



FROM THE PASTOR: BEING THE RIGHT KIND OF CHURCH

We recently held a prayer meeting, called by the Pastoral Search Committee, to pray over the process of seeking a new pastor. I was very gratified to see the people who turned out and even happier with the intensity of our prayers. We received a report from the recent survey the committee issued, and then we began to pray in small groups, and we kept switching groups so we could get to pray with several different folks.

One of our prayer challenges was to pray that we might be “the right kind of church” for the new pastor, instead of simply praying for the “right man.” This is a challenge we sometimes give to young adults as

they seek a marriage partner. Some of them have a mental list of what they wish their spouse to be like, even including a physical description. Some of them are so obsessed with their standards for the other person that they don’t work on themselves very much. So we encourage them to work on themselves in order to be the right kind of person for someone else.

Since the Lord gave Joan and I children, we have prayed that God would give to each of them a godly and good marriage partner. I wanted to hear from the parents of the ones they married or will marry (and I wanted to be able to say as well), “wow, our daughter/son

found a tremendous mate, someone who loves the Lord.” This has made us happy, this will make us happy.

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I know it will make us all happy if our new pastor is able to say, "God has brought me to a wonderful congregation and to a godly people."

I have heard members of other churches, who have gone through a series of pastors, wondering, "What is wrong with us; why can't we keep a pastor?" This is certainly discouraging, and sometimes the truth is churches can be really mean and tough on pastors. I have known of congregations that didn't deserve the pastor they had and would probably have profited from being without one until they were ready to receive the Word of God from him.

We certainly do want a godly and good man, and so we also prayed that the Lord would find us a man of holiness. It would be hard to beat the combination of a great preacher who also lives a holy life. I would like to be and do those two things as well, so pray for me in the time I have left.

STAFF CHANGES

We recently have had a few staff changes, and this is tough on those families and on us. There were various reasons for these changes, but I am happy to say that all of these folks are walking with the Lord and are good people. Please pray for them in their transition and that God would give us wisdom about how to handle ministries here at the church. One positive thing is that none of this took place because we ran out of money.

BLESSING

When we had the Congregational Meeting in October we presented the Congregation with the reality of how tight finances were. We sent out a letter and asked everyone to pray. The Treasurer sent us all giving statements so we could see what we had actually given. I want to give God glory for the response of the Lord's people. Offerings were dramatically up compared to what they had been. We are not yet finished with the year: we still have bills and debt that must be paid; we still have commitments to ministries and missionaries we want to honor. So please keep praying and ask God to help us all to be faithful in our giving.

CHALLENGE FOR THE BUDGET

At this time every year the Treasurer recruits and the Session appoints a Budget Committee. Their job is to go over requests and projected expenses for the coming year. We need everyone who leads a ministry that requires budget support to make sure you get a budget request in to the committee. If you have concerns, questions, and suggestions for the committee, feel free to email them to either Jerry Moore or to John DeMoss very soon.

Our various ministries will be compiling reports so that next month we can publish a ministry journal which will do several things: it will let you know what work has been going on over the last year, and it will let you how you can be involved, if you wish, in various kinds of ministry.

Please pray for the Budget Committee to make wise choices and to be able to plan over the scope of the whole year so that ministries will have what they need. Sometimes we need to cut things; sometimes we need to add things; but whatever we do, we need to follow the Lord and have his guidance. On Saturday the 4th of December there will be a ministry and budget discussion that is open to all ministries and anyone in the congregation. We will be looking over the various ministries and seeing what they have requested. If you want to come and hear what is going on, or even make an appeal for us to consider something, then this would be a good thing for you to attend.

NEW CITY NETWORK

As you may have heard, we recently had a meeting to discuss with other New City-type congregations the idea of creating a church planting network. To this end we have started a discussion via a blog. If you would like to read what we are thinking and how the discussion is going, see [http:// www.randysrag.blogspot.com](http://www.randysrag.blogspot.com). You can find links to this blog on the church website or my Facebook page.

