

newcity eastlake

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 2 SEPTEMBER 2011

“THE CITIES THAT WERE IN RUINS, DESOLATE AND DESTROYED, ARE NOW FORTIFIED AND INHABITED. I THE LORD HAVE SPOKEN, AND I WILL DO IT.” - EZEKIEL 36:35b,36b

SOLITUDE BEFORE ACTION

JIM PICKETT

So I am the pastor. I am to call you to action. There are so many things to do in East Lake. So much need inside and outside of the doors of this church. We have some very exciting ongoing ministries like ELECT, our afterschool tutoring program, and our English as a Second Language program.

We have some new proposed ministries which are also very exciting, like New City Eats—a food ministry unlike anything I have ever seen before, and we are considering a Sunday morning outreach to East Lake Courts.

The small group component of New City East Lake is like the framing, the internal skeleton of our entire ministry at New City Fellowship East Lake. It connects us together meaningfully and it feeds into all of our community ministry so that we are using our gifts internally for one another and externally for the good of the East Lake community. We want to make it virtually impossible to be at East Lake and not be in a small group.

So, you see, there is no lack of calling all of you into action for the kingdom of God here in East Lake.

But...

Thomas Merton speaks of a “compulsion” that is a part of our culture. You know, something that we just can’t stop ourselves from doing. He says that our compulsions are the enemies of our spiritual lives. They have two main “fruit.” They leave us wanting more—we can’t stop because we are never content or satisfied. Or, they leave us mad—angry and frustrated when what we drove ourselves to do doesn’t “pay off” like we thought it would or should.

What compulsion is Merton talking about? It is any activity or action that makes us feel our identity or sense of self is at stake. It is when we are dependent upon our performance and the responses of those around us to affirm our value and purpose in life. And when the activity is deemed “ministry,” then it can become even more deceptive. We can cover our secret hunger to be legit in the eyes of others by doing the “work of God.” We import into the church a secular view of identity and often don’t even know it. Our self-esteem dysfunctions are perpetuated and never addressed. The Christian view of human identity becomes irrelevant.

The antidote to our compulsion? We must learn to be alone. Specifically, alone with God. This includes learning to be quiet in order to listen. It means learning to be silent—in an effort to stop exerting ourselves all over the place out of self-centered desperation. Merton among others viewed solitude “not as a private therapeutic place, but rather it is the place of conversion, the place where the old self dies and the new self is born.”

So as you are called to be active at New City East Lake, remember—an important activity you must learn is to be alone... with God...and His word...and learn who you truly are from Him.



VBS 2011—God Always Wins!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

OVERVIEW OF MINISTRIES	2
JOIN THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN	3
WELCOMING LATINOS	4
VBS 2011 A HUGE SUCCESS	5
YOUTH AT CAMP	6
INSIDE EAST LAKE COURTS	7
SEPTEMBER NURSERY SCHEDULE	8

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

JOSÉ OCANDO

Vacation Bible School has traditionally been the kick-starter for many of our autumn ministries. The momentum of zeal and people that build up over that week are funneled into ministries like Youth Club and Latino Bible Study, both of which were born at VBS.

This year has potential not only to match this pattern, but to intensify it. There are a number of exciting new initiatives that will begin in or around September, and we want to make sure you are aware of what is going on. We also want to present a sort of panoramic view of the labors of our church in the hope that we would be encouraged both in our common purpose and in our unity as the Body of Christ.

I want to add, on a personal level, that lists like the one below tend to be both encouraging and challenging to me. As I survey all the things we're doing, I can become so consumed by them that I lose my spiritual center, so to speak. My eyes lose sight of God's face. After all, Scripture does not challenge us to work heartily only, but to work "as to the Lord." Even as we seek to establish God's Kingdom through all of these wonderful ministries, my own hope is that we would always do so in humility and faith, with our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Incumbents

Return of College Students – Mid-August – Our hope is to be intentional about recruiting college students into the life of our church through discipleship, involvement in ministry, membership, and leadership.

