

new life news

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF NEW LIFE CHURCH OF CHRIST
MAY 2016

Steve says...

I don't want to be your Mommy

I don't know how to write this article. Do I try to encourage and exhort better effort? Do I talk about the frustrations of those affected? Maybe I could take the Biblical approach and quote scripture verses. Do I take a disappointed tone, saying I expect better? I feel like I am scolding and scolding is your Momma's job. I don't want to be your Momma!

Here is the situation. We have been seeing an increasing level of disregard in the use of our building by church members. It isn't that people are intentionally creating problems, but more like there is a general lack of thoughtfulness and concern for those who are going to be following along behind. Below are a list of common sense guidelines. Following these guidelines is a matter of showing courtesy to the rest of the church body, please do so.

1. When you use a room, return it to the condition (or cleaner) that it was in when you got there. If you moved/setup/tore down tables or chairs then you are not done until you have returned them to where they were when you got there.
2. Turn the lights off and lock the doors (if you are the last to leave.)
3. If you have food, then wipe down tables/counters/etc. when you are done. If some gets spilled then get a broom or vacuum and clean up the food on the floor. (We have a contract with a pest control company, but food on the floor makes it impossible to get rid of things like ants and mice.)
4. If you break something tell the building administrator (Sherri), so we can repair or replace it. It isn't that someone is going to be mad, but if we don't know it won't get taken care of.

May Events

- **May 8th – Mother's Da**
- **May 11th – Community
Dinner**
- **May 22nd – Graduation
Sunday**
- **May 24th - Praise Team
Gathering**
- **May 30th – Memorial Day**

5. If you get things out of the storage room, put them away where they came from. Don't just toss it in, return it neatly.
6. If you have kids with you at the building, **DO NOT LET THEM RUN WILD THROUGH THE BUILDING**. Keep them with you, you are responsible for them and they are not free to wander into every room.
7. About the kitchen:
 - a. The consumable supplies in the kitchen (paper and plastic products, etc) are for church events. If you are having a private event, they are not yours to use. If you are part of a church related event, go ahead.
 - b. If you use dishes, then wash, dry, and put them away when you are done. Throwing dirty dishes in the sink for someone else to deal with is rude.
 - c. Do not leave your food in the kitchen thinking someone from the church will use it. No one will know where it came from or how long it has been around and it will not get eaten.
 - d. Leave the kitchen wiped down and cleaned up.
8. If you want to borrow something from the church, you must get permission from Sherri our building administrator.
9. Don't bring your stuff to the church and then leave it. If you want to give stuff away, talk to the building administrator and get permission to bring it or put it in the New Life List.
10. If you see something that needs done. Do it! Don't leave it for someone else. The building belongs to all of us and we all need to cooperate to take care of it.

Kyle's Korner

Men's Group

Beginning in May, we will be having a monthly gathering for **men** here at New Life. The purpose of this group is to help us all grow together in our faith as men & to develop a biblical perspective as to what it means to be a Christian man of character. This group is meant for men who have graduated high school & older. If you are graduating this May, please feel free to join us! Each gathering is meant to include both an activity along with Scriptural challenge and reflection. Below I have included a schedule of activities & themes that we hope to address at each specific gathering. If you are interested in participating please let me (Kyle) or Steve Kistler know as soon as possible. Our first gathering will be at Mohican State Park on May 14 at 1:00pm. We will meet at the covered bridge at 1:00pm & will hike to the waterfall. The theme for the afternoon will be The Narrow Path, taken from Matthew 7:13-14. Hope to see you there!

Keep in mind that the exact dates each month will be set once we know who all is in the group. This is just a monthly schedule...

May: Hiking, The Narrow Path (Mt 7:13-14)

June: Fishing, Patience (James 5:5-8)

July: Shooting, Caution with Words (James 3:3-12)

August: Ropes Course, Teamwork (Ecclesiastes 4:7-12)

September: Paintball, Accountability (James 5:16)

October: Service Project, True Religion (James 1:27)

November: Mechanical Project, Commitment to the Whole (Ephesians 4:16)

December: Ball Game, Discipline (Philippians 2:12-15)

January: Commitment Ceremony and Meal

Jason's Jam

I'm so encouraged to see our kids growing in Christ here at New Life. You have an opportunity to be a part of that growth, both for children and you. I'm getting ready to create teaching schedules into fall 2017, and if you would like the opportunity to volunteer, see me and we will talk about the best place for you. It is such a blessing to see the Christian growth of a child, and I want you to be a part of it! Continue to pray for our youth and those who are helping them grow, both physically and spiritually.

The Air of Prayer

In his book entitled, "Love to Pray. A 40 Day Devotional for Deepening Your Prayer Life," Alvin Vandergriend outlines five differences that prayer makes in our lives. Prayer is often misunderstood or not fully understood for what it truly is. Vandergriend simply describes that "prayer is the conversational part of the most important love relationship in our lives, our love relationship with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." He continues to describe the good of prayer saying that "it helps us to grow into and live out of that most important of all love relationships." In other words, prayer is the air necessary for spiritual growth and life because it is the love language by which we communicate with God. Prayer makes a difference because the power of God is released in the prayers of His people. James 5:16 says, "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." This does not mean that we possess some supernatural power in ourselves to bring things about through prayer, but rather that our prayers can release God's power to work in every situation. The power in prayer is God's power through prayer.

