

the Nall Call

monthly newsletter of Nall Avenue Baptist Church

Volume #30, Issue 9 September 2016



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**TRANSFORMING
LIVES**



**BUILDING
RELATIONSHIPS**



**IMPACTING
COMMUNITIES**

GOD IN THE DOCK by Joe Funderburk, senior pastor



C.S. Lewis's nonfiction book "God in the Dock" contains many essays written over several decades of his life. The title gets its name from one of the listed essays. Lewis was using the language of the courtroom, the dock being the seat of the accused. "God in the Dock" is an interesting look at the problem Lewis observed with the presentation of the gospel to modern men.

He observed that opposition to the gospel had little to do with malice on behalf of the listener but rather an opposition based on genuine doubt and also the basic vantage point of modern man verses ancient man. He believed that modern men, unlike the ancients, have difficulty from the beginning because of a particular approach to God. He wrote the following:

"The ancient man approached God as the accused person approaches his judge. For the modern man the roles are reversed. He is the judge, God is in the dock.... The trial may even end in God's acquittal. But the important thing is that Man is on the Bench and God in the Dock."

His point was that our efforts to share the gospel will run into different walls than Paul and the early church experienced. Lewis believed that with such a different starting point, we must try to awaken the conscience from a different direction. Many people do not respond to the truth of sin. Their lives are not "in the dock," as it were, but rather it is God who is on trial. Lewis was not arguing that the idea of sin was not important or Biblical. Rather he was explaining why he and his contemporaries were struggling to see people respond to the gospel and their need for Jesus Christ. His conclusion was not especially encouraging: "I am very far from believing I have found the solution to this problem."

In closing, let me recommend one option. It seems to me that even believers are guilty of living in such a way as to put God in the dock. Perhaps, if we desire to influence the perspective of others, we must begin by putting God on the bench where He belongs. We must take care to live in a way that communicates we believe we are accountable in how we live. We must not strain to communicate God's love at the expense of His Lordship. We should be clear to communicate that we are in the dock.

WELCOME, NEW CHEF by Kelly Jackson, family life and operations



We are so thankful for Cecil and Denise Wysong for starting our Wednesday Night Dinner ministry two years ago. They have been a wonderful blessing to us. However, Denise's role as full-time caregiver for their new granddaughter will put a hindrance on their kitchen commitment. Therefore, we've decided to hire a new chef.

We are excited to welcome Tashia Starr as our new chef.

Tashia has been catering delicious meals for 15 years for weddings and other large events, and has a joy that is contagious. Her passion is for Southern cooking, and she will start our dinners off on Wednesday, Sept. 14 with rosemary fried chicken with country style mashed potatoes and pepper gravy, along with veggies, salad bar and fresh cobbler.

Tashia lives in the northland and has four children ages 7 through 20. She attends Sheffield Assembly of God in Kansas City. She sees mealtime as a meaningful connection time of ministry. In her free time, she enjoys spending time in nature.

We are excited to have her join us. When you see her at our first Wednesday Night Dinner, please stop by to give her a warm welcome.

SNAPSHOTS



Volunteers from Nall participated in Mission KC service projects at City Union Mission and Carry the Cross Ministries, Aug. 1-4.



Special guest Pollyanna Ryzhak, 12, from Ukraine, sings during service on Sunday, Aug. 21. Her brother, Arthur, played violin during the offering.



Crews pour cement for the floor of the new kitchen, Aug. 30.

BABY BOOM UPDATE

The Nall baby boom is in full swing! Babies 5 through 8 of 13 have arrived.

Jerry and Lisa Young welcomed twin sons, **Beau and Leo**, on Aug. 11. They join brother Scott.

Josh and Melissa Niesen welcomed son **Dominic** on Aug. 24. He joins siblings Connor, Kaiya, Skylan and Sophia.

Nelson and Alicia Gordon welcomed son **Levi** on Aug. 31. He joins sisters Kaylee and Jentry.

The Diaper Drive, which ended Aug. 7, rounded up piles of size 1 and 2 diapers for all the new parents who have welcomed or are expecting babies between July and January.

