

the Nall Call

monthly newsletter of Nall Avenue Baptist Church

Volume #33, Issue 1 January 2019



CHRISTMAS OUTREACH SERVES 17 FAMILIES, CONTINUES TO BUILD BRIDGE

In December, the Nall family participated in a community effort to provide neighborhood families with a blessed Christmas. These families mostly hailed from Santa Fe Trail Elementary (71st and Lamar) and one from Belinder Elementary in Prairie Village.

Through the Missions Committee, Nall partnered with school faculty, Asbury Methodist Church, the City of Mission and Chapel KC to serve 17 families.

Each family received gifts for every child and a basket of food items for Christmas dinner. The families ranged in size from one child to five.

Nall provided a portion of the gifts needed for these families, and the other partners provided the remainder, as well as the food.

Nall also provided storage for the gifts and food, as well as served as a discreet location for parents to pick up the items.

Denise Sandusky, the school social worker (who served as a guest judge at the Fall Festival chili cookoff), expressed how wonderful it was for the parents to have this assurance of privacy. The arrangement also allowed her to give each family undivided attention.

"The gratitude expressed by these families was very moving, and we were blessed to be included," said Gerrie Orr, who helped coordinate Nall's involvement in the outreach.

The Missions Committee will continue to work closely with school staff to determine additional ways Nall can serve the families and have the opportunity to build kingdom relationships.

"We will continue to take one step of faith at a time across this bridge being built from Nall into the community," Gerrie said.



Top: The tree with tags requesting gifts for the kids. Center: Food baskets await pickup on Friday, Dec. 21. Bottom: Denise Sandusky (right) and friend ready to greet families at pickup on Friday, Dec. 21.

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CONFERENCE PREPARES MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO DEFEND FAITH *by Lewis Jones, Minister of Students*



We've all sensed it, the shifting of the culture. It seems that this shifting happens between every generation, but the one stable truth throughout the ages has been the truth of the Gospel. While we as a church believe in the good news of the Gospel, we have to admit that this is not the normal view point in our culture today. What's more, we sometimes feel hostility toward it.

It's so easy for any of us to fly under the radar with our faith, but we know that as Christians we have been instructed to go and make disciples.

High school and middle school students also feel this pressure between faith and culture.

On Jan. 25 through 26, students have the opportunity to attend the Ready Conference put on by Spurgeon College and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary right here in Kansas City. The purpose of this conference is to help students be ready to defend their faith in a shifting culture. The conference features dynamic speakers, powerful worship through music, an evening concert and breakout sessions during the day for students to interact with other students about this pressure between faith and culture that they experience on a daily basis.

The cost is \$30 per student. For questions or to register contact me at lewis@nallave.org or 913-432-4141.

NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH CELEBRATES TWO YEARS

On Nov. 11, Neighborhood Church commemorated its second anniversary of ministry to the families near Pawnee Elementary School in the 91st and Antioch area. Nall helped support the church during its first year, both with finances and resources. The church meets in the school gym (pictured).

These past two years have given Pastor Dave Partins and his wife, Rivers, much to be thankful for, he says.

During the Celebration Sunday (pictured), he baptized 7 people, bringing the total number of baptisms at the church to 23 in the last two years. Additionally, four adults joined the church, bringing to total membership to 47. The pastor also reports the congregation now contributes 68% of the church's budget, bringing them closer to self-sufficiency.

In 2019, the Partins hope to plant a church in Olathe.

"We know that we have not done this alone," Pastor Partins said in an email to supporters. "God has given us wonderful partners like you, who have prayed and given to our ministry for years to share Jesus with those that are far from God."

To learn more about Neighborhood Church and their story, visit their website, www.neighborhoodchurchOP.com, or find them on Facebook.



SNAPSHOTS



Middle and high school students celebrate Christmas with their extremely good-humored sponsors and minister, Lewis Jones, on Dec. 12. The group played raucous Minute to Win It Games and made lasting inside jokes with a white elephant gift exchange.



As an extension of a lesson about missionaries, Awana Sparkies brought nonperishable foods and other small items to send as a Christmas gift for two missionary couples serving in Russia. Both couple have ties to Nall members.



