

The South Louisville Christian

SOUTH LOUISVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH **E-NEWSLETTER**
FALL/WINTER 2016, EDITION EIGHT, ISSUE FOUR
A Christian Church for South Louisville

Family Camp, 2016

By: Ron Matthews, Family Minister

When the rest of the world was sitting around watching television, mowing lawns or just chilling somewhere, 43 wonderful people with nothing in common but their faith met to celebrate the joys of being a family united in Christ Jesus. On September 2, 2016, we met at White Mills Christian Camp for a campfire and worship time led by Jason Philpot. During that time 12 youth and 14 adults enjoyed praising God with current songs found on the radio, and at summer church camp, while eating their fill of s'mores. Then we all cooled off with a night swim from 9:30 – 10:30. After some snacks and fellowship most of us retired to the Hotel or dorms for a peaceful night's sleep. But several adults including two DC graduates held an impromptu Bible discussion with some new attendees from the church, and that night proved to be a bonding and teaching experience.

The following morning those of us in the hotel were greeted warmly with the aroma of breakfast cooked by Chef Dan Pullen. On the menu was bacon, sausage gravy, biscuits, and eggs and more bacon. We rallied together to feast and fellowship once again before

we all went outside to enjoy the wonderful amenities the camp has to offer. Many more people trickled in including Theo Dues and family and Brian Campbell and family. Theo and several others went straight for the zip Line to enjoy hurtling themselves off a 50' tower to the great beyond. Several younger youth gave a valiant effort by just climbing the tower. Once they got there, they were smart enough to recognize the insanity of doing such an event and came back down the way they went up. Throughout the day we as a church family enjoyed splashing in the pool, canoeing up and down the river and using the new concrete canoe Ramp. Brian Campbell took advantage of the extremely long but beautiful Prayer Path. Others enjoyed carpet ball under the canopy, and still others enjoyed playing cards and fellowshiping under the shade of the trees.

We ended the weekend with another banquet of food provided by Chef Dan (who, by the way, cooked the entire weekend).

(Cont'd. next page)

Mark Your Calendar!

- Oct. 2 – SLCC's 114th Anniversary Celebration
- Oct. 8 & 22, Nov. 5 & 19, Dec. 3 & 17 – Food Distribution
- Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12 -- Women's Ministry Mtg.
- October 31, 6:30 – 8:30 PM – Fall Fest for K -- 6
- Nov. 24, Thanksgiving Day Community Dinner for our neighbors
- Dec. 9, 5:00 PM – Christmas Play and Dinner
- Dec. 10, 2:00 PM – Miracle Dancers at SLCC

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That evening meal, before we all packed up and came back to the Big City, was a delight. So many conversations, smiles, and laughter. While I am writing this recap, I find myself missing this wonderful event for the church family and I am eagerly looking forward to next year. I hope this article has inspired you to be part of your church family and enjoy one of the missions of our church. Please join us, you will not regret spending time in God's Country.

Worship

By: Jason Philpot

Even as Worship Leader, I have Sundays where getting up to go to church doesn't seem as enjoyable as staying in bed and enjoying a few more hours of sleep. But I know that once I get there, and get practicing, and get into praise and worship and experience a Spirit-filled time in God's house with my church family, it is always well worth my time. But, I still remember as a child wondering why do we have to go to church every Sunday?

A few weeks ago I printed off a copy of the Ten Commandments on some parchment paper, framed it and hung it in my living room. My two little girls noticed it right away when they came home from school that day, and we started talking about them. When it came to number four, "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy", I told them, "that means God wants us to go to church every Sunday and worship Him. That's why we go to church; it's a commandment." Of course they said, "Oh . . . , why? . . ." So, I told them, "God loves us and wants to be close to us, and when we worship Him, we are reaching out to get close to Him." That seemed to work for them as a sufficient answer, or it was time to get to playing? But, if that isn't enough for you, here is some scripture that I found interesting. The book of Zechariah teaches that God longs for all of us to come to worship Him. It talks about the people going to Jerusalem to "worship the King, the Almighty." And then it says in Zechariah 14:17; "If any of the peoples of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem and worship the King, the Lord Almighty, they will have no rain." Not only does that tell us how important and personal it is to God that we worship Him, but it's also a reminder that if we don't do what God asks, we shouldn't expect His blessings. So, if we want to see God move in our lives it is conditional to our response to Him. I don't know about you, but when I give my heart and soul through praise and worship to God every Sunday, not only do I enjoy the presence of God, but I enjoy knowing that I am putting myself in a place to receive His "rain".

Love One Another

By: Pastor Brian Campbell

Greetings in the name of our Glorious Savior Jesus Christ! Jesus told his disciples, "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, *IF* you love *one another*." (John 13:35) Notice that little phrase "One Another." The Bible instructs us "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." (Gal. 6:10)

So knowing that God is going to hold us accountable for the way we love and treat one another especially at church, let's take a test to see how we are doing. Let's look at God's commands concerning our relationship with "One Another."

