During that time, Dave was working in Philadelphia at a civil engineering firm. "It was then that God called me into full-time ministry as a pastor," he said. "While I juggled being a husband and

father of three girls, working in Philly, and attending seminary, Maria and I continued to be involved with the miniChurch ministry at FAC."

After Dave received his master's degree, God opened a door for him to be an associate pastor at an Alliance church in Seaford, Delaware, for six years. Then he became senior pastor at an Alliance church in Roanoke, Virginia. In both experiences,

seven leadership couples. Their role is to provide support and encouragement to the miniChurch leaders. Since there are 60 miniChurches at FAC, the coaches are needed to help Dave extend support to the large number of leaders.

"All the miniChurch leaders are doing an awesome job in making disciples of Jesus!" said Dave. "They're great people, and this ministry couldn't exist without

God desires for each of us. It also makes the big weekend services at FAC feel a lot smaller!"

Matt and Bethany Miller have been leading a miniChurch for several years. They are also miniChurch coaches. Matt and Bethany have always been involved individually in different ministries within the church. However, miniChurch has always been a way for both of them to serve and be in a group together.

"The people in our groups have experienced life along with us — good, bad and ugly," explained the Millers. "We love having a place to come together and be the body of Christ. Being transparent, spurring one another along in our journeys with Christ, and seeing how He is working in the lives of the people in our groups have made the hugest impact."

Pastor Dave would greatly appreciate it if the FAC family would pray for the miniChurch leaders. He requests prayer that the leaders continue to draw strength from the Lord and that their marriages deepen in love for one another. Dave said, "I often tell group members, 'Your relationships with the Lord and your spouse are very important. As those relationships go, so goes the group!'"

In addition, Pastor Dave asks us to pray for more leaders to develop from within those groups and that those leaders would catch the vision of making disciples. "My heart's desire is that new miniChurch leaders come from existing groups," shared Pastor Dave. "Part of the description of a disciple is to be making other disciples. This is God's master plan of evangelism — reproduction. What better place for this to happen than in our miniChurches!" ■

For More Information

If you have any questions or would like to find ways to participate in this ministry, contact Pastor Dave Krilov, 609-953-7333, x105, or davek@myfac.org.

If you would like to join a miniChurch, check out the open groups at www.myfac.org/joinmc.

he was involved with starting and leading small groups and developing discipleship processes for each.

Pastor Dave shared, "I wasn't aware of it at the time, but in hindsight I can see that God was certainly preparing me for such a role of overseeing small groups and being involved with discipleship at FAC! We're glad and thankful to be home!"

Pastor Dave's role at FAC is overseeing miniChurches. He firmly believes that ultimately God is the one who leads this ministry and he seeks the Lord each day. Dave said, "I often remind miniChurch leaders and coaches that my most important task is to be seeking Jesus and abiding closely with Him. I want all leaders to be doing the same as our relationship with Christ affects how we lead in all other areas of our life."

Pastor Dave works with FAC's ministry staff and an incredible volunteer team of miniChurch leaders and coaches. Each miniChurch coach oversees about

their vision and passion for miniChurches. By God's grace, we've launched 17 new miniChurches this year! I also have a miniChurch team that helps me with administration and planning. They are a great team to work with!"

Dodd and Ami Terry have enjoyed being miniChurch leaders since 2009 and are miniChurch coaches as well. Ami and Dodd believe that being involved in miniChurch has had a huge impact in their lives. "miniChurch is a place where we can live out the 'one another' passages from the New Testament," Dodd said. "miniChurch provides a safe place for all to live in an authentic community of faith where we love one another, pray for one another, and grow together."

Dodd and Ami believe the love, fellowship, and sharing that are found in a miniChurch can positively impact many lives. Dodd added, "God calls all of us to be in a community of Believers. Our miniChurch has been a loving, caring group where we can share life and have the abundant life