Worshippers at the 4:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services sing "O Holy Night" by candlelight on Dec. 24.

Have a Nall snapshot to share? Email it to Sara Brunsvold, sara@nallave.org

WHEN YOU HAVE A FACILITIES USAGE REQUEST

Did you know the church building is in use nearly every day by both internal and external groups? To help staff better coordinate and manage the use of the building, equipment and resources, all who are interested in using the church facilities will need to submit a completed request form to Mark Miller, minister of worship and administration.

This form gathers all pertinent information that will help staff fully understand the requestor's needs and prevent scheduling conflicts by streamlining the intake process.

The form can be found in the church office and on the church website at www.nallave.org/facilitiesrequest.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Church Office Closed, Jan. 1
For New Year's Day.

Upward Basketball games begin, Jan. 5
Games are every Saturday through February.

Guest speaker, Jan. 6
Donnie Simpson will be the guest speaker in both services.

Men's Breakfast, Jan. 7
6:30 AM, Santa Fe Cafe, 87th St., Overland Park. All men welcome. No RSVP needed.

Wednesday Night Dinner and Studies resume, Jan. 9
Includes Awana, youth study and adult study. Dinner at 5:00; studies begin at 6:30.

MOPS meetings resume, Jan. 10
9:30 AM. The Mothers of Preschoolers and MOMSnext groups will meet in the Foyer. Learn more at www.nallave.org/mops.

JOY Seniors Luncheon, Jan. 10
11:30 AM, CLC/Gym. Featuring the music of Pic & Bow. Bring potluck dish or \$4.

Ready Conference for middle schoolers, Jan. 25-26
Details on Page 2.

Business Meeting, Jan. 27
5:00 PM, Sanctuary.

Monday night ministries resume, Jan. 28
6:30 PM. GriefShare, DivorceCare, DivorceCare4Kids, Prodigal Hope and Renew Self-Care. Details on Page 4.

Full and updated list of all events and activities:
www.nallave.org/events.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER BRINGS OUT THE FUN



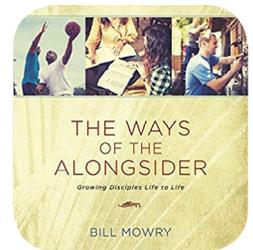
On Wednesday, Dec. 19, all who volunteer in any capacity were invited to the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

Staff served up chicken fried steak and led the crowd in a competitive game of Christmas Feud, a Family Feud-style trivia game. Third-, second- and first-place teams chose prizes off the gift table.

The annual dinner is a way for staff to thank the many people who help keep Nall's ministries, activities and daily operations running smoothly.

TRAINING ON PRACTICAL STEPS IN RELATIONSHIP-BASED DISCIPLESHIP

Starting Wednesday, Jan. 9, at 6:30 PM, Pastor Joe will lead a 10-session training titled "The Ways of the Alongsider." This training teaches practical steps you can take in relationship-based discipleship. The practices include reading the Bible with others, asking questions, telling stories and living on mission. Materials are \$14. The training is limited to 12 attendees; registration is required. Register through the church website or contact the office.



MONDAY NIGHT MINISTRY GROUPS RESUME JAN. 28

A new session of Monday night ministries will begin Jan. 28 at 6:30 PM:

- **GriefShare**, a support group for those walking through grief.
- **DivorceCare**, a support group for adults enduring the pain of divorce, separation or the end of a long-term relationship.
- **DivorceCare4Kids**, a safe, loving environment where children going through the end of their parents' relationship can find healing.
- **Prodigal Hope**, a support group for loved ones of prodigals.
- **Renew Self-Care**, a class for practical self-care tips



To learn more, go to www.nallave.org/hope.

About Nall Call

Nall Call is the work of many hands.

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

Special assistance: Neal Williams

Photography this issue: Sara Brunsvold, Becky Jones, Gerrie Orr



**TRANSFORMING
LIVES**



**BUILDING
RELATIONSHIPS**



**IMPACTING
COMMUNITIES**