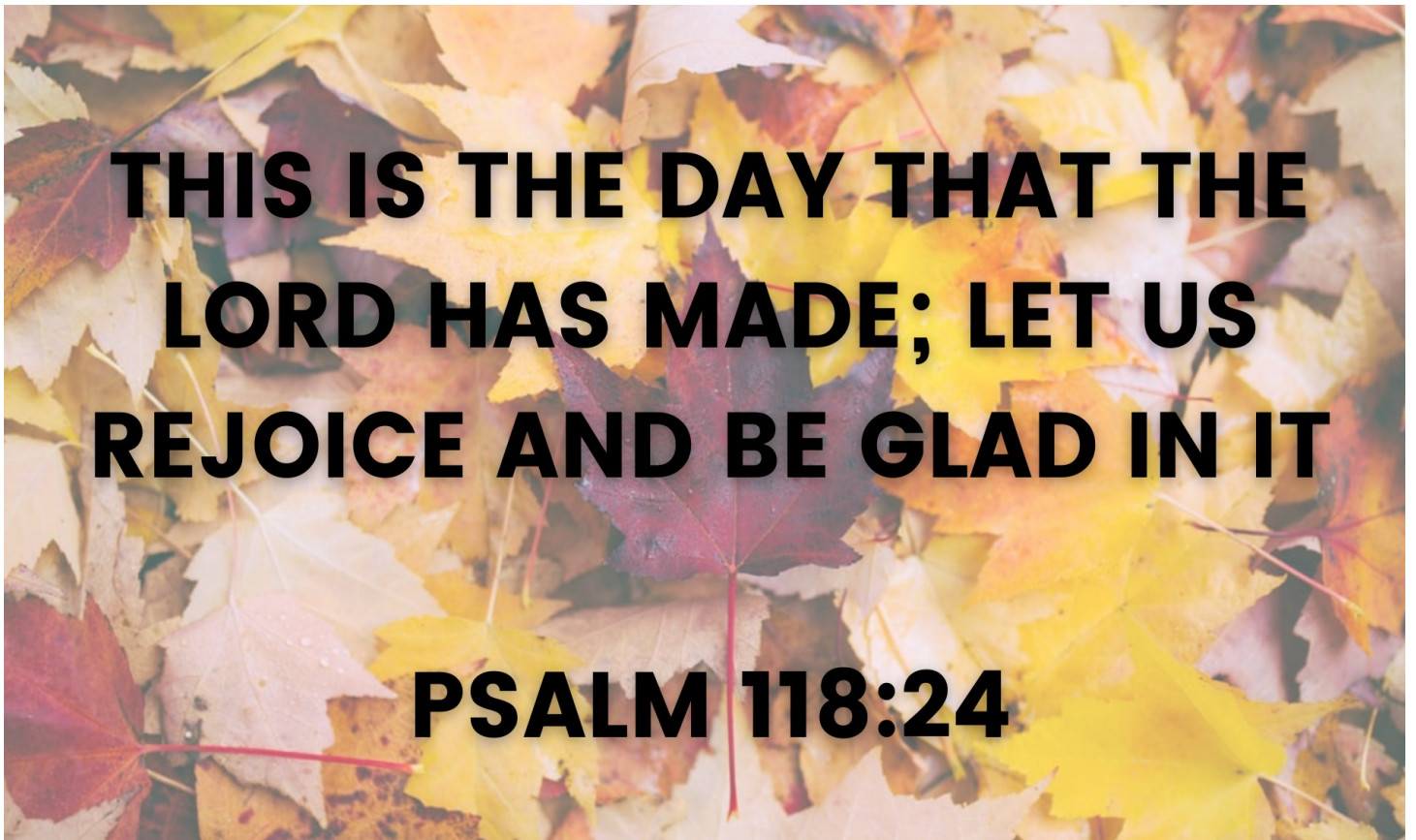


The Nall Call

Monthly Newsletter of Nall Avenue
September 2021, Volume 35, Issue 9



Parking Lot Potluck Picnic

Join us for the Parking Lot Potluck Picnic on September 12th immediately following the worship service. RSVP online or contact Bri in the office at (913) 432-4141 to RSVP. We can't wait to enjoy time in fellowship together!

Wednesday Night Bible Studies by Bri Nicoletti



Wednesday nights are back, and with them come some exciting opportunities for Wednesday night bible study! Our fall season will kick off on Wednesday, September 8th, and we have some great study options!

Our women's ministry will be kicking off the fall with **Steadfast Love: A Study of Psalm 107** by **Lauren Chandler**. In this 7-session Bible study, women will learn to face each season of life with courage and trust in Jesus, and discover how tests in our journeys of faith reveal the true condition of our hearts. Throughout it all, God shows us His steadfast love. Cost of the study book for this study is \$15.

Gwen Wright has also written a **Study on the Holy Spirit**. This study is available to men and women.

Please contact Bri Nicoletti in the church office to register for either study. Childcare is available for both studies upon request. Please register your child by contacting Lizzy Bishop (ebishop@nallave.org).



1st Monday of every Month
 Santa Fe Café
 No RSVP Needed
 6:30 AM

Deepest Sympathies

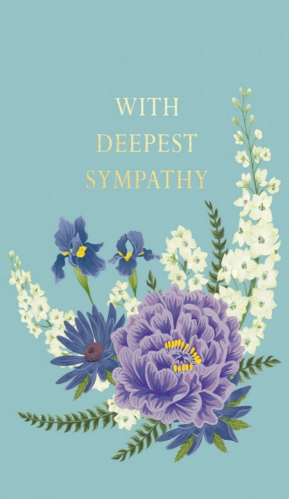
We extend our deepest sympathy to the families and friends:

Clarence Elsbury, passed away July 26th

John Kaslaitis, husband of former member Julienne Thomas-Kaslaitis — August 19th

Justin Dueck's mother, passed from COVID-19

Nita Tomlinson's cousin, Gwen, passed away from COVID-19



Fall Fest 2021

Save the Date for Fall Fest 2021!

