

SOMA

A Church of the Christ

Our First "Preview" Worship Gathering...

Our apologies for the late newsletter this month, but we really wanted to give you a glimpse of our first "preview" worship gathering on Sunday night June 1 at Kingwood Bible Church.



Wait, what's a "preview" worship gathering? Great question. Leading up to our October 5 launch date, we want to have larger monthly "preview" worship gatherings. These gatherings will help us show the community what Soma is like and give opportunities for unchurched people to share their feed-back and ask questions.

Thanks to lots of prayer and hard work, we came away praising God on June 1 as we had 46 people in attendance at worship that night (our goal was 40). But even better than that number was the fact that as worship finished around 7:15 p.m., nearly everyone was still around an hour later hanging and talking! As a church planter who is always thinking about how we can engage the "outsiders" among us in spiritual conversations, I was extremely proud of everyone on our launch team as they made a point to talk to as many new people as they could.

We're also excited that a few of our first-time guests are getting plugged into the Soma community through our various LiFE groups (worship/creative arts, kids, service, & pathways).

What's coming up next? As usual, we've got a lot going on each week, but as we're involving new people with Soma, we're all getting ready for our next preview worship gathering on Sunday, June 29 at 6:00 p.m. where we hope to have 60 people with us that evening!

Please Pray 4...

- **Protection.** We are now starting to feel increased pressure from the enemy with stress, temptations, doubts, and physical problems—please pray for God's protection and redemptive activity.
- **Transformed Lives.** Please pray that people would come to faith as they experience Jesus within the ministry of Soma. Pray for those who are making faith steps closer to Jesus.
- **New Leaders.** Praise God for new leaders God is raising up, but with them, please pray that God would use them to influence lives with the Gospel.
- **Work Funds.** God is answering this prayer, but we still have a ways to go.



An Update and Reminder...



Last month, we made some space in our newsletter to let you know about our goal of raising \$60,000 in start-up work funds in preparation for our October 5 launch date where we're anticipating over 200 people! We feel good about Soma "launching large" but as we mentioned before, this will take lots of prayer, hard work, and bold financial partners to catch the Soma vision.

This past month, we received nearly \$8,000 in special gifts to help towards our "launching large" goals. To those who made those gifts, we can't thank you enough for your support!

We are currently at about 34% of our goal of \$60K. Praise God!

On the flip side, if you have been thinking about making a special gift to Soma, know of potential prayer/financial partners, or would like a more detailed budget of our planned expenditures leading up to launch, please don't hesitate to drop Dwayne an email (dwayne@somasalem.org) or phone call (503.580.4118). Questions are always a good thing.

Worship & Creative Arts

One of Soma's LiFE group areas that is more and more a connecting point for people who are just checking us out is the area of creative arts.



On May 11, for example, Michael led worship and directed everyone in writing haikus based on the character of God. The conversations that followed were incredible. On June 1, our worship planning involved releasing everyone there to participate in various worship stations, including those centered on prayer, creativity, offering, and communion.

And in July, Bethany Suppes (a sophomore at ACU) will be interning with Soma in our worship & create arts LiFE group. One of the things she'll be doing is working with pre-Christians and part of our Launch Team in creating and implementing how we do worship in creative ways.

Creativity, as we're discovering, is not only a part of who we are as humans, but is becoming a powerful tool for spiritual formation.

By the Numbers...

46

People that were at our first "preview" worship gathering on Sunday night, June 1

\$2,220.00

May's contribution total, which will largely be going towards our launch day

19.25

Our average launch team attendance on Sunday nights throughout the month of May.

4

Very active LiFE groups at Soma that focus on Worship/Creative Arts, Service, Kids, & Pathways (helping new people to connect at Soma)

15

Estimated number of tattoos on Nate Bordewich's body (Nate & Melissa are the Hilty's very cool neighbors and will be helping put on Soma's clothing giveaway in September).

61

The approximate # of cookies that Carmel, Sara, & Ericka baked and brought to our June 1 preview service.

06-29-2008

Date of Soma's next preview worship service.

SOMA

A Church of the Christ

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Being Jesus to an Emerging Generation
by

Creating Authentic Community,
Practicing Missional Living,
Engaging in Creative Dignity,
& Nurturing Spiritual Formation