Holiday All-church Event Schedule

We will have evening services on the first three Sundays of December (all begin at 6:00 p.m.). The first is a communion service, the second is the adult music program, and the third is the children's program. We will have a Christmas Day worship service (which is on a Saturday this year) at 11:00 a.m. It is a one hour service. On Sunday the 26th, we will have only one service, at 11:00 a.m., and there will be no Sunday School that day. Remember that the two holiday weekends, Dec. 24-27, and Dec 31-Jan. 3, will be four-day weekends for the staff.

Yes, we expect you to come to church on Christmas Day and on the Sunday after it. I know it is strange to ask you to worship on a RELIGIOUS holiday, but that is one of our quirks. Pardon my sarcasm, but in this I am sincere...my wife Joan and I wish all of you a wonderful holiday season, full of worship and adoration for our Lord Jesus, good times with family and friends, and safety and sanity on the roads, in the stores, at events, and with your checkbook. Merry Christmas!

--Pastor Randy Nabors

DECEMBER EVENTS

55+ Ministry: Our Christmas gathering for the 55+ ministry will be held on Friday, December 17 from 11:30-1:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your favorite finger food to share (sandwiches, chips, veggies and dip, a cheese ball, sausage balls, cupcakes, cookies, or whatever you enjoy munching on at a party). We will also have punch, coffee, and hot spiced Christmas tea.



The entertainment is going to be wonderful, and we have a variety of guests coming to make this event very special for us. Also, we have a special Christmas surprise for all the people who attend this event. You will NOT be disappointed. If you have questions, please call Shirley Madewell at 423.870.3021.

The NCF Women's Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 4th from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the home of Joan Nabors (2507 East 5th Street). Please bring two dozen of your favorite holiday cookie, several copies of the recipe to share, and an unwrapped gift to donate to Hope for the Inner City's Christmas store. We are looking forward to a festive night of delicious baked goods, fellowship and Christmas carols! Please call Laurie Gienapp (423.605.4857) for further information.



NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our Wee Ones ministry needs more nursery volunteers on Sunday mornings! ALL members are expected to serve on the regular rotation. With several families moving, having new babies, transferring membership to East Lake, etc., our volunteer list is down significantly. This means that instead of serving twice a year, those on the rotation are serving 4-5 times per year. If you can help by adding your name to our rotation, please contact McKenzie Peck at newcityweeones@gmail.com or 883.2902.



Are you passionate about saving?

Would you love to help other people learn how to better manage their finances and become savers too? Individual Development Accounts are matched savings accounts for low-wage earning families to help them purchase wealth-building assets. Would you be willing to learn more about Individual Development Accounts (IDA) and be part of a group working to start an IDA ministry at New City next year? If so, call 706.956.4358.

WEE ONES

New City Fellowship's Nursery Ministry to children 4 years of age and younger. Wee Ones exists to support the parents of young children so that they may be involved in the activities and events of the church. Wee Ones also seeks to involve the entire congregation in supporting parents by caring for the church's very young children and helping little ones know their God and His Son, Jesus Christ. For more information, contact Mackenzie Peck at 423.883.2902.

December 5

8:30 a.m.

Perseverance Bray
James Roberts
Daniel Scoggins
Carrie Ann Scoggins
Monica Carpenter
Tobey Carpenter (HM)

11:00 a.m.

Kayla Underwood
Alicia Wilson
Jacqueline Brown
Victoria Lewis
Madelyn Striebeck
Carl Striebeck (HM)

December 12

8:30 a.m.

Laura Love
Donna McElrath
Ken McElrath
Annie McElrath
Emily Cox
Phil Cox (HM)

11:00 a.m.

Ashley McGarvey
Tera Woods
Tom Yates
Ronnie Elliot
Mari Vanderwoude
Dale Vanderwoude (HM)

December 19

8:30 a.m.

Janet Calderazzo
Cherith Craig
Kathy Morris
Kimberly Morris
David Wilkinson
Victor Drake (HM)

11:00 a.m.

Kim McDonald
Wesley Young
Tom Sweets
Gabrielle Sweets
Gail Kooi
Larry Kooi (HM)

December 26

8:30 a.m.

