



# new life *news*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF NEW LIFE CHURCH OF CHRIST  
OCTOBER 2017

## Steve Says...

... that I am encouraged by the different discipling situations I see popping up around New Life. Some of these Discipleship activities are programs. **Discipleship U** has had a good start and is developing accountability in small (4 or less in a group) groups of people. The relationships formed in these types of settings are so important to our growth in the Lord AND for building a closer church family. The **Growing Kids God's Way** Parenting class is another discipleship type programs. The class focuses on teaching parents about Godly principles that we need to be instilling in our children and then suggesting tools(practices) that will do exactly that. The people in the class are then going home and trying these new things. The next week in class we talk about how it is going and encourage each other to raise our children to be Biblically responsive and Morally responsible. Also the **Mentor Me** program from our youth has been building some relationships across generations in our congregation as well. I am also encouraged to see some naturally developing discipleship going on. You are starting to really understand that making disciples is simply the work of coming alongside someone and helping them in life and in faith. Making Disciples is our job as Christians and it needs to happen by coming alongside someone where they are and helping them to take the next step in their life toward God. This is true for believers as well as unbelievers.

... that once again, your generosity is amazing. The offering that we took up for the Harvey relief fund was well over \$6,000. It might seem like the needs around us are overwhelming, but when you are rich toward God in this way, we can be certain that He will multiply our giving to serve His needs and to help those who need it.

## Church Events

- October 1,8,15,22,29  
Sonshine Singers  
Practice 4:00pm
- October 11  
Beveridge Discussion  
Group 7:00pm  
(Beveridge's Home)
- October 12  
Senior Moments Event  
12:00pm
- October 15  
Mission Day 10:00am
- October 25  
Beveridge Discussion  
Group 7:00pm  
(Beveridge's Home)



## Kyle's Korner

One of the most interesting things about youth ministry is being able to minister to kids as they grow up into adults. Students can begin to come to youth ministry specific events in the sixth grade. Sixth graders look like kids. They may be taller than their younger elementary counterparts, but they still have the voices, mannerisms and forms of the younger kids. But by the time they leave the kids who came in leave as young men and women, with clearly masculine or feminine characteristics. Physical growth in healthy people is guaranteed, but spiritual growth is not. Another sometimes frightening practice we youth ministers do is to look back over the years at the students who have been through youth ministries that we have overseen. Where are they? What are they doing? And most importantly, are they rooted in their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ? Sometimes the story is sad, and we can look at group pictures of groups from years past and we know that many of them are now disconnected from the church, whether actually physically absent or, though physically present, detached by their contentment to be uninvolved. Situations like this motivate us to look at the approaches we take to minister to teens and to ask if we are really doing the best we can to bring every teen we are given an opportunity with the chance for interaction with the crucified, risen and glorified Christ. Are we clearly presenting Christ and His mission without distortions so that the youth we minister to can respond to Him?



*Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.*  
*2 Corinthians 9:10*

Sometimes reminiscing can be painful. But other times it can be a great encouragement! As we have been working through the questions about what it means to be a church committed to following Christ by loving God, loving people and making disciples, it is always a blessing to see when people 'get' it. Over the past several years there have been many of our students who 'get' it. When they leave their family for a season for college, they do so with the full intention of following Christ in all they do, and their decisions about where to go to school and what to study reflect that commitment. A deeply encouraging thing from a youth minister's point of view is the number of youth who decide to go to school locally, work locally or to return home after finishing school. Many of these students desire to invest in others and in the life of the church on deeper levels, so I end up recruiting many of them as youth helpers (thanks, guys!). Seeing graduating classes where large numbers of the students are asking the question 'how can I please God with the course of my life?' is deeply encouraging and is a testimony to God working through various parts of this congregation to speak into the lives of students. This pattern is becoming the norm for graduates more and more. Looking into those who will be graduating over the next couple of years I see students who are LOADED with potential and who have a heart that reflects Christ's character and who are asking all the right questions as far as the trajectory of their life goes. In short, they 'get' it. Never underestimate the potential impact you can have on young people by praying for them, caring for them and speaking encouraging words to them.