ELECT – September 6th - Due to the number of families that came to VBS, there are already a number of new students registered to participate in our after-school tutoring program. ELECT will resume with its normal schedule, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 3-5.

ESL – September 11th – Our robust English as a Second Language program has been active ever since we began as a church. Eunice worked hard during the summer to keep up with her contacts, and we're hoping ESL will continue to be a place for us to serve Latinos in the community.

Latino Prayer Meeting – September 14th - There were something like 30 adults at VBS this year. We're hoping that many of those who are Latino will come to Prayer Meeting (formerly the Latino Bible Study), in addition to the faithful crowd that attended all through the Spring.

Small Groups – September 25th – Our goal is to re-invigorate the small group ministry this fall by recruiting a new crop of leaders, establishing new groups at various times during the week (including Sunday morning), and by diversifying those new groups' membership.

Youth Club – Mid – September – At the end of our youth program last spring, we merged with the local chapter of Urban Young Life, headed by Pat Rolleston. That, plus all the youth we met and built relationships with through CSM's summer program, makes for a very promising Youth Club this fall.

Newcomers

Morning Fellowship – September 4th – Sara Davick and Laini Huffine have been working hard since the early summer on a new Children and Youth program that kicked off the first Sunday of September, immediately before the service. There is space for all ages. Adults are also invited to a casual coffee hour in order to promote friendship and fellowship among our congregation.

Chattanooga Sports Ministries – September 12th – After a successful summer, director Ben Johnson is planning to continue a scaled-down version of the summer program at the Emma Wheeler Homes.

Faith and Finances – September 20th – In partnership with Asset-Driven Development of Chattanooga, we have established an IDA program. Individual Development Accounts are matched-savings programs that incentivize people in our congregation or community with tightly-stretched income to save. The first step is to join our "Faith and Finances" class which begins September 20th.

East Lake Courts – Late September – After a summer of research, Evangeline Wilkinson, our community development intern, presented the Session with a recommendation on how to pursue a relationship with the East Lake Courts. We're hoping to follow through on some of these recommendations in the fall, including further research and perhaps a Sunday Morning Small Group that meets at the Courts.

New City EATS – October – After months of praying, researching, planning, and training, our new food ministry is ready to kick off. NC EATS will include a three-tiered approach to outreach including a food network, relationships with shut-ins, and emergency relief. NC EATS will also begin administrating the "Take them a Meal" program that is already in place.



High school youth in Grand Central Station

LET US RISE UP AND BUILD (NEH. 2:20)

SCOTT AND CAROL COLLIER

Psalm 90:17

From the English Standard Version

*Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands!*

From The Message

*And let the loveliness of our Lord, our God, rest on us,
confirming the work that we do.
Oh, yes. Affirm the work that we do!*

As we look at the work we are doing here in East Lake, we can with confidence ask God to establish the work of our hands. We can move forward with the assurance that God has gone before us and is for us.

We know, from his word, what his purposes are for his holy people. He has called us to participate in the grand story of redemption in which he is bringing all things under the Lordship of Jesus Christ for his glory.

Our fellowship is a small microcosm of the larger Church of Jesus Christ that is ancient. Our kinship with the royal priesthood is global and multicultural. One day by the light of the Lamb all the nations will walk in its light and the kings of the earth will bring the glory and honor of the nations into the holy city (Revelation 21; 24-26.)

Our work in East Lake has a future hope and glory as we join in the great call to make disciples of all the nations today for the great day of restoration when all the nations will bring their splendor before the Lamb.

We are walking in a well worn path made by generations of the faithful who have gone before us. This is not a strange or even new thing that we are doing here in East Lake. It is very much the way that God has moved his kingdom for centuries. From Moses and the building of the Tabernacle to Nehemiah and the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem to the believers in Acts; the great work does not end until the day of His return.

Engaging in front line kingdom building is exciting and exhausting. It is exhilarating and scary. It is faith building and overwhelming. It is a spiritual work that demands all heads, hearts, and hands on deck. And it requires generous hearts and hands. Open hearts and hands that give freely and joyfully.