Anna O'Neil
Sheila Fowler
Lydia Jones
Kathy Shelby
MyChelle Pinkerton
Missy Smith (HM)

11:00 a.m.

Anne Heibel
Luke Heibel
Rodney Boyd
Debby Boyd
Brianna Taylor
Trevor Taylor (HM)

January 2

8:30 a.m.

Laurie Gienapp
Robin McMahan
David McMahan
Debbie Shannon
Jeff Shannon (HM)

11:00 a.m.

Cami Shands
Jorene Meadows
Amy Bagby
Elise Davidson
Janice White
Cornell White (HM)

We ask all members to serve on a nursery rotation (about 5 times a year). If your name is not on our schedule, please email newcityweeones@gmail.com so we can add you. College Students who attend regularly are also asked to serve.

WORDS HAVE POWER

The Special Needs Ministry seeks to serve the children and young adults in our congregation and community who have disabilities. In addition, we seek to inform and educate NCF about those in our congregation with special needs. Contact Cynthia Young at cynthia.young@covenant.edu with any questions or comments.

Words have power. When I hear a young person casually say, "You're SO retarded" or just call another child "retard" it distresses me and brings a lot of fears to the surface. Does the use of this word indicate the feelings of the community my son with Intellectual Disabilities lives in? Does this mean that the people in his school and church community will be less supportive of him? How will he feel when he knows what that word means, and that it is a derogatory word that can be used to make fun of him or degrade him?

In a recent advocacy class I attended, the speaker talked about three levels of change for people. The first level is: "Any changes you make now that result in a positive difference in the lives of people." A huge way we can make a Level 1 difference is in how we talk to each other and the words we use. Language can be used to respect or disrespect a person. In the African-

American community, the words that define us as a race have evolved, and have been so volatile that even the African American community is split, with many who won't even say a specific word.

In the world of disabilities, there are words that are just as volatile. I don't think anyone would call a child with autism with no speech as "dumb and mute." But let's go deeper: if you see some members in wheelchairs, do you think it's better to refer to them by name, or just call them "The Cripples"? Using People First language will help you remember to say "the baby with Down's syndrome" instead of "the Down's baby." It is not only more respectful; it honors the fact that the person you are referring to is made in God's image, and is defined by who he or she is, and not by the disability.

Words have power. Let's use our words to bless people.

MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS



We were thrilled and grateful to sing and play at the 2010 Global Missions Conference. It was held at the Chattanooga Convention and Trade Center and we were in one of the most professional settings we have ever been privileged to serve in. But the spirit with which we present our anthems and praise songs was a great blessing to the event.

Our choir is a dynamic entity. The group is completely volunteer—we don't even have section leaders! We meet twice a week, since it seemed that we could capture more participants if we offered more than one practice time. We have our Tuesday singers, and our Saturday singers, and then we have some who come to both because they love it or they need it. If you love the impact of the choir on our worship,

please stop right now and pray for the health and vitality of this vehicle of praise.

In a cross-cultural church where we do so much gospel and African American repertoire, a strong representation of blacks in the choir lends a sound and a look of authenticity. If you are African American, you can sing, and you like having a gospel choir, you should prayerfully consider singing with us. We sing twice a month and then we do special concerts on Christmas, at Woodlawn, and an additional one or two events where we sing a couple of songs.

Gospel music is very popular around the world. Japan, Germany, Sweden and other non-black cultures have gospel choirs because of the exciting sound. Sometimes these singers are not even Christian, they just love gospel. Predominantly white colleges like Calvin and Wheaton have campus gospel choirs. So you don't have to be black to sing gospel. But there are some things you need to know.

- Gospel has sections that are loud, so you need to be willing to sing out.
- Gospel is physical—you must clap and sway, at the least. But we'll teach you.
- Gospel is emotional, so you need to be able to give yourself passionately to the music.

It's Christmas time again, and we are having an adult choir concert on December 12 at 6 p.m. There are many opportunities to bring non-Christian friends to church, but few are as fun or as stimulating as an NCF choir concert.