Sunday, October 31st—2 PM—4:30 PM

Get ready for all of your fall favorites: chili cookoff, trunk or treat, and MORE!



As we continue to hear more about the Delta variant of COVID-19, please be in prayer for our medical professionals, and for all those suffering from the illness. Stay safe and healthy!

TeamKID: Kids in Discipleship by Lizzy Bishop

Wednesday nights are back! Dinners, bible studies, youth group, and kids ministry, all of my favorite things! It's been a long time since we have been together in this way and we are thrilled to be able to come together again. It's been several years, but beginning Wednesday, September 8th, we are bringing back TeamKID!

TeamKID is a fun, high-energy ministry that encourages kids to know Jesus Christ and to grow in a relationship with Him. Through Bible stories, Scripture memorization, mission activities, and recreation games, our kids will learn to connect the Bible to their hearts and to their lives. In this season of TeamKID, kids will learn why the Bible is important, what the Bible is made up of, the message of the Bible, and how it all fits together. Our time together will help lay Biblical foundations in a world that is far from Jesus. Learning about the Bible and the One who created it will help encourage and grow our kids as they go through their lives. More than anything, we want kids to recognize their relationship with God is the most important relationship of all!

Pray for our kids and leaders as we go through TeamKID this year. Pray that hearts will be opened, that they will be engaged in the Word, and that they take hold of the love and truth God has given them. To register your child, go to our website, and find TeamKID under the "Wednesday" drop down! We can't wait to see you there!



Home Groups by Bri Nicoletti

Are you involved in a Home Group yet? If not, consider this a sign to get yourself signed up! Home groups will be beginning again the week of September 19th, and we encourage you to join a small group!

Being involved in a small group will allow you to develop relationships with others in Christ in an intimate and meaningful way. By meeting together in a small group, we can disciple others, grow our faith, and connect with one another. If you are not yet signed up for a small group, contact Pastor Joe today (joe@nallave.org).

Let's make this fall a season of growing together, deepening our relationship with Jesus Christ, and continuing to make disciples!



Telephone Bible Study by Don Vinnage

The NABC Telephone Bible Study continues to be a wonderful option for those who cannot attend an "in-person" Core Group. Using the same lesson materials as the other Core Groups makes it an easy transition for people who are coping with illness or post-surgical restrictions. People can dial in for a period of time and return to their regular classes when the crisis is over. They can simply dial 800-220-9875 and when prompted, enter the group code number: 3171 7954#. The class begins at 9:25 am each Sunday. If this sounds like something you would be interested in, Don Vinnage and Don Reed lead the study each week and are always happy to receive new participants.

The Church in a Post-Covid World by Joe Funderburk

In the past year, there are many experts in church life and development who have been writing about the tidal wave of change already on the doorstep of churches in the wake of the COVID pandemic. Some of the predictions and prescriptions are not new, but are responses to trends that have been taking place for a few decades now. Barry Howard is a coach and contributor for a national organization called the Center for Healthy Churches. They work with churches across the country to help churches through periods of major transition and change. He recently wrote a review of some of these trends and I want to share a few of them with you.



1. *Hybrid models of participation will need to continue to emerge.* Whether you like it or not, both in-person and virtual options are here to stay. Continued use of technology will only grow with new generations taking the lead. Churches that aren't willing or able to use various approaches will be left behind.
2. *A reliance on church programming and Sunday-centric only opportunities will fade.* A vast majority of churches will still have services on Sunday, but the most effective churches will create multiple entry points outside of the church building and throughout the week.
3. *An even greater emphasis will be placed on small groups over large gatherings.* Crowds at services and events will not be the measure of the church moving forward. The strength of the church will manifest in groups that connect relationally during the week, instead of programmatically on Sunday mornings.
4. *Effective evangelism will need to become much more relational, not transactional.* Churches must equip their people to become relationally focused and faithful to take opportunities to share the good news of Christ to the people they know and influence. Expecting people from the community to show up on Sunday to hear the gospel is already obsolete. Gospel conversations that point others toward a way of life rather than just a set of beliefs will be necessary.
5. *New metrics for success will need to be developed.* The old 6-box envelope for tracking spiritual development for the week does not tell us where people are spiritually. More training and emphasis need to be placed on real life transformation, relational building, mentoring, and practical local mission work, among other factors in measuring spiritual development. Small groups as the primary engine of church life will also need new metrics in order to take hold of the mission.

There are several others we could add to this list. Other experts and authors are predicting even more radical changes. The truth is that church life for many of us is changing at a much faster rate than we realize. The pandemic is not the driver for most of these changes, but just gasoline poured on a fire that was already burning. Church attendance and self-identified membership, or belonging, is rapidly declining, and for the first time in our history has fallen under 50% of the population. These realities could lead us to fear and even anger, but the better approach is to turn to the Lord and lay all of our preferences and practices on the altar. If we want to be a part of His kingdom work in the future, we must be willing to change what we do and how we do it. The message never changes, but our practices together must change. If we are willing to do that, with the leading of the Holy Spirit we will continue to see people transformed by the good news of Jesus Christ.