Prayer is also the key to great works. As Jesus left his disciples he assured them with these words recorded in John 14:12-13. "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father." We are taught to pray in Jesus' name because His work is continued through us. We prayerfully ask God to help us complete the work of Christ through the Gospel and God is faithful to answer those prayers for His glory. God has given us prayer so that we may help each other stand victorious over the powers of evil. Ephesians 6:18 reminds us to "Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayer and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints." God intends that all believers be strengthened to stand, as all take seriously the responsibility to always keep on praying, on all occasions, with all kinds of prayer for each other.

Prayer is the God-given means by which God's power is brought to our defense so that we can stand up against the devil's schemes. In Luke 22:31-32, Jesus tells Peter that He prayed for him so that his faith may not fail. Imagine how our church would be changed and strengthened if we prayed for one another this way. Our battle is not against one another. We must stand, united in prayer, against every evil that would seek to destroy our faith in God.

Finally, prayer can shape history. Our faithful prayer today will shape tomorrow as we seek the will of God. Acts 12:1-17 tells the story of how Peter miraculously escaped from Prison. It is no coincidence that God's people were praying for him and for God to act on Peter's behalf. Vandergriend tells us of the impact our prayers have saying, "In a very real sense the future of the world is in the hands of praying Christians."

Prayer must be more than a brief poem recited before a meal. It must be more than offering up our wants and desires before God. Prayer is not about our power or convincing God to do things our way. Prayer must reach beyond the here and now. Prayer is powerful. It is a powerful means of releasing God's power in the world. It is a powerful way for the work of Christ to continue through the Church. It is the power to stand against evil and to encourage one another to walk in faith. Prayer has the power to make history and shape the future. Prayer is the air and lifeblood of our relationship to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

May Birthdays

- 3 – Logan Awwiller, Haley (Culler) Sharp, Elizabeth Maglott, Aiden Armstrong
- 5 – Ethan Dudgeon
- 6 – Colt Browne
- 7 – Chad Richards
- 10 – John Dudgeon
- 11 – Sandy Rhodes
- 12 – Tom Mascazzini
- 13 – Sarah Pratt
- 14 – Tyson Armstrong
- 15 – Lyle Beveridge
- 16 – Jan McLaughlin, Aaron Ford
- 17 – Dale Mowry, Rachel Shaffer
- 18 – Ed Clawson, Julie Dome
- 19 – Natalie Greer
- 20 – Hannah Thompson, Alaina Hawkins
- 21 – Amber Sharp
- 22 – Bev Farst, Jessica Hart, Iona Hickerson
- 23 – Tim South
- 25 – Roy Kehl
- 26 – Erin Slone
- 27 – Diana Shaffer
- 28 – Scott Armstrong, Brittney Hart
- 31 – Dottie Mowry

My Kids and Media Seminar

On April 23 a group of a little over twenty parents gathered here at the church to participate in a seminar given by Tom Day, our church counselor. Parenting in today's world can be difficult. It may even be argued that the challenges of today are greater than ever before because of the ease of accessibility kids have to nearly everything in the world because of technology. So, concerned parents gathered to hear information about a different sort of threat that he frequently experiences as a counselor: substance abuse. He shared information on the prevalence of substance abuse and subsequent addictions that result in them. His hope was to alert parents to a danger that is becoming increasingly popular in today's youth culture. The important point that was made was that kids are using drugs at alarmingly young ages. He also brought up an important point about the increased potency chemical risks of newer synthetic drugs. Sure, substance abuse is nothing new. What is new, however, are the substances that are being abused and the materials used to make them more 'effective.' Another important factor is that with the increased use of synthetic substances being abused, any physical material that can be burned can be turned into a mind-altering substance. Parents need to be aware of how accessible these materials are and how widespread abuse of them is.

Colt Browne was also present to give parents a feel for the most common substances abused in the area and steps that users take to hide their use.

Tom also mentioned several points about the development of the human brain. He brought up the point that our brains are going through some deeply important changes during our adolescent years and that kids struggle to make good decisions that evaluate possible consequences. Perhaps this is why they are prone to waste countless hours of time on media or to damage future opportunities by impulsive decisions. Bottom line, parents need to be aware that their teens are in a stage of development where leaving them to make too many life impacting decisions is dangerous. Parental involvement is necessary!

Thanks to Tom for sharing his thoughts with us. Also, thanks to Colt for taking time to share some of his knowledge and experiences. Thanks to all who chose to participate.

Blessings,
Kyle

Upcoming Events

June 5 – June 11 – Missouri Youth Mission Trip

June 27 – July 1 – Connect Camp at Round Lake