He has come, he has come, let heaven and earth rejoice, the Lord has come!

We used to have a Youth Choir here at NCF. However, all the boys have moved on. You see the all-girl praise team on youth Sunday and it is because *no teen aged boys want to sing in church*. Now I could give a speech right here about how the Bible tells us to sing, and that our culture seems to raise boys to be quiet and shy or blustery and macho, but there's no room for singing boys in our church. I say "in our church" because I know our boys are singing in our schools.

Look at your teen-aged son and ask yourself, "How did I learn to sing?" If there is something about our youth choir that needs to change to make room for male vocals, we want to hear about it. Now is the time for boys to sing. One of the best things about a youth choir is that there are girls there, guys!

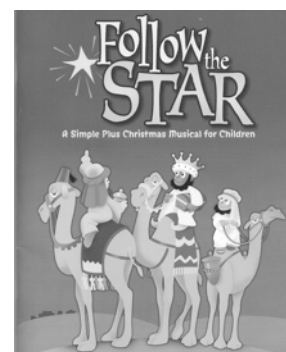
But for now, we have a *huge* group of children coming up, and some of those boys can sing! Don't miss the children's Christmas program December 19.

December Schedule

December 5 - Angel Carol

December 12 - P.M. Choir Concert - "He Has Come"

December 19 - Jesus the Light of the World



Children's Program - December 19, 6 p.m.

MISSIONARY UPDATE: THE RAINSFORDS IN KENYA

Guy and Susan Rainsford serve with SIM in Kenya. They are also in the process of adopting a child who is from South Sudan. This is a recent update:

Dear Friends, we would like to ask for PRAYER for several important matters.

1) We have a South Sudanese couple who are helping us with Rehema's paperwork for her full U.S. adoption and immigration. We have been told by U.S. adoption and immigration authorities that the adoption decree we have does not meet requirements for U.S. law. The adoption decree we received in 2009 was signed by a security adviser. We have found out recently that we need a "court order" adoption decree.

The wife of this South Sudanese couple is now in Southern Sudan hoping to talk to a high court judge, who is a friend of hers, on our behalf. Pray that this judge would be willing to write a "court order" adoption

decree for Rehema.

We are conscious of the situation in Southern Sudan as they approach their January referendum and possible war. Therefore, we are anxious about obtaining the proper documents from Southern Sudan before the end of 2010.

2) Please pray for Abi. He is still in the running for the government chief position in his village. The people of his village want him. However, there is a woman from outside the village who is also in the running. We believe she is trying to disqualify Abi because he is a Christian. Pray also for Abi because he hopes to visit the Member of Parliament (MP) for his area. If the MP is supportive of Abi, this would be very helpful for Abi's hopes of being chosen for the chief position.

Thanks for standing in the prayer gap with us.

SIGN UP NOW FOR EVANGELISM TRAINING

Do you struggle with sharing your faith?

In an effort to continue to equip the body of Christ and give them more opportunities for ministry, the community outreach department will begin a series in *evangelism training*. We will discuss God's heart for the lost and talk about practical ways to step out in faith and to share our faith, both in the context of our everyday life (work, school, and neighborhood) and in the context of the vision of church.

This series is aimed at the adults and teenagers in our church (a great opportunity for parents to work alongside their children), and is for anyone who has a difficult time contextualizing the Gospel in our post-modern era.

The series will begin on *Tuesday, January 25th* and meet every last Tuesday of the month for the next three months (February, March, April) at 7 p.m. A small meal will be provided, and the discussion and training will be lead by Eddie Centurion. The meetings will be at the Lighthouse and space will be limited. If you are interested please email Eddie at ecenturion@newcityfellowship.com and reserve your spot as soon as possible.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR THE LIGHTHOUSE

Here is a list of items that we need:

Dish towels

Hand towels

Silverware

Area rugs

Glasses (or tumblers)

Lawnmower

Bath mats

Storage bins

If you are able to provide any of these items, please contact the Lighthouse at 423.629.4662.

