

the Nall Call

monthly newsletter of Nall Avenue Baptist Church

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May 2018



‘It’s never too late
to start over
with God’

Erica’s testimony

‘It’s Never Too Late to Start Over with God’: Erica Bolton’s testimony ... page 4

Not just a ‘Hangout’: True purpose of Youth Girls Hangout ... page 2

Connecting to our county’s rich missionary history ... page 4

A pinewood derby car as an outreach tool? ... page 5

The dangerous prayer ... page 5

PLUS: Marriage lunch and learn, summer activities and more.

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ANGER WILL MAKE YOU A TRAITOR *by Joe Funderburk, senior pastor*



The last several weeks we have been looking at the subject of anger and I want to continue that by looking at the case of Earl Pitts. Earl was raised in a typical Midwestern family, the son of a Missouri cattle farmer. He was an accomplished athlete, a member of the glee club, a leader in the Future Farmers of America, and part of the college ROTC. He grew up very self-assured, independent, and was unusually self-motivated at a young age. He earned a law degree, working for a while in a Kansas City office, and went on to become a military police captain and eventually landed a very good career in the FBI. By all accounts he was truly patriotic and a man who co-workers said could get things done. Neighbors said he was a little reserved and matter-of-fact but a very nice man in all. Nothing about Earl would suggest a hint of anything scandalous. That façade came crashing down at the age of 43 when he was charged in federal court with espionage. How did a nice, straight-laced country boy from Missouri wind up a traitor to his country?

After getting his law degree and serving as a military policeman for six years he realized his dream and life-long ambition in 1983 by going to work for the FBI. In 1987 he was assigned to a prestigious post in the New York office and it was here that his troubles began. This farm boy found out very quickly that living in New York on an FBI salary was going to be difficult. His \$25,000 salary was being stretched to the limit in the Big Apple and he wasn't the only one feeling the pinch. Evan Thomas of Newsweek would write, "Morale in the office was poor, and petty cheating on expense accounts was rampant. Burdened with debt from student loans, Pitts had to ask his father ... for a loan. He felt humiliated. Pitts later told a psychiatrist that he was 'overwhelmed' by a sense of rage at the FBI." That anger grew in time and led this patriot to become a traitor.

One morning Earl decided he had enough with the way the FBI was disrespecting him and so he reached out to the enemy, the KGB. He believed this would solve two issues, fixing his money problems and getting revenge on his superiors in the FBI. Over the next seven years he worked as a spy for the KGB and received \$224,000. When he was caught and convicted the judge sentenced him to twenty-seven years in prison. At the sentencing the judge asked Pitts directly why he became a traitor to his country. Earl Pitts replied, "I gave in to an unreasonable anger." The truth about unreasonable and unresolved anger is that it will eventually lead us to become traitors. If we do not learn to control our anger we will betray our friends, our families, our church, ourselves, and our God. We are told to deal with our anger as it comes, not to wait until the sun goes down. Don't allow your anger to turn you into something you will later regret.

NOT JUST A 'HANGOUT' *by Lewis Jones, interim minister of students*



Students have multiple chances to learn more about the Lord in a classroom setting, but there is a dynamic missing in that structure: a personal and transparent relationship. Building relationships is something I have felt a strong need for in our student ministry. The goal is to foster deeper relationships through which students can be discipled, and then become disciple makers.

When one of our student ministry partners, Lena Dennington, mentioned to me that she felt the Lord calling her to host a time at her house on Sunday evenings for the girls to hang out, have fun, do homework and discuss Scripture, I was excited for this answer to prayer to deepen the students' relationships with one another while keeping the foundation on making disciples.

"The Sunday Evening Girl's Hangout has been a bright spot for the girls in the student ministry department," said Lori Andersen, mother to Blue Valley Northwest sophomore, Ava. "While studying the book of Philippians, group leader, Lena Dennington has provided an environment for teen girls to connect and apply Biblical teaching to their everyday lives. Ava has been encouraged by the time to connect and develop stronger relationships with Christian peers. Ava said that Lena is a great role model who brings her own experiences to the group discussions that are relevant and relatable."

This summer it is a goal to begin a guys weekly hangout to accomplish the same goals of deepening the students' relationships with one another and also making disciples of Jesus who make disciples.

SNAPSHOTS



Mark Miller (center) leads worship on Easter Sunday, April 1.



Randy Gower gets *really* into the sports theme of Trivia Night, April 13. The night raised hundreds of dollars for Children's and Student ministries.



Clubbers and parents cheer on racers at the Awana Grand Prix, April 25. Read the story behind this event on Page 5.