We Need! What a great statement because it makes us run right to the throne of grace. Brothers and Sisters, we need money. There is no clearer way to say it. We need money to pay for this building, pay for supplies to make this building better and prettier, and pay for the operating expenses that come with owning a building. There is no way around it – **We Need.**

Here are the plain facts of what we need:

Mortgage - \$125,000
Repayment of Presbytery loan - \$20,000
Building improvements - \$100,000
Total - \$245,000

You have generously given \$7,800 to date. Thank you!

With gentleness and humility we ask that you continue to ask the Lord to give you the resources and the desire to give above and beyond your regular tithes to the Capital Campaign.

Just a couple of instructions that will help us account for your capital campaign gifts:

Please note on your checks – New City East Lake Capital Campaign

Cash gifts – put cash gifts in an envelope marked New City East Lake Capital Campaign

Please come to us with your questions or concerns. We are eager to talk to you.

NEW YEAR FOR ELECT

HANNAH MURPHY

We were blessed to see about 15 ELECT students consistently attend Camp GLAD this summer! Students were able to participate in academics, art, music, weekly field trips, and a plethora of enrichment activities.

ELECT (East Lake Every Child Taught) is starting September 6th. Come tutor a child from the East Lake community on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 to 5:00 pm.

ELECT is in need of basic school supplies (pencils, paper, folders, etc.) to start the semester. If you are interested in tutoring/mentoring a child from the East Lake community, please contact Hannah Murphy at murphymichellehannah@gmail.com.



LATINO MINISTRY

EUNICE MENDOZA

We had a busy summer, although I was not 100% a part of it due to my knee surgery. However, it was one of my best summers ever because I was able to have the opportunities to grow and experience God's amazing grace through my wonderful NCEL church. I think that God wanted me to be still.

I had planned different workshops for our ESL students for the months of July and August, and by the grace of God we just had one class. Thanks to Bryan and Nancy's help, a CPR class which I think was wonderful and helpful was facilitated through some trainers.

On August 2, we had the opportunity to take part in East Lake Neighborhood Association's "Neighborhood Night Out" at East Lake Park. I felt as if I was in a Hispanic country. There were a lot of people from Guatemala, Mexico, Honduras, and USA. The next day I saw a lot of them in our church at VBS, praise the Lord!

New City East Lake Garden

I wish that I could tell you better news about our garden. After my knee surgery I had to limit my activity at work. But I am so thankful for everybody who came and helped with our garden. Before we began, I had never done any gardening, but thanks to our Latino friends and Joel Tippens, we started a small garden. If anyone would like to help and share your experiences next year please let me know.

Praises and Thanks

I am thankful and I praise God for my small group from Hixson in that they are able to help with the Latino Bible Study. They truly have the heart of God in helping with it. (They are so gifted with their talents such as playing the guitar, singing, teaching, and more!)

Thank you to all the amazing volunteers who helped in our last dinner of Vacation Bible School. Again, I was overwhelmed by God's love and provision of food and help from our church and from our dear Latina friends. (If you were not there you really missed out on an authentic Latino meal and fellowship.)

I am especially thankful to God for our church in East Lake. You can continue to pray for us as we look forward to the next semester of English classes (September-December). I so much appreciate and need your prayers, your generous and valuable help, and donations to continue the work in East Lake. Please consider joining us this fall by volunteering and see what a difference Jesus can make in the life of a child or an adult in East Lake.

ESL Kids Need You

I am coming before you to ask you to PRAY for our ESL kids who come every Sunday while their parents are taking English classes. God has blessed us with Alissa and Meghan, our great and loving helpers, who provide nursery care every week. There are days when we just have eight kids, but there

are other days when we have 20 kids, ranging in age from eight months to 13 years old.

I am always amazed to see more kids coming and what a great opportunity God has put in our hands to share the gospel with them. I know in my heart that here is one ministry that I want to ask you to pray for and see if God is calling you, or even your small group, to adopt this group of kids and share the love of God with them.

ESL meets every Sunday from 4-6 p.m. Our next semester starts September 11th and ends December 11th.

For more information please contact Eunice Mendoza at latinos@newcityeastlake.com.

