

# Enquirer.com, nky.com

## Job Search Focus Group now in 22 churches

---

By Karen Vance • Enquirer contributor • January 8, 2010

---

It began as a ministry at one local church. Last year, it grew to 22 churches, and now Job Search Focus Group is supported by a new Web site.

The ministry, which provides support and resources for individuals who are out of work, expanded in 2009 after an outpouring of calls from churches looking to offer similar ministries in their communities.

"Collectively, we can do better things and more things than if we try to do it alone," said Bob Pautke, president of Job Source Focus Group.

The group began at Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church in 1992, and today, more than 200 people attend every Monday morning at 9 a.m. for networking, workshops and career search tips.

Newcomers participate in an orientation at 8 a.m. Mondays introducing them to the services and resources available through the group. That newcomers group saw as many as 58 one Monday morning and averages about 25.

"People come because they find it encouraging, rewarding and satisfying to have a place to be Monday morning and they find that emotional and practical job search support by coming," Pautke said.

The newer groups, at places like Epiphany United Methodist Church in Loveland, Northminster Presbyterian Church in Finneytown, St. Susanna Catholic Church in Mason and Westwood First Presbyterian Church, serve as substitutes or supplements - depending on individual needs - to the Hyde Park group.

It's the churches' commitment to helping others and recognizing the spiritual dimension of job loss that have prompted the addition of these churches as partners, said Chuck Proudfit, president of At Work on Purpose, a strategic partner of the group.

"When people lose their jobs, they're flat on their backs emotionally and for many people it creates an identity crisis," Proudfit said. "It's spiritual for them to need to find the faith to believe that something good will come out of this and they will make it through."

The Web site serves as a connecting place for the larger network of achievement groups, offering a calendar of events and workshops, connecting employers to job candidates and offering resources, tips and articles on a variety of topics.

"It's about helping individuals achieve what they were meant to achieve," Pautke said. "Success isn't just about getting a job, it's about contributing and feeling valuable and satisfied in our work."

A complete listing of Job Search Focus Groups across the region and events are available at [www.careerachievementnetwork.com](http://www.careerachievementnetwork.com). Individuals do not have to be a member of a church to participate in the groups or utilize the Web site.

### **Church invites community for series**

This Sunday, Knox Presbyterian Church in Hyde Park will start a new series to help people find their "Phase of Faith."

"We recognize that people are at different stages in their faith journey. If they're at the start, they may feel like they want to get started but don't know where to begin," said Rich Wilson, a church member who is helping organize the series. "And for others who regularly attend a church, this can be a faith-deepening experience."

The church is starting with a sermon series on Sunday and continuing for four Sundays at its 9:15 and 11 a.m. services. Then at 6 p.m. Jan. 17, it will host a kick-off dinner for the church and members of the community who are participating.

The small groups will explore a variety of topics - a broad group for those looking to deepen their faith called "Journeys," "The Faith Journey: Heretics, You and Me," "The Faith Journey: The Future of Faith," "Young Professionals and Faith for the 21st Century," "Seekers" for women, a men's group, a parents' group, and Commons Café for seniors.

"We understand that people want to go on a journey or be in a group with people who are like them or who are facing the same issues," Wilson said. "That's why we hope to have a group for everyone."

For more information, a complete listing of the small groups or to sign up, visit [www.phasesoffaith.org](http://www.phasesoffaith.org).

### **Clowns offer faith**

St. Aloysius Gonzaga Catholic Church will host a special event for families at 4 p.m. Sunday, "The Bible Thru the Eyes of Snuggy and Starlite."

The two clowns will share the Bible through skits, stories and illusions. The program is free and open to the public in the church undercroft, 4390 Bridgetown Road, Bridgetown.

[kbvance@roadrunner.com](mailto:kbvance@roadrunner.com)