- Be at peace with one another (Mark 9:50)
- Love one another (John 13:34)
- Be devoted to one another (Rom. 12:10)
- Honor one another (Rom. 12:10)
- Live in harmony with one another (Rom. 12:16)
- Stop passing judgment on one another (Rom. 14:13)
- Accept one another (Rom. 15:7)
- Instruct one another (Rom. 15:14)
- Greet one another (Rom. 16:16)
- Serve one another (Gal. 5:13)
- Carry one another's burden (Gal. 6:2)
- Be patient, bearing one another in love (Eph. 4:2)
- Be kind and compassionate to one another (Eph. 4:32)
- Forgive one another (Eph. 4:32)
- Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Eph. 5:19)
- Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ (Eph. 5:21)
- In humility consider others better than yourselves (Phil. 2:3)
- Teach one another (Col. 3:16)
- Admonish one another (Col. 3:16)
- Encourage one another (1 Thess. 4:18)
- Build one another up (1 Thess. 5:11)
- Spur one another on toward love and good deeds (Heb. 10:24)
- Do not slander one another (James 4:11)
- Don't grumble against one another (James 5:9)
- Confess your sins to one another (James 5:16)
- Pray for one another (James 5:16)
- Clothe yourself with humility toward one another (1 Peter 5:5)

So how are you doing? . . . You WILL see this again!

The Sermon on the Mount

By: *Pastor Theodore Dues*

The Sermon on the Mount is the most cherished, studied and quoted sermon ever preached. This sermon encompasses all of Matthew 5, 6 and 7. It is almost impossible to read this sermon and not feel a deep stirring in your soul. But for all the attention given to this sermon, very little attention is given to the audience who first heard it. The paragraph right before the sermon tells us who was in the audience that day: **Matthew 4: 23-25 – Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering with severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them. Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.**

Let's talk about these first followers of Jesus for a moment...From Galilee came a lot of racially mixed people. From the Decapolis came a lot of Gentiles. Then mix in all the diseased and the demonized and the insane and the disabled and the impoverished. Not exactly pillars of the community. This is the kind of crowd you might find on Skid Row – huddled around a fire burning inside a garbage can. But when these people heard about this miracle-working Jesus – they fled to Him. And He healed them. These were the people on the lowest rungs of society – and yet they became the charter members of this community of faith that we belong to today. And we are drawn to Jesus for the same reasons they were drawn to Him: Because He heals us. He heals our broken hearts. He heals our broken bodies. He heals our broken homes. He heals our broken relationships. Jesus still heals us.

Jesus healed the broken people all around Him. And for all of His healing – for all of His goodness – for all of His kindness, what did He get in return? A pat on the back? A special award from the High Priest? A parade in His honor? No. He received persecution. And then He told us that if we followed in His steps, that we would also receive persecution. Kind of makes you wonder why we would want to follow in His steps.

Here's why; because persecution is not the end of the road for us. At the end of the road – just beyond where our eyes can see – past our wildest dreams – there is a Kingdom. And in this Kingdom we will find relief from the persecution we have known in this world; we will be given comfort from all the sadness our hearts have carried; we will receive an inheritance that staggers the imagination; we will sit at a feast that satisfies every longing we've ever had; and we will experience the ultimate healing from every hurt we have ever known.

These were the blessings promised to that motley crowd who first heard Jesus speak the Sermon on the Mount. These are the blessings promised to us – as the hand of Jesus stretches across the centuries to reach us.

Christian Legal Aid Clinic helps “justice roll on like a river ...”

By: *Randy Gibson*

Sometimes God's call is clear. I had been practicing law for more than 25 years when, in 2004, I felt the Lord calling me to begin a Christian-based legal aid clinic to help those in need of legal advice but who find the legal process overwhelming and extremely expensive. I told my daughter about this call and she encouraged me to do it. The Bible confirms that we are to act justly, to seek justice and to “let justice roll on like a river” and I felt I was called to use my specific training to help disadvantaged people. And not just offer legal help, but also to use that opportunity to lead discouraged people toward a new hope in Jesus.

So I began quietly without fanfare but with the blessing of the pastor and set up a clinic every Wednesday night for a few hours at the church I attended. The clinic was open for almost 5 years when in 2009 my health forced me to stop and the mission seemed to be done. Then, the Lord touched me during the funeral of a close friend, Kristin Sauder, whose short life was a beacon of Christian service. I knew it was unmistakable, and I followed His call. I formed a non-profit Christian legal aid ministry, and in September 2015 we opened our first location at Southeast Christian's Crestwood Campus, using advice and support from, and materials and a database designed by, Gospel Justice Initiative, a Christian non-profit organization located in Chicago that assists Christian legal aid ministries.

Metro Christian Legal Aid (MCLA) now has two clinics open every Wednesday from 4 to 6 pm, one in Crestwood and one at South Louisville Christian Church. As you know, SLCC also graciously provided us an office, for which we are most grateful! And we will soon have a monthly clinic at Middletown United Methodist Church.

At the clinics, volunteer attorneys meet with clients to help them set up a plan of action to resolve legal problems. Usually, the plan can be carried out by the clients themselves. Sometimes they need more help, so we refer them to attorneys who have agreed to work at a reduced rate.

MCLA has served more than 150 clients during the past year. Clients have received help with immigration issues, landlord disputes, employment issues, child custody, divorce, creditor disputes, estate planning, and Medicaid, disability and social security issues. We also help nonprofit organizations and are expanding to offer conflict resolution services.

Since this is the Lord's work, we trust Him to provide the direction, the strength and the resources to carry out His mission. That said, we still humbly ask for your prayers, and if possible your time and support, to help us in this important ministry. We welcome all volunteers and provide training to assist in the ministry. (*Ed. note: Sign up to volunteer at the Connect Table at the church*)