Answers to Prayer

We have been praying for Spanish-speaking counselors and God in His providence not only sent one but two counselors who now are a part of LifeSpring. They would like to have classes for the parents and kids, as well as private counseling. Please pray for us while we are planning educational classes in the month of September. We received a donation of picture dictionaries from the partnership, and we are seeking ways to work together with them.

In addition, we are ministering with the financial ministry, ADDC doing a workshop this fall. ADDC is a New City group working with the Chalmers Center to provide Individual Development Accounts to people who want to save for a particular purchase (house, car, education, etc.) that will help that person develop a habit of saving, higher earning, etc.

It's exciting to see the many new partners who are helping us bring the gospel to our neighborhood and to see lives turn around.

"I always receive a warm welcome when I enter the church."

"I am treated as an equal and not as someone different."

"Your church preaches the gospel and the truth."

"I'm used to being put down at home, but here I feel lifted up and encouraged."

"I appreciate the help we receive, both spiritually and materially."

These are just a few of the testimonies we are hearing of why people are choosing to be part of the Latino ministry (Bible study, ESL, worship & praise on Sundays).

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL—GOD ALWAYS WINS!

RONDI GARNER

We had a great time this year at Vacation Bible School with the theme *God Always Wins!* We started out the week on Wednesday night with an excellent Italian meal provided by the small groups of NCEL. Thursday night we enjoyed a hotdog meal provided by East Lake Neighborhood Association who graciously provided all the food and stayed to help cook and clean in the kitchen. Friday night was Latino night and it was delicioso! Eunice and the Latino families worked very hard to provide an authentic Latin meal for all of us. I especially enjoyed watching them mix the dough and fry the tortillas from scratch.

After dinner each night we moved up to the sanctuary to enjoy music with Mary Higgins and skits directed by Nancy Holland. Wednesday night the kids learned that God wins over kings and armies with a skit about the plagues. On Thursday night they learned that God wins over all other gods with a skit about Elijah and the prophets of Baal, and on Friday night they enjoyed a musical dramatization to the song *Arise My Love* with John Hoffman and a short talk from Pastor Pickett that showed the children how God wins over death. Bryan Holland was our MC of the week as karate master Señor Bryan, and everyone enjoyed his way of hyping up the crowd.

Everyone then split to classroom time where they discussed the story they saw that night and worked on their VBS booklets. Thank you so much to our teachers who made that time extra special. Ruth Wilson taught the 4th and 5th graders, Anne Barbieri taught the 2nd and 3rd graders, Anna Fischer

taught our K and 1st graders, and Alissa Browning Couch taught the preschool class of 3 and 4 year olds. Cairon Reagan was in charge of our nursery and Laini Huffine and Kate Franklin directed the youth group this year. The adult group was directed by the Colliers, and they were very pleased with the great turnout of adults who came this year and returned each night. One of the adults even jumped in to take part in a skit on Thursday night!

I think one of the kids' favorite times of the night was our rotation time when they were able to work on wooden bird-houses in crafts with Marte, play balloon games at recreation with John-Mark Chesney and John Gannaway, and eat yummy desserts in snack with Tim Yagel and Jocelin Bell.

One of the highlights of the week for me was on Sunday. We all met in the youth room for children's church and Nancy presented a skit depicting the parable of the great banquet. Then Pat Rolleston shared his engaging conversion story with the children, and we were able to fellowship further at the potluck after church.

We couldn't have made this week such a success without all of our volunteers. We were able to serve around 150 people (including adults and babies) from the East Lake community, and we had close to 50 volunteers from our church each night. There were so many people behind the scenes making each night run as smoothly as possible, moving chairs and tables, emptying garbage cans, sweeping and doing whatever needed to be done, so a big thank you to everyone who came and worked each night.



A SUMMER OF YOUTH

LAINI HUFFINE

“For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.”
2 Chronicles 16:9a

Summer Happenings

We took a break from our regular Youth Group meetings for the summer, but that doesn't mean we took a break from the Youth! Summer offers a great opportunity for more relational ministry, which is what youth ministry at New City East Lake is all about! Thanks to the hospitality of Al and Judy Herweyer, we were able to have a mid-summer pool party at the Herweyer's home, which was a hit for those who came! Leaders also were able to have some one on one time with youth throughout the summer months.