MAKING MARRIAGE WORK

On Sunday, June 3, Nall will host a lunch and learn presentation on marriage. Pastor and licensed counselor, Dr. Doug Burford will discuss research supporting Scripture in what makes marriages work. Lunch and child care provided with registration only. Freewill donations requested to cover food costs.

Register: www.nallave.org/events.

WOMEN'S SUMMER STUDIES

Studies will meet on Tuesdays in June and July, starting June 5. Morning and evening sessions available, with child care (registration required). Topics include:

- understanding the Bible as a complete story
- discerning the voice of God
- the seven I AM statements of Jesus
- discipleship
- motherhood

For details and registration, go to www.nallave.org/summerstudies.

VBS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

VBS 2018 runs Sunday, June 24, through Thursday, June 28, 6–8:30 PM each

day. Open to ages 3 (potty trained) through sixth grade. No cost to attend.



Learn more: www.nallave.org/vbs.

‘IT’S NEVER TOO LATE TO START OVER WITH GOD’: MY TESTIMONY

by Erica Bolton

My family and I began coming to Nall back in 2000 when I was 7 years old. Before I started middle school, my parents began having conflicting schedules that kept them from coming to church, but they still tried to keep me involved. They would drop me off at church services and weekly Bible studies, and I still went to summer church camp.

At home, my parents had wandered off from the Lord, so as I got into high school, I didn’t have much of a foundation. I was always loving and knew right from wrong, but like a lot of teenagers, I wanted to see if the grass was greener on the other side. I guess you could say I went through that phase of getting my party days out of my system before really giving myself to God.

It wasn’t until after the birth of my daughter, Elena, that the conviction to make myself right with God hit me full-force. Becoming a mother finally helped me understand that type of love, and just opened my eyes to God’s mercy and grace. My daughter is the biggest blessing of our lives. It was because of her child dedication ceremony that my father, Jeff, returned to Nall after being gone



Erica Bolton and Daniel Giron dedicate their daughter, Elena, on Nov. 19, 2017. Her dad, Jeff, stands with them.

nearly ten years. Her dedication prayer opened opportunities for Daniel and I to show others what obedience really looks like and the proof that He does bless those who obey him.



The frame Daniel and Erica hold contains the prayer Daniel read during the dedication.

Since Elena’s dedication last November, we made a lot of big changes that many people considered overkill. Not only did we make the decision to abstain until marriage, but we began living separately, despite already having a child and an apartment together. A lot of people make comments like, “But you already have had a child together,” and I just smile and tell them, “It’s never too late to start over with God.” There’s no way we would have ever gotten to this point in our relationship or even happily getting married on May 4 without putting God at the center of our relationship. Even just in the weeks leading to our wedding I can see that I am reaping the blessings of my obedience.

CONNECTING TO OUR COUNTY’S RICH MISSIONARY HISTORY

Johnson County history is rife with missionary service. One of the more prominent was the Methodist pastor, Thomas Johnson, the county’s namesake. In 1830, Rev. Johnson was appointed missionary to the Shawnee tribe and started work on building a boarding school for Native American children. The Shawnee Indian Mission School opened in October, 1839. At its height, the mission comprised more than 2,000 acres, 16 buildings, and nearly 200 enrollees aged five through 23 and representing more than 15 tribes. A group of students are pictured at right.



Three mission buildings still stand, at Mission Road and 53rd Street in Fairway. One building houses a mission museum and is open to the public.

At the next JOY Luncheon for seniors, special guest and historian, John Forbes will tell the story of the mission and its lasting meaning to today’s generations. All are welcome. Thursday, May 10, 11:30 AM, CLC/Gym. Bring a potluck dish or \$4 contribution.

A PINEWOOD DERBY CAR AS AN OUTREACH TOOL?

On April 25, the Awana Club held its first Pine-wood Derby Grand Prix. In the weeks prior, club-bers carved, painted and constructed their cars. The Saturday before the event, Nall opened its doors to clubbers and their parents who needed help. Members of the church were on hand at the “Pit Party” (pictured) with the proper tools and handyman know-how. Ethan Sherman, Awana games director, organized the party and race.



“The ‘Pit Party’ allows us to extend the opportunity of participation (to more clubbers) because many parents may not have the tools or skills to help their child build a car,” Ethan said. “And it’s just plain fun.”

Both the Pit Party and the race provided chances for Nall members and Awana lead-ers to interact with parents—conversations that can open doors to sharing the Gos-pel. Race night saw 22 cars go head-to-head on the track. The CLC was full of kids, parents and guests. Prizes were awarded to best design and top speed.

