

newcity eastlake

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 3 DECEMBER 2009

“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

FOREVER TIED TOGETHER

JIM PICKETT

Sounds uncomfortable, doesn't it? Like when you ran the three legged race as a kid and you felt all awkward and clumsy. You couldn't wait to untie your leg and be free again.

Actually “tied together” is the literal definition of the word “connected”—a word that I hear a lot these days with reference to relationships—as in, I am having trouble “connecting” to other people.

This is an interesting irony as you will sometimes hear of the present generation referred to as the generation whose dynamic is driven by relationship. Could we possibly live in a culture dominated by relationship “talk” yet bankrupt in “connecting”?

In a recent article, Tim Keller, pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian in New York City, wrote: “Many things in our culture work against the maintenance of real community. Media can create the illusion that we have community with people that we don't know at all.” So, he says, “Our individual relationships are ‘thinned out,’ based on images rather than presences.” If we add to these cultural challenges some of the challenges from our personal family histories, then “connecting” with each other can be daunting.

What if we discovered that we honestly don't want to “connect” or be tied together with other people but want to pretend that we do?

Remember when from Acts 2:32 we talked about “fellowship” which is another way of defining “connection”?

In the language of Acts the people were described as being “one in heart and mind.” That description hits connecting on both the intellectual and emotional levels. It is the reason Christians are called “members of the body” of Christ, that is, truly “connected” in a “fellowship.” In fact, our fellowship, our ability to “connect” as Christians is the visible proof that God has put us into fellowship and connection with his son Jesus Christ.

And, what do we call ourselves? New City *Fellowship* East Lake!

Our challenge for the New Year? I believe it is that every person attending East Lake get into a group where true connections can be learned and made. To borrow a quote from a book recently given to me, “churches must create small groups where Christians can develop strong, personal relationships, where they can ‘know and be known.’ A church following a biblical model will not just ‘have’ small groups. It will not merely ‘offer’ small groups. Rather, it will be *built with* small groups.”

God permanently lassoed us by grace through his son Jesus Christ. Now we are called to be forever tied together, connected, in fellowship—to prove we belong to him.



Filling Thanksgiving boxes for East Lake families

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PRAY AND GO

CALEB LONG



Calling All Musicians!

If you are interested in playing or singing for worship, email me at clong@newcityeastlake.com. We'll schedule an audition so that we can get a good feel for your particular style and your areas of strength. We would also like the chance to let you know what we're about as a cross-cultural, multigenerational, joyful worshipping community.

On a related note, if you are interested in performing special music, I am always open to new ideas. I want to expand our range of opportunity in the new year!

Recently several of our members here at New City East Lake have expressed their discouragement about getting connected to our target community. I was somewhat taken aback by these comments. From where I sit, I often feel overwhelmed by the volume of ministry opportunities that our church supports.

I tried to tally up the number of people we have interacted with through our ministries, and I found that we have ongoing relationships with about as many people as we have in our congregation.

That's great news for which we praise the Lord! Maybe there are some of you who haven't found a tangible way to connect with our community.

Perhaps you don't feel gifted enough, maybe you're an introvert, or maybe you simply

haven't had the time. Here's my advice to you: Pray and go.

Pray that God would provide an opportunity for you to find a friend in East Lake or a connection point of some kind. Commit to praying that prayer for a week, and then go.

Do your grocery shopping, auto repairs, and laundry in (or around) East Lake. Come to the Residents' Association meeting on the first Monday of every month at the East Lake Seniors' Center. Go to the free luncheon held every month at the Recreation Center on Dodds Ave.

Just show up. You may feel a little awkward at first, but go anyway. You don't have to be a great talker, just ask some questions, listen, and let God work.

LIFESPRING COMMUNITY HEALTH

MICHELE PICKETT

LifeSpring is a ministry of Hope for the Inner City to demonstrate the love and compassion of Jesus Christ by providing quