

# the Nall Call

monthly newsletter of Nall Avenue Baptist Church

Volume #31, Issue 3

March 2017

## BEYOND THE WALLS

HOW ONE NALL MEMBER OVERCAME FEAR  
TO SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH THE LOST

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**TRANSFORMING  
LIVES**



**BUILDING  
RELATIONSHIPS**



**IMPACTING  
COMMUNITIES**

## LENT AND SOCIAL MEDIA *by Joe Funderburk, senior pastor*



As a church body we will be observing Lent together this year. This observance is not familiar to most Baptists, but if anything is known about Lent it is probably the idea of fasting from meat on Fridays. We actually have that Catholic tradition to thank for the introduction of McDonald's file-o-fish sandwich. Historians disagree over some of the details related to Lent and its connection to fasting, but it is clear that fasting was a tool at the heart of the observance for centuries. Lent is an opportunity to do some spiritual, spring cleaning and I would encourage all of us to use fasting as a tool to that end. You might decide to fast from meat but let me recommend something else I think might be more beneficial to many of us. Would you consider fasting from social media in the next several weeks?

Social media has become a dominant presence in most of our lives and I believe that trend will only grow in the future. The world seems to grow smaller every day, allowing us to connect and exchange information at breakneck speed. There are a number of benefits to this modern form of communication to be sure, but there are also many drawbacks. The broad spread of information can spread us too thin to maintain a healthy balance in our lives. Instead of allowing it to add value to our lives it can often take away from intellectual insight, productive discourse, and genuine authenticity in relationships. Some of us, if we were to be honest, would have to confess to the fact that social media plays too large a role in our day-to-day lives and affects our quality of life.

It is at this point where I believe the spiritual exercise of Lent could be very beneficial. One of the most effective ways to evaluate whether social media is negatively affecting our quality of life is to go without it for a time. Experts tell us there are several benefits that could be gained from disconnecting this season of Lent: less unhealthy comparison, better sleep, less stress, more meaningful social interaction, better time management, more self-control, and more presence of mind in the moment. On top of all those benefits you can add the opportunity to reconnect in your relationship with the Lord. Take some of that time you would be spending on Facebook or Pinterest and spend it in quiet reflection with Jesus Christ. I recognize that this step will be difficult for many of you, but embracing the difficult to recapture the beautiful is what spiritual discipline is all about. Don't miss your opportunity to weed the garden and reap the fruit.

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## OUR CHILDREN AND THE CHURCH *by Kelly Jackson, minister of family life and operations*

It's no doubt that raising children in this world is a tall order. The more I talk to parents, the more I hear about how coming to church is a respite for their children from the world. Many of the kids in our children's and youth ministries battle the world every day and they need a safe place to land. But beyond the church building, our kids need to build meaningful relationships with each other. How do we foster building friendships between our children?

1. Intentionality—We must prioritize building relationships between our children and teenagers so they can have a support system that affirms their beliefs. Many times this may mean we alter our plans to include others—for example, instead of eating lunch alone after church, why not invite another family with children of a similar age?
2. Understanding—Every child is a disciple on his/her own path towards God. Having the understanding that each child is at a different stage in belief and obedience widens our understanding and grace towards those who may currently not be exhibiting Christlike behavior.
3. Play—Playing together builds relationships, social skills and bonds us together. Even teens and tweens need play together. Why not invite other children of the same age and stage as your child to have a game night or enjoy some time at the park?

As a spiritual community, investing in the relationships of the children and teenagers is a high priority. Sometimes just "doing life together" helps children see how Christ is honored in your home and affirms their own home structure. A peer with a similar worldview could be a source of encouragement and accountability as they age.

With a little prayer and courage, we can begin to initiate long lasting friendships between our children that will help solidify their faith and connection to the church.

## SNAPSHOTS



The Clancy (Stephan and Anelda) family dedicate Micah (left) and Johann (right) on Feb. 5. Jerry and Lisa Young also dedicate sons Beau and Leo.



A group of Nall members help deliver food from Harvesters to several apartment complexes in Kansas City, KS, Feb. 15.



“Mentor mom” Karen Kessler (left) works on a craft project alongside attendees of the Feb. 16 Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) meeting. The MOPS ministry, led by Joanna Unruh, attracts moms from both Nall and the community.

## SPRING BREAK FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Regularly scheduled Wednesday night activities, including dinner and discipleship studies, will not be in session on March 15, due to spring break. Activities resume March 22.



## TEACHING GIRLS TRUE BEAUTY AND MODESTY

Secret Keeper Girl Purple Party Tour is coming to Nall Saturday, March 25. The show starts at 3:30 PM in the Sanctuary.

Secret Keeper Girl Purple Party Tour is a national touring stage show aimed at tween girls (ages 7–12) and their moms. It was created by best-selling Christian author, Dannah Gresh.

The two-and-a-half-hour event features a fun fashion show that demonstrates modesty, biblical teaching on the concept of being a princess, incredible balloon sculptures, bouncing beach ball competitions, special mother/daughter time and colorful confetti cannons.

Tickets are \$15 each and are available at [www.SecretKeeperGirl.com](http://www.SecretKeeperGirl.com).



## BEYOND THE WALLS *by Ty DeMint*

A mission trip to Jamaica kicked off a significant transition in my faith walk—a transition to weekly ministry outside church walls.

On the last day of that summer 2015 trip, our team had a “debrief,” as we called it. During this time, each person in the group shared their spiritual experiences during the week and what they felt God might be asking them to do next.

Based on my experience ministering to Jamaicans who did not know the Gospel, I was convinced God wanted me to take Bible ministry beyond the church walls to the lost in my own community. After spending a week in Jamaica without computer or cell phone access, I was struck by how much of my home routine was spent on selfish tasks and mindless entertainment. I felt convicted to act, and stop being too busy, too scheduled and too distracted.

Initially, I thought God was directing me to lead a Bible study in my home, which I did for four months. But it didn't work as I had hoped. The study itself was good but ended up being essentially another training course for people already trained. All who attended were already believers.

I prayed for another opportunity. Then in January 2016, I was introduced to the director of the prison ministry at Lansing Correctional Facility. After hearing about the program, I reluctantly, though willingly, agreed to attend volunteer training.

If someone had told me the stirring I had felt from God that night in Jamaica would lead me to a state penitentiary, I wouldn't have believed them! As it turns out, though, I found a place at Lansing to utilize my spiritual gift. Best of all, the opportunity afforded an opportunity to reach the type of people Jesus Himself sought—the lost.

I serve as a volunteer Bible study leader at Lansing, sharing my own faith with the incarcerated. I discovered not only how much of a fit prison ministry is for my gifts, but also the fact several others from Nall are part of the Lansing ministry as well.

I know now that God was and still is involved in me being a part of the Lansing program, and it is all because I choose to act on a stirring. I believe God wants everyone to have a testimony like this.



Ty DeMint (top) with Kevin Rains in Jamaica, summer 2015.



Lansing (KS) Correctional Facility, northwest of Kansas City, is the state's largest and oldest men's prison.

## SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY

One of the beautiful characteristics about Nall is the fact individual acts of godly servanthood are numerous. How has God led you into a service you were not expecting? How has following Jesus' lead affected your life and outlook? From what depths has the knowledge of the Gospel brought you?

Share your testimony with your Nall family in a future issue of Nall Call. Contact Sara Brunsvold, 913-432-4141 or [sara@nallave.org](mailto:sara@nallave.org).

## BUILD A BASKET RETURNING FOR EASTER



Last year, the Build a Basket Easter service project was so well-received by recipients and participants alike, it will once again be in the Easter event lineup.

Build a Basket is a service project benefitting homebound Nall members and regular attenders who are no longer able to attend church services or activities.

After many years of pouring into Nall, these folks greatly appreciate the simple act of being remembered with an Easter basket tailored to them. Most recipients

currently live in nursing homes or other care facilities.

A list of recipients is currently being compiled through church staff, deacons and the Not Forgotten ministry.

Anyone interested in building an Easter basket for one of these recipients will have a chance to sign up on Sunday mornings later in March.

Basic supplies, such as a basket, Easter grass, plastic eggs and candy, will be provided.

Where possible, information about the recipient's preferences and personality will also be provided so participants can contribute items the recipient will especially enjoy. Participants will pick up their provided supplies at the Build a Basket luncheon on Sunday, April 2, at noon in the CLC/Gym.

Questions about the Build a Basket service project can be directed to Sara Brunsvold in the church office, 913-432-4141 or [sara@nallave.org](mailto:sara@nallave.org).