“The Grand Prix is designed as a fun activity in order to get parents of our clubbers in the doors who may not otherwise come,” Ethan said, adding he was proud of the hard work of all involved.

THE DANGEROUS PRAYER *Music Notes by Mark Miller, minister of worship and administration*



I once had a youth leader challenge me as a High School student to “pray the dangerous prayer of Psalms 139:23–24.”

“Search me, O God, and know my heart!
Try me and know my thoughts!
And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting!”

He called this a “dangerous prayer” because if you genuinely prayed these words, you would be opening yourself up for God to intrusively point out the intimate areas in your life that need change. In other words, you would be allowing God to speak the truth about the hidden parts of who you are. How often do we declare our devotion to Christ, but yet don’t completely surrender every area of lives, i.e. our worries, our thoughts, our passions? And the reality is, God has reserved so many additional blessings for us if we would just be a faithful people.

Over the next couple months in the 10:45 service, we will be becoming familiar with a song called, “Here’s My Heart.” The lyrics of this song give us an opportunity to declare who God is and what He has done for us. If we truly believe in who we say He is, then our only appropriate response is to surrender all of our hearts and lives.

When we sing this song, I want to encourage you to pray the dangerous prayer of submission. Tell Him, “Here’s my heart! Speak what is true.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

Last Wednesday Night Dinner and Awana Celebration, May 2

Last dinner until fall. Awana families invited to year-end celebration in Sanctuary at 6:30 PM followed by a cookie reception.

Graduation Sunday, May 6

Recognition for graduates of high school and above in 10:45 AM service, followed by catered lunch for graduates and their families. RSVP to Lewis Jones

Men’s Coffee, May 7

6:30 AM, HyVee at 95th and Antioch.

JOY Luncheon, May 10

11:30 AM, CLC/Gym. Historian John Forbes will present on the Shawnee Indian Mission. See more on Page 4. Bring potluck dish or \$4 contribution.

Mission Southside Serve Night, May 10

6:30-8:30 PM, Misison Southside, Olathe. Register: www.nallave.org/serve.

Spring Clean Night, May 16

Starting at 6:30 PM. Help church staff and ministry leaders clean out and organize church storage areas.

‘Zoo Are You?’ Student Ministry Event, May 20

Meet in Youth Area after service for pizza then carpooling to zoo for a scavenger-style game.

Business Meeting, May 20

5 PM, Sanctuary.

Guest speaker, May 27

Lewis Jones, interim minister of students, will preach in both services.

Youth Summer Kickoff, May 30

Outing to a Royals game to celebrate the start of summer. Details forthcoming.

Regular Weekly Activities Sundays

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

Tuesdays

- 1:00 PM Staff Meeting

Wednesdays

- 9:15 AM BSF Class Day
- 5:00 PM Wednesday Night Dinner
- 6:30 PM Awana
- Bible Studies
- GriefShare
- Youth Study
- 7:00 PM Simply AA KC
- 8:30 PM Open Men's Basketball

Saturdays

- 10:00 AM Simply AA KC

May Activities

- 2 AWANA Celebration, 6:30 PM
- 3 MOPS Meeting, 9:30 AM
- 6 Graduation Sunday, 10:45 AM
and NOON
- 7 Men's Coffee/HyVee, 6:30 AM
- 8 KC Rescue Mission, 5:30 PM
- 10 JOY Luncheon, 11:30 AM
- 16 Spring Cleaning, 6:30 PM
- 17 MOPS Meeting, 9:30 AM
- 20 Committee/Team Meetings, 4 PM
Business Meeting, 5 PM
- 27 Lewis Jones, guest preacher
- 28 Memorial Day, office closed

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 office.

About Nall Call

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

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LORD'S SUPPER FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Deacons are available to bring the Lord's Supper to those who are homebound.

If you or someone you know would like to celebrate the Lord's Supper in your home, please contact the church office, 913-432-4141 to arrange a time.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SENIOR SINGLE ADULTS LUNCH BUNCH

Sundays at noon. Family and friends welcome.

May 6: Five Guys on Johnson Drive, 5922 Barkley St., Mission

May 13: Pie Five on Johnson Drive, 6809 Johnson Dr., Mission

May 20: CiCi's Pizza, 4990 Roe Blvd., Mission

May 27: Memorial Day Weekend, but for those still here: Applebee's,
6800 Johnson Dr., Mission

MAKING MARRIAGE WORK

Lunch and Learn

Sunday, June 3

Register:
nallave.org/events