During VBS in August, our youth tapped into their creative sides and painted a mural on the wall in the Youth Room. A big thank you to Kate Franklin (who did most of the brainstorming, creative planning, and executing), Drew Belz, Heather Jones, Bethany Mollenkof, and Julianna Chapman for all your help! The theme for VBS was “God Always Wins” and we had our youth think about the struggles, fears, and trials in their lives and how God always wins in those situations. We also came up with a theme verse for our youth ministry, from 2 Chronicles 16:9a. We explained to the youth how God's eyes are always on His children, even in these times of trials, and He gives us exactly what we need to not only endure it but grow from it as well. When you pass by the Youth Room, take a look at the wall and pray for our youth that these truths will always stay with them.

Upcoming Fall Ministry

We will be starting the fall Youth Group meetings without several leaders who have moved or started master's degree programs etc. We will all miss Caleb and Katie Long especially this fall. But, we are excited about the possibility of new folks coming in and getting involved in our ministry within the neighborhood around our Church. So if you are interested in being a part of a diverse group of leaders and

neighborhood kids who have grown to love Jesus and each other, and are excited about reaching out and including more of our neighbors in the life of our Church, come out and volunteer. You can contact Pat Rolleston at 423-488-1532 or Laini Huffine at youth@newcityeastlake.com.

We will also be starting a discipleship time before the Sunday morning worship service. It will meet from 10:00-10:45am in the Youth Room. If you are interested in being a teacher during this time, contact Laini. We will no longer have “youth church” during the service. Youth are encouraged to stay in the service and will hopefully feel welcome as part of the Body of Christ. If you see a youth sitting alone, sit with them! We never want anyone, young or old, to walk into our church and not feel the love and hospitality of Christ!



INTERNS SAY GOODBYE, FUNDS NEEDED TO OPEN FULL TIME

MICHELE PICKETT

LifeSpring has said goodbye to Jami and Beth, our summer interns. They did so much for us and will be sorely missed. Jami has returned to Stanford to begin her sophomore year. Though her internship has finished, Beth is interested in working for LifeSpring, if funding for her salary can be raised, which leads me to...

Funding Needed to Open Clinic

The clinic renovation is 99 percent complete with just a few finishing touches needed. A huge thank you to everyone who gave money, or volunteered, or helped get the building ship

shape in any way. And not a moment too soon. We literally have more patients than we can currently handle. The need for pediatric health care is so great in our community.

But to open full time we need funding. We currently don't have enough money coming in on a regular basis to open the clinic full time, which means we've had to turn some children in need of medical care away. If you'd like to give and help us open our clinic full time so we can start to meet this need, please visit our website, lifespringcommunityhealth.org.

EAST LAKE AT CAMP

PAT ROLLESTON

In July we took 28 high schoolers to Young Life's Lake Champion Camp in New York. Two thirds of the youth who went live in East Lake and have been coming to Youth Group all year. We spent our first 36 hours in New York City which none of us had ever been to before. It was amazing to see Ground Zero, the Statue of Liberty, Times Square, Central Park, and all the other places we visited. It was a little scary trying to get all 29 of us on the subway together, and everyone felt pretty overwhelmed by the size and intensity of the city. Lake Champion was amazing and incredibly fun and the Gospel was clearly presented. It was a great trip and God moved in powerful ways during our time in New York.

Jonathan Black went with me and three other young men from Chattanooga (Mannie and Luis Duron and John Hoffman) and worked as part of the team at Young Life's Southwind Camp in Florida. Jonathan served on the Work Crew and worked in the kitchen on the Pit Crew. The Pit Crew washes all the dishes at every meal served to 300 plus people for the five weeks of camp that we served. It is an intense work experience as well as an intense discipleship experience. Jonathan worked incredibly hard and served well and I'm really proud of the way he represented us.