## October Birthdays

- 1 – Charles Dome, Lani Snyder
- 2 – Korbin Rogers
- 4 – Mary Carroll
- 8 – Isaac Kistler
- 9 – Matthew Clark, Regina Jones
- 10 – Taylor Ramey
- 11 – Greg Sharp
- 12 – Mason Noe
- 13 – Sam Armstrong, Ron Johnson,  
Rod Shofner
- 14 – Kara Kistler
- 15 – Kaitlyn Sharp
- 16 – Phyllis Hughett, Vic MacTavish
- 18 – Kerry Hart, Trey Vail
- 19 – Whitney Cromer, Brent Dudgeon,  
Rhett Dudgeon, Jodi Ramey, Don  
Wilson,
- 22 – Bill Smith, Linda Tucker, Ruth Ward
- 23 – Chris Frontz, Katelynn Lucci
- 25 – Heidi Ehret, Joe Kindt, Stephanie  
Kistler, Carolyn Shofner
- 26 – Arik Beveridge, Joel Twedt,
- 29 – Olivia Hickerson, Hudson Sharp
- 30 – Jay Thompson
- 31 – Stan Rhodes, Rhonda Tetlow

## JASON'S JAM

As I take a look at our Children's Ministry and ponder the question, where do I see discipleship and disciple making, I'm amazed to see God using his people to work out the mission. I see discipleship in the hearts of our volunteers and their passion in telling our little ones about Jesus and helping train them up. I see it in our teachers, with prepared lessons, with lots of patience, and with smiles on their faces. I hear it in the stories I'm told of things kids say, to the "wherever I'm needed" attitude, to helping serve corndogs on Sunday nights. My hope and prayer that the passion these volunteers have will catch fire to many more and we can continue to be a church that works together to train our kids up in the Lord. God is good, and he has commanded us to be joyful, and our joyful volunteers are setting an amazing example for our kids here at New Life!

## Mission Living

It is exciting to see our mission of following Jesus being lived out by loving God, loving people, and making disciples. Here are just a few ways in which I have seen God working in the Worship Arts Ministry.

One Sunday morning a visitor attended our second worship gathering. He actually went to school with a young couple here at New Life. They were surprised to see this young man at church unannounced and as they talked with him, he asked some general questions about New Life and where the worship center was located. It was such a blessing to see this family stay for the second worship gathering after already attending the first as well as Sunday School so that our visitor was not sitting alone. This is what it looks like to follow Jesus by loving people. The willingness of this family to participate in another worship gathering so that our visitor felt welcome is a great example of mission living.

We recently had a meeting to discuss the future of our Drama ministry. A portion of our discussion focused on how the dramatic arts work in relation to conveying a message through storytelling. Basically, every drama or comedy has two elements that drive the message. Conflict or tension and the desires of the characters help to develop the truth being told. We looked at a familiar passage in Matthew 18 about the Unmerciful Servant. We see the conflict between debt and forgiveness throughout the story and the desire of the characters to be set free from their debt. Jesus tells us the moral of the story at the end of the passage where we learn that the forgiveness that God offers *to us* should also be offered *through us* as well. The majority of those that attended the meeting have been believers for a while and this story was of course familiar to us all, but as seen through this dramatic lens, we were able to encourage one another as growing followers Christ to offer forgiveness in the midst of conflict in our lives.

I have been encouraged by the prayers of many people who have left requests and praises on the prayer wall outside of my office. I am even more encouraged when I notice that some of them have been taken by others as they offer them to the Lord in daily prayer. This is one way in which we deepen our love for God and others when we engage in meaningful conversation with our Father. I was recently talking with an individual here at the church and mentioned that "Prayer isn't something we do to get what we want, it is something we do in order to know what God wants." I pray that we are engaged with God everyday through scripture study, prayerful conversation, and godly fellowship with others. Our continued efforts in this area will enable us to love God more and more.

Finally, we are just beginning a new rehearsal format with the praise team on Tuesday evenings which includes a time to ask questions designed to encourage us to be the kind of worshipers God seeks. It has been such a blessing to be able to hear the responses of how God is working in the lives of His people here at New Life. It is even more rewarding to know that our example in worship is a powerful testimony to those who do not know and worship our God. One individual has been sharing about her interactions with an unbelieving family member who recently weathered hurricane Irma in Florida. As she recounted the conversations between them, I could not help but to think of the tremendous opportunity to share about God's faithfulness and protection through the storms of life. We continue to pray for this individual and her family as we strive to be disciples who are making disciples.

There are countless examples of God using people for His purposes and glory. As a Worship Arts Ministry, we want to encourage you to be open to God's mission and the opportunities He gives you every day to live out your pursuit of Jesus Christ by loving God, loving people, and making disciples.

~Ryan



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER

UPWARD EVALUATIONS

NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>, 7<sup>TH</sup>, & 8<sup>TH</sup>

SEE KYLE FOR TIMES

NOVEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>

ALL CHURCH THANKSGIVING DINNER

5:30PM