ADVENT READINGS FOR 2010



The four weeks which precede Christmas Day are traditionally called by the church the four weeks of Advent. The word *Advent* literally means “to come to” which is exactly what we believe Jesus Christ has done—he has “come to” his people to save us from our sins. Throughout the years the church has considered Advent as a time of spiritual preparation to improve our faith in the good news of Jesus Christ. It is a time to meditate on our need for our salvation, a time to rejoice in the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and a time to watch out for things that would take our eyes off of Jesus.

In order to help us all focus on the spiritual nature of Christmas, there are daily readings below which will take you through the four weeks of Advent.

1ST WEEK OF ADVENT

Sunday November 28 through Saturday December 4

Prayer: “Lord Jesus, let every heart prepare you room, as we read, pray and think about your word this season.”

Sunday	Psalm 51:1-4
Monday	Isaiah 53:1-3
Tuesday	Luke 1:1-17
Wednesday	Hebrews 1:1-4
Thursday	Psalm 121
Friday	Luke 1:18-25
Saturday	Colossians 1:15-23

3RD WEEK OF ADVENT

Sunday December 12 through Saturday December 18

Prayer: “Lord Jesus, may the hopes and fears of all of our years be met in you as we now come before you.”

Sunday	Psalm 51:10-13
Monday	Isaiah 53:7-9
Tuesday	Luke 1:46-56
Wednesday	Hebrews 2:1-9
Thursday	Psalm 130
Friday	Luke 1:57-80
Saturday	Colossians 2:6-23

2ND WEEK OF ADVENT

Sunday December 5 through Saturday December 11

Prayer: “Lord Jesus, as we seek you now, please do not let our sins and sorrows grow but make your blessings flow to us as far as the curse is found (in us), as far as the curse is found (everywhere else).”

Sunday	Psalm 51:5-9
Monday	Isaiah 53:4-6
Tuesday	Luke 1:26-38
Wednesday	Hebrews 1:5-14
Thursday	Psalm 124
Friday	Luke 1:39-45
Saturday	Colossians 1:24-2:5

4TH WEEK OF ADVENT

Sunday December 19 through Saturday December 25

Prayer: “We come, to adore you Lord Jesus: God of God, Light of light, Word of the Father, not afraid of the Virgin’s womb or of appearing in the flesh, and born the King of angels. Joyfully and triumphantly, we come to adore you.”

Sunday	Psalm 51:14-19
Monday	Isaiah 53:10-12
Tuesday	Matthew 1:18-25
Wednesday	Hebrews 2:10-18
Thursday	Psalm 131
Friday	Luke 2:1-20
Saturday	Colossians 3:1-17

HOPE FOR THE INNER CITY

Hope for the Inner City is a Christian ministry in East Chattanooga that helps poor people in perpetual crisis become self-sufficient. By God's power and through your support, we are changing lives and transforming communities.

12th Annual Christmas Store: *Adopt a Child or Empower a Parent*

For parents facing the hardship of current economic times, Hope for the Inner City's annual Christmas Store provides a dignified way to purchase gifts for their children at affordable prices. By collecting new books, toys and gifts, the Christmas Store offers qualified families a place to buy deeply discounted presents for their loved ones, allowing them to share in the Christmas spirit, while affirming their self-sufficiency.

Three Ways You Can Help:

1. **Donate new toys, books & winter clothes:** Gift drop-off at 1800 Roanoke Ave., weekdays through Dec. 10 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
2. **Adopt a child for \$50:** (Or adopt 2, 5 or 10 children at a time). Donate online at Hope4theInnercity.org/christmas or mail gifts to P.O. Box 11584, Chattanooga, TN 37401
3. **Volunteer at the Christmas Store:** Set-up & take-down will occur on Saturdays, Dec. 11 & 18. Store hours on Dec. 13-18.

Families in need are invited to register in person at Hope for the Inner City.



New City Fellowship at Westminster is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). It was organized as a church in 1976 and maintains its vision to be a cross-cultural church, ministering to black and white, rich and poor, young and old. As a PCA congregation, it believes in the full inspiration of the Scriptures and attempts to preach the whole counsel of God and minister to the whole person.

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