In late July, we took the middle school students (New City East Lake Wyldlife) to Horn Creek Resort for a mini-retreat. Devin, Patricia and Patrick Black, Jayla Stone (who lives 1 block from the church), Lucero, and Oxman went with us plus a few more from the neighborhood. All of the kids have been coming to youth group at the church all year. One day we went rafting on the Hiwassee River. About mid-way



through our rafting trip we were overtaken by a huge storm with thunder and lightning and torrential rain. It was scary, beautiful, and exciting all at the same time. God kept us safe during the 45 minutes the storm lasted and everyone says it was their favorite part of camp.

I spoke and a couple of leaders shared their stories and told the kids how they met Jesus and described how they and their lives are different now that they are following Him. Kids wrote letters to God on our last night and sent them up on helium balloons and we finished with a pretty amazing fireworks show. It was a great week and we all came back from it closer to Jesus and each other and excited about what God will do with us this fall. Thanks to everyone who gave money so that we could have this wonderful adventure with God and our young friends. By the time we reached mid-July, it looked as if we wouldn't be able to do anything with our middle school group, and instead your generosity made this awesome experience possible.

RESEARCHING EAST LAKE COURTS

EVANGELINE WILKINSON

I have attended New City Fellowship East Lake for the past two and half years, and this summer I was given the opportunity to be an intern for the church. I attend Covenant College as a community development major, and so this internship was supposed to be research-focused on a particular community or topic. Pastor Pickett was interested in learning more about the East Lake Courts housing project and asked me to spend time learning about the residents of the Courts. I must admit my experience in the inner city is limited, as is my expertise and knowledge of research methods. Regardless, the Lord pushed me this summer by having me interact with strangers and learn their stories. I talked with five women and their families in particular this summer. It was a blessing to hear their perspectives on the community they live in and their desires and hopes for it. This fall, I hope to continue surveying the residents there as well as praying for the Courts and how our church can be involved. Please join with me in praying for the Courts and whether or not the Lord

would call you to be involved there. Below I have included a few prayer requests. If you are interested in hearing more about what I learned this summer, feel free to contact me at ev.wilkinson22@gmail.com or find me after the Sunday morning worship service.

Prayer Requests

- Pray that the Lord would call those who are passionate and willing to be consistent in the relationships developed in the Courts.
- Pray for protection for the residents from external and internal issues of gangs, violence, and drug abuse.
- Pray that the Lord would make us humble and willing to listen.
- Ask that hope would arise among the residents of the Courts for their community and their families.

newcity eastlake

Mailing Address:
New City Fellowship
2412 E. Fourth Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37404

Phone:
(423) 629-1421

Email:
Pastor: jpickett@newcityeastlake.com
Administrator: jocando@newcityeastlake.com

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB
WWW.NEWCITYEASTLAKE.COM

JOIN US EACH SUNDAY AT
THE CORNER OF 37TH STREET AND 12TH
AVENUE

WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

New City East Lake was established in the fall of 2008 when New City Fellowship in Glenwood established a second worship site.

New City East Lake seeks to be a cross-cultural worshiping community, ministering to all people, rich and poor, young and old. We seek to be centered in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, producing disciplined believers who become God's instruments of grace, justice, and mercy.

As a PCA congregation, we believe in the full inspiration of the Scriptures and attempt to preach the whole counsel of God and minister to the whole person.



NURSERY **VOLUNTEERS** **September 11**

NURSERY
Noah Pickett, Evangeline Wilkinson, Katy Garcia, Carmen Perez, Esther Wilson, Juliana Chapman
HALL MONITOR
Mark Watanabe

September 18

NURSERY
Allisa Browning Couch, Jessica Cunningham, Julie Rhudy, Michelle Pickett, John -Mark and Faith Chesney

HALL MONITOR
Paul Rhudy

September 25

NURSERY
Elena Pickett, Carol Collier, Casey and Kaylee York, Tom and Melody Horne
HALL MONITOR
Scott Collier

If you are unable to serve on the date you have been scheduled for, please try to arrange to switch with someone else and contact Sara Davick at children @newcityeastlake.com.