

# The Nall Call

Monthly Newsletter of Nall Avenue Baptist

December 2019 Volume 35, Issue 12



## AWANA 2019-2020

Thanks to Lindsay Radliff who stepped up at the last minute to fill the shoes of the Commander and to the many volunteers that it takes to make this program a success. Our volunteers are used in many aspects of the program; commander, leaders, listeners, secretary, games and large group teaching.

We are about to end the first semester on Dec. 4th. However, we can always use more volunteers, if you would have some interest in helping in some capacity please contact Lindsay Radliff @radliffs@gmail.com or (913) 638-9472. Here are some fun shots from some of our evenings together.



## Youth Ministries Recap

*A Knight of Murder*, The Student Ministries' Murder Mystery event took place Saturday, November 9th. The Students enjoyed an evening of community building through mystery solving and an ice cream bar!



## 51st Annual Thanksgiving Pancake Breakfast

“It’s like a family reunion for Nall families.”  
Thank you for all of the faithful volunteers that made this event possible.



## Welcome New Members

Joe & Kathryn Whetstone, November 1, 2019

Scott & Amy Hass & children, Liberty, Emory, Archer, Hartley, Lottie, November 10, 2019



## Deepest Sympathies

We extend our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of:

- Onnie Elliot, longtime member
- Melinda Grable, daughter of our late friends Virginia and Frank Grable
- Infant Great Grandson of Marian Nelson
- Lucille Donnell, longtime member



## Joy Luncheon

**DECEMBER 12, 2019**

**Jim Two Crows Wallen**

**Presents**

**FATHER CHRISTMAS**



Monthly senior potluck, meets every 2nd Thursday. Our next one is Thursday, December 12. Everyone is welcome, bring your friends and family. Bring your favorite potluck dish or pay \$4 at the door. Fellowship starts at 11:30 am. Guest will be Jim Two Crows Wallen presenting the tradition of Father Christmas.



## Wednesday’s Dinner Menu

Dec. 4 Tuscan chicken, fettuccine, squash medley, steamed broccoli, kid’s menu, salad bar.

**Dinner’s will resume on January 8, 2020.**

## Christmas Gifts for Children

We will be adopting families from Santa Fe Trail who need assistance providing Christmas gifts for their children. We will have a gift tree in the main hall with tags that will provide information about the child (age, size and requested gift description which may be clothing or a toy like item). The family will have at least one child at school at SFT but may have younger or older siblings. We will adopt all the children (but only children) in each family.

Gift tags will be on the tree this Sunday, 12/8 and gifts are to be delivered to church no later than Wednesday, 12/18.

The City of Mission will be putting together Christmas dinner baskets for each family and will deliver their baskets on the morning of 12/20 before families arrive to pick up.

Volunteers will be needed as follows:

**Thursday, December 19th**—6:30pm - 7:30pm- Organize gifts by family in preparation for pick-up

**Friday, December 20th** - 10:00am - 4:00pm help families load gifts.

**If you are interested in serving, please contact Gerrie Orr—**

**314-971-1216 or gerrieo5135@gmail.com**



## Upcoming Events

Home Group Leader Mtg	Dec 1
Men's Breakfast	Dec 2
Upward First Practice	Dec 3
AWANA Store	Dec 4
Youth Christmas Party	Dec 4
MOPS	Dec 5
Youth Lunch After church	Dec 8
TL & AHG	Dec 9
Volunteer Appr'n Dinner	Dec 11
MOMSnex	Dec 12
Joy Luncheon	Dec 12
MOPS	Dec 19
Christmas	Dec 25
Offices Closed	Dec 25
Offices Closed	Dec 26



## Neighborhood Church celebrates their 3 year anniversary

On November 10, Neighborhood Church celebrated its 3 year anniversary with 8 baptisms and over 175 in attendance. Nall has assisted this church plant through financial and volunteer support. Neighborhood Church is in the process of planting a church in Olathe. We are excited for the coming years of discipleship! Please continue to pray for Neighborhood Church.

# Cohabitation and Marriage

By Joe Funderburk, Senior Pastor

New research on the attitudes of Americans toward cohabitation and marriage reveals some disappointing things. The Pew Research Center now finds that more young adults have cohabitated than have married. As behavior follows attitudes, Pew has also discovered that 69% of Americans believe that it is acceptable for an unmarried couple to live together even if they don't get married. I think we should seriously consider that staggering number. According to Gallup 41% of all Americans identify themselves as "born-again" or "evangelical". It doesn't take a math wizard to see that those numbers bleed together. In other words, there is a large number of believers who seem to be fine with cohabitation. Only 14% of the population holds a biblical view on the issue stating that cohabitation with a partner outside of marriage is "never acceptable". What do we make of such shocking numbers even among believers in the church?

I want to be clear in writing this article that I do not expect people who do not have a relationship with Christ to live as they do have one. I think this is a mistake the church has been making for a long time. We no longer live in a Christian culture, if we ever truly did. Expecting those who do not have a relationship with Jesus to live a moral lifestyle is a fool's errand. The bible makes it clear that those who are lost are in darkness, they prefer the darkness over the light. Our work in sharing Christ to those who are in darkness will put us in a position of dealing with lives that are messy and out of line with the Word of God. A changed heart comes before anyone can ever begin to address change in lifestyle. My disappointment is not with those



who are lost, it is with those who say they are born again. Even if we discount those who are still spiritually immature in their faith, I think it is reasonable to expect a higher number of believers to hold to a biblical understanding of sexuality and marriage. Our retreat in this area is not only immoral, it is tragic. Even from a practical point of view all available research tells us that those who cohabit before marriage are more likely to divorce. A 2018 study published in the Journal of Marriage and Family states that the "premarital cohabitation effect", cohabitation negatively impacts divorce rates, is still alive and well. In accepting cohabitation we continue to set our sons and daughters up for not only moral failure, but also marital failure.

Marriage is a godly institution that deserves our willingness to defend it. We live in time where biblical standards are ridiculed and openly despised. Our response is not in vitriol or anger, but in faithful adherence and practice of what is good before God. Defending the biblical ethic on marriage and sexuality begins with God's people. We must and we can show the great benefit of following the Lord's standards in these areas. We must model our relationships expectation and practice for our children and grandchildren. In faithfully following Christ in sexuality and marriage we have the opportunity to offer a different way and a fulfilling family life to those who are suffering and living with the pain of broken promises and broken.