A baby shower for Anelda Clancy (due in October) is scheduled for Sept. 10, at 1:30 PM in the Foyer. All are welcome.

FEED MY SHEEP OFFERING SURPASSES HALFWAY MARK

Nall surpassed the halfway mark for the Feed My Sheep special offering campaign on Sunday, Aug. 21, less than four months after the offering started. As of Sept. 1, Nall has contributed \$180,922 toward the \$350,000 goal through budget monies and personal tithes. The funds will offset costs associated with constructing a new kitchen and replacing the outdated CLC floor.

Construction of the new kitchen began the first week of August. Meanwhile, after much-needed concrete work to level the CLC floor, installation of the new flooring began the last week of August. The new floor will be painted with lines for basketball and Awana games.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE BEGINS SEPT. 14

Studies are now open for registration. Choose from:

Grace Based Parenting, Part 2

This 7-session study teaches parents how to use character to build happy, confident children. The workbook set is \$25/ family. The study is led by David and Heidi Langford.

Battle Plan for Prayer

In this 8-session study, participants will learn how to pray with purpose and formulate their own strategy to use prayer as an effective weapon against a powerful Enemy. The workbook is \$13. Led by Pastor Joe Funderburk.

GriefShare

Join others who are experiencing grief or who want to learn how to support those who are grieving for this 8-session study. The workbook is \$15. Led by DeAnna Lang and Roy Dennington.

Hope for Mental Health

Whether you're personally suffering or helping a friend or loved one through their mental distress, discover a strong and sure hope in this 8-session study. The book is \$10. Led by Dr. Lew Shannon and Rudy Jackson.

5 Habits of a Woman Who Doesn't Quit

In this 6-session study, learn how Ruth formed practical habits to keep her eyes on God despite her circumstances. The workbook is \$14. Led by Claudia Shannon.

Man Up men's study

This 12-session study is based on the Bible study from Daybreak International's cowboy church in Guatemala. No materials cost. Written and led by Steve Reed.

Gospel Project Teachers Class will also be in session every Wednesday this fall for Core Group leaders who want to go deeper into the upcoming Sunday's lesson. No need to register.

Register at www.nallave.org/wednesdaystudies.



CHANGES TO WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER: What you need to know

To better accommodate the turnaround time needed for Awana, service for Wednesday Night Dinner is being extended. Service will now begin at 5 PM and will end at 6:15 PM. In order to prepare the CLC/ gym for Awana games, clean-up crews will begin tearing down tables at 6:20 PM.

If leftovers are available, to-go containers will be provided.

Anyone with a standing reservation is asked to contact the office as soon as possible if they know they will not be at dinner. This will help keep food waste minimal and costs lower. Standing reservations will be canceled after two consecutive weeks of no-shows and no communication with the office.



THE GOD OF ALL SEASONS by *Kim Jeffers, students*



When we were kids, life seemed simpler. We lived a safe, predictable and beautiful life-rhythm: Get through all the school parts of the year in order to experience the best parts—the holidays. We put up with “back to school” simply to get to Christmas, and then we did our best to endure the spring term until spring break and finally summer arrived. That was our rhythm—school, Christmas, school, summer—for all those years. Many times, our memories of those holidays and breaks are vivid, whereas the details of long school days we can’t remember at all.

As I watch summer melt quietly into fall and hear the students complain about how they want the next break, I am reminded that God is the God of all seasons. Spring, summer, fall and winter. He is the Lord of all our memories and ready to teach us even in the most simple of things. Those breaks are the times that we plan BIG, that we look forward to, and that we fill with exciting events. But we don’t have to sit around and wait for another time for our next big revelation of the Lord.

Encourage your students to pursue faithfulness and disciple in the small things too. In the daily ways of being a faithful follower in the Lord. In daily Bible study, in weekly discipleship, and in regular praise and worship. We serve a God of all moments, willing and ready to meet with us.

