

The Nall Call

Monthly Newsletter of Nall Avenue

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Parking Lot VBS, Thursday, July 16 through Saturday, July 18, 6:00 to 8:30 pm.

Elementary age kids for those who have completed 1st thru 6th grade.

Kids will enjoy Bible lessons, activities, snacks, crafts, music, games and more.

Register your child, nallave.org/vbs, and to volunteer.



Mission Adelante

On June 24, 20 volunteers came together to stuff backpacks full of school supplies for 20 Elementary boys. They were delivered on June 25. Thank you to all who made this missions committee project a success, donations of backpacks and supplies, time given to stuff the backpacks and the volunteer that delivered them.



Mission Adelante is a multi-cultural ministry community with Bhutanese refugees and Latino immigrants emphasizing individual transformation and community development in our urban Kansas City.



All Church BUSINESS MEETING

Back to business, we are having our first Business Meeting since January, on Sunday July 26, 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary! We will live stream for those who are not coming to church yet, so you can hear what all is going on, you can ask questions in the comment sections of YouTube, but you will have to be present in order to vote on anything.

Several topics to be discussed, here are the highlights: Nominating Committee Report, New Deacons presented and voted on, and the Personnel Committee recommendations. All encouraged to attend and all welcome.

Telephone Core Group Class

Just a reminder that the Telephone Core Group Class is open and available for anyone to join. Toll Free Conference Number: 1-888-336-6091, Guest Access Code: 642374#, # sign must be included, dial in Sundays at 9:30 am.



Deepest Sympathies

We extend our deepest sympathy to the families and friends:

John Hopkins, longtime member

Karen Bortka, sister to Debbie Denson and Nancy Novosel.

Who are you watching Church with?



Meet Martha, Bassett hound of Jackie and Neal Williams. Martha attends church also with Jackie and Neal. She had jumped up on the chair but fell asleep about 10 minutes into the message. Have something you want to share from your live streamed church service, send to

Loretta@nallave.org.





Do this in remembrance of me.

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it. "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them. "Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

We will be observing and partaking together the Lord's Supper on Sunday July 12. Email Loretta@nallave.org for contact free element pick up.



The Deacon Ordaining Council met to question 3 new deacons, Bruce Bayless, Mike Fox and Phil Shipley, and will recommend to the church for ordination of these new deacons at the July 26 business meeting. They will be voted on at that time. A Sunday in August will be selected for their ordination.



Church In The Age of Polarization and Fragmentation

by Joe Funderburk

It is obvious that we live in tumultuous times. Our country is hemorrhaging under the pressures of political polarization and societal fragmentation, perhaps unlike at any other point in our history. The year 2020 has offered a few different challenges that have exacerbated and illustrated these forces at the same time. On one hand, you have a national pandemic that arrives and throws our country into medical and financial turmoil. And yet, unlike in times past (1918), instead of uniting our country this pandemic and the conversations in and around it only continues to polarize us. Are there any subjects today available for discussion that don't devolve quickly into arguments? On another hand, you have an act of police brutality that leads to the death of an African-American man. An act, by the way, that most everyone seems to agree was clearly awful and criminal. And yet even with that apparent agreement we see resulting drives toward fragmentation, pitting one group against another. Instead of confronting pandemics and racism collectively, sadly we only seem able to continue riding the tide of fragmentation. This fragmentation goes much deeper than race and includes economic, religious, and generational fault lines. I have never been more convinced that these twin sisters of destruction, political polarization and societal fragmentation, are a real threat for the future of our country and also for the mission of the church.

So why am I writing about this? My main interest here is what these forces have to do with the church and, what specifically, our response should be. I hope we all could agree that we should be a force for good and justice in this world. We ought to stand against racism, we ought always to move with the tide of liberty and freedom and continue to reform an imperfect union. Political involvement and social action are an important part of a Christian ethic in this world. But the truth is that we will not all agree on the issues, and by extension we will not all agree on the steps of action in those arenas. But in these things the church has an opportunity to model virtues that are rapidly disappearing in our culture. We ought to model active listening before debate, appreciation of different experiences and vantage points, agreeing to disagree with genuine love, and actively pursuing our convictions without vilifying our opponents. If believers cannot model these behaviors what hope do we ever have that such virtues could make it back into secular, public discourse?

I believe we must also have a reckoning with the destruction of hyper-partisan politics. Politics is not inherently evil, but we must critically ask ourselves exactly what kind of politics are we going to be involved in? In a world where serious followers of Christ might rapidly become the powerless and even despised minority, we are fooling ourselves if we don't recognize the truth that neither political party holds all of our interests at heart. We are simply another fragmented group to be pandered to or opposed. For too long some in the church have bought the lie that politics can solve moral problems. The forces that have been separating the West from the things of God for centuries will not be reversed by politicians, judges, and elections. Injustice in all its forms continues no matter what party is in power. No matter what we achieve, and we have achieved a lot in the last 100 years, mankind's pursuit of grand experiments and social advances always lead to the fate of Babel. In our humanity we have no lasting solutions and that leaves us deflated, confused, and speaking different languages.

Today all of that is apparent and the anger of talking over and through one another is reaching a boiling point. This chaos will continue to inflict society and no amount of innovation, scientific discovery, political movements or revolutions are going to salve that wound.

We must steel ourselves for the future if things continue in this direction. The church needs to prepare for darker days ahead. Alexis de Tocqueville, a French author who traveled this country in the early 1800's, wrote that democracy could not survive with a retreat of the Christian faith. He noted that self-government required shared convictions about moral truths. He wrote that if democracies lost religion they will crumble to other false faiths like individualism, materialism, and despotism. He appealed to his audience to maintain Christianity within these new democracies at all costs. If you haven't been keeping up, at present we have lost that charge. We are not making disciples in significant numbers and the church continues to lose ground. The true hope for our culture and country does not lie in political or social action, it lies in gospel action. Imagine if we could put the same level of fervor and energy into the gospel as we do politics. I have hope that, if the church wakes up, the tide could change in this direction. Through the love, hope, and power of Jesus Christ we have an opportunity to affect lasting change. In taking that love, hope, and power to these issues we offer what the world can never offer. Political power will never alleviate or address the condition of the human heart, only salvation in Christ can do that. Our work then in proclaiming the gospel and in making disciples of Jesus will do more for what ails our society than anything else. But will we set the example among ourselves and in the public square, will we step out of the cycle of polarization and fragmentation, and will we take up our mission of reaching people for Jesus Christ?