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ROAD TO RESURRECTION, APRIL 8



Road to Resurrection is an interactive "tour" of the events before and after the resurrection. Last year was our first year putting on this production and it was a great success! We invite you to join the team. Roles include:

**Decoration Team, Set Up/Tear Down, Photographer, Hospitality** (provide

food and a warm environment for guests), **Destination Guide, Helper** (become a character to help tell one piece of the story) and **Tour Guide** (travel with a small group of guests through the story).

We will be having a training meeting on Sunday, March 19 from 12–12:30 PM in D108 to discuss roles and assign parts. Dress Rehearsal is Friday, April 7 from 6 PM–8 PM and Road to Resurrection will run Saturday, April 8 from 1 PM–5 PM. This is a powerful, memorable gospel presentation and we need your help! Contact Kelly Jackson ([Kelly@nallave.org](mailto:Kelly@nallave.org)) to sign up.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **New Wednesday Night Studies begin, March 1**

See full list of studies at [www.nallave.org/wednesdaystudies](http://www.nallave.org/wednesdaystudies).

### **Child Dedication, March 5**

During 10:30 AM service.

### **Men's Coffee, March 6**

6:30 AM, HyVee at 95th and Antioch. All men welcome. Meet in upstairs cafe.

### **JOY Luncheon, March 9**

11:30 AM, CLC/Gym. Bring a potluck dish to share or \$4. Nancy Chapman will present "Spring Gardening 101."

### **Mission Arlington team leaves, March 11**

For short-term mission trip in Arlington, Texas. Team returns March 17.

### **No Wednesday night dinner and activities, March 15**

Due to spring break.

### **Secret Keeper Girl Purple Party Tour, March 25**

See Page 3 for details.

### **Business Meeting, March 26**

5 PM, Sanctuary.

## UP NEXT

**Build a Basket luncheon, April 2** (details at left).

**Road to Resurrection Easter event, April 8** (details at left).

### **Easter Sunday, April 16**

Worship at 8:15 AM and 10:45 AM; Core Groups at 9:30 AM. Breakfast served from 7:30 AM–9:15 AM.

## Regular Weekly Activities

### Sundays

- 8:15 AM Worship
- 9:30 AM Core Groups
- 10:45 AM Worship
- 12:00 PM Singles Lunch Bunch

### Tuesdays

- 4:30 PM Staff Meeting

### Wednesdays\*

- 9:00 AM Bible Study Fellowship
- 5:00 PM Dinner service starts
- 6:30 PM Wednesday Night studies  
Awana
- 8:30 PM Men's Basketball

\*No dinner, studies or Awana on March 15.

## March Activities

- 1 New studies begin, 6:30 PM
- 2 MOPS meeting, 9:30 AM
- 5 Child Dedication, 10:45 AM  
Lord's Supper, 8:15 & 10:45 AM
- 6 Men's Coffee, 6:30 AM
- 9 JOY Luncheon, 11:30 AM
- 14 KC Rescue Mission, 5:30 PM
- 16 No MOPS due to spring break
- 19 Committee/Team Meetings, 4 PM
- 23 MOPS meeting, 9:30 AM
- 25 Secret Keeper Girl Purple Party  
Tour, 3:30 PM
- 26 Business Meeting, 5:00 PM

*Note: The church building is used by various groups throughout the week. To check room or building availability, see the calendar on our website, or call the church office.*

### About Nall Call

Nall Call is distributed via mail, email and web, and is the work of many hands.

**Editor/Writer:** Sara Brunsvold, sara@nallave.org

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## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome  
New church members:

Robert and Valerie Brown  
Judy Miller

New core group members:

Adam and Kristie Dobbins

**SPRING  
FORWARD**  
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

March 12



Nall Avenue Baptist Church  
6701 Nall Avenue  
Prairie Village, Kansas 66208

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### SENIOR SINGLE ADULTS LUNCH BUNCH

Sundays at noon. Family and friends welcome.

March 5: Popeye's, 6821 Johnson Dr., Mission

March 12: China Town Super Buffet, 151 S. 18th St., Kansas City, KS

March 19: Chili's, 5880 Antioch Rd., Merriam Town Center

March 26: Olive Garden, 6750 W. 95th St., Overland Park