Youth plug-in opportunities this fall:

- **Girls/Guys Hangout.** Watch for details.
- **Girls Sunday Evening Bible Study:** begins Sept. 11, 7 PM, at Kim’s house. The study, “Looking for Lovely,” encourages us to see the lovely in even the most mundane of days. Contact Kim if interested: kim@nallave.org or 816-853-7420.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study:** begins Sept. 14, at 6:30 PM, in the Youth Room. Study will be “Identity” by Eric Mason. We end up looking the same as we try to be different, but we aren’t our clothes, relationships or accomplishments. In Christ we are much more. With Biblical teaching and real-life stories, this series will help students ground their identity in Christ and live boldly as children of God and heirs of Heaven.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Promotion Sunday, Sept. 4

Children/youth advance one grade.

Men’s Coffee, Sept. 12

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

Wednesday Night Dinner and Discipleship begins, Sept. 14

See Page 4 for more.

Awana begins, Sept. 14

Still time to register your child. Learn more: www.nallave.org/awana.

JOY Luncheon, Sept. 15

11:30 AM, CLC/Gym. Vera Smith, Kansas City historian and tour guide, will speak. This will be a catered meal. Please note: The East Entrance will be closed due to construction. Also, the parking lot will be fuller than usual because of a MOPS meeting that morning.

Reception for Stuhns, Sept. 18

2-4 PM, Foyer. To recognize the beginning of missionary training for Alexander and Svetlana Stuhn. Alexander was a foreign exchange student who called Nall home for many years.

Groundbreaking Celebration, Sept. 25

(Rescheduled from August) NOON, CLC/Gym. RSVP to the office. Sandwiches and drinks served. Bring side or dessert.

Business Meeting, Sept. 25

5 PM, Sanctuary.

WHAT’S HAPPENING AT NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH

Neighborhood Church, a plant that Nall helps support in the 95th and Antioch area, held its first Baptismal Service on Sunday, Aug. 28. Several women and children were baptized after accepting Christ. The service took place during the usual Sunday evening activities in the home of Pastor Dave Partins and his family. In late July, Neighborhood Church hosted two missions teams from Georgia and Arkansas. Together, they spruced up the grounds of Pawnee Elementary, the neighborhood school.

Neighborhood Church meets every Sunday at 5:30 PM, and would love help with their children’s programming. If you are interested, please contact the Nall office. They request prayer for their continued efforts to build relationships with their neighborhood. Learn more about Neighborhood Church: www.neighborhoodchurchop.com.



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

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

September Activities

- 1 MOPS meeting, 9:30 AM
- 11 Youth Girls Sunday Evening
Bible Study, 7 PM
- 13 KC Rescue Mission, 5:30 PM
- 15 MOPS meeting, 9:30 AM
- 15 JOY Luncheon, 11:30 AM
- 18 Reception for Stuhns, 2 PM
- 25 Groundbreaking Celebration,
NOON
Business Meeting, 5 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

Circulation and copy editing: Julie Italiano, julie@nallave.org

Special assistance: David and Nita Tomlinson

Photography this issue: Gary Barber, Sara Brunsvold, Kim Jeffers

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES

We extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of the following Nall members:

Lois Scoville, 97, passed away on Aug. 6. She had been a member of Nall for 30 years.

Ron Nye, 76, passed away on Aug. 26. He was a member of Nall since 2007.



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

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT
SHAWNEE MISSION, KANSAS

The Nall Call (USPS 970-360) is published monthly.

Postmaster: Send address changes to:

Nall Avenue Baptist Church, 6701 Nall Ave,
Prairie Village, KS 66208

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SINGLE ADULTS LUNCH BUNCH

Sundays at noon. Family and friends welcome.

Sept. 4: Johnny' B-B-Q, 5959 Broadmoor, Mission

Sept. 11: Pepper Jax Grill, 5922 Barkley St., Mission

Sept. 18: Five Guys Burger and Fries, 5922 Barkley St., Mission

Sept. 25: Potbelly Sandwich Shop, 6803 Johnson Dr., Mission

