

Banwell Men's Ministry History

Once Upon a Time

The tale of the Banwell Men's Ministry takes you back to early in 2007. Growing out of the work of the church's Vision Team and the interest in starting a Men's Ministry, the first baby-steps began in February of that year. It was **Kim Anber, Lino Braccio, Claude Daniels, and Dave Wickham** who gathered to pray about what a Men's Ministry at Banwell could be. Also assisting in the early discussions were our pastor, **Alex Moir** and the chair of our Vision Team, **Grant Fairley. Al Prevett** joined us along the way.

A couple of themes soon developed. The group wanted a Men's Ministry where men would be in community with each other. As the Women's Ministry does well, there was a desire to have events and connections that men would want to attend and support. That meant that the events would minister to the whole person as men. There should be fun, friendship, challenges as well as a focus on the support and development of the spiritual life of the men. Engaging men as men would be important in a time when what it means to be a man was uncertain in our culture. The significance of men in family life was also vital for not only family life but for church life as well.

The early events included breakfasts with a devotional time, a summer BBQ, pizza and a movie at the church. Each of the men were encouraged to bring a friend who might benefit from some friendship. The big event of the first

year was our men's retreat called "The Great Escape" where men could take time away from the routines to develop a greater sense of community through spending a block of time together at the Holy Family Retreat House on Lake Erie.

Over the five years, community happened! Growing out of that sense of community the men looked for ways to serve. One of the opportunities that connected the men with the community was organizing and delivering fresh fruits, vegetables and breads to one of our city's neediest schools, Begley Public School in downtown Windsor. These regular deliveries of food donated and purchased from various food stores in our city have given fresh and nutritious snacks to these children who have too little of these kind of foods. It has been a powerful connection to our community and for the men a way to make a difference in many lives week after week. This ministry now also includes Marlborough Public School as well.

The Men's Ministry benefits from the energy and commitment of the many men who plan, pray, serve and come to our events and programs.

Who knew that we would have seen so many good things develop through the willingness of our men to build a community to support each other and reach out?

God knew!

Men's Mission Statement

Working – Serving – Studying God's Word

“As the men of Banwell Community Church, we commit to provide opportunities to gather together, to develop our faith and our relationships, and to become representatives of Christ's love and hope in the world.”

History Highlights

2007

Vision Team Challenge
Prayer & Planning
Roseland Golf Course – The First Breakfast
BBQ at The Anbers
Pizza & Movie Night
The Great Escape Weekend

2008

Movie Night for Husbands, Wives & Friends
Mother/Daughter Banquet – Served by the Men
Father Son Golf Driving Range & BBQ
First Annual Golf Tournament
Family Apple Picking

2009

First Men's Prayer Breakfast –
Speaker, Mr. Dave Page
Weekend Seminar featuring Pastor Alex Moir
Mother, Daughters & Friends Banquet
Men's Ministry Survey
Mission Projects including Patio Brick Replacement
Ride for Refugees in Essex County
Golf Tournament & Dinner at the Doyle's

2010

Mission Work Projects
The first Men's Ministry newsletter is published by Jim Wheeler
Leadership Seminar by Grant Fairley
Annual Mother, Daughter & Friend's Banquet
Annual Spring Cleanup
Driveway Repair
Begley Public School Ministry Begins
Family Apple Picking Day
Golf Outing & Kelsey's For Dinner

2011

Breakfast Meetings
Begley Public School Ministry Expands
Marlborough Public School Nutrition Program Begins
Outreach Seminar with Dave Hammond
Annual Fundraising Car Wash
Summer Men's BBQ
Great Escape Retreat 2.0 with Dr. Chuck Congram

**Men's Ministry
Celebrates its
5th Anniversary**

These are the men that take time from their schedules to make all this happen:

Our Executive: Lino Braccio, Bob Middaugh, Roy Gellner, Claude Daniels (Chair)

Coaches: Vladimir Kralik, Pastor Alex Moir, Jim Wheeler, Wayne Parsons

And we thank our church family for their prayers and support.

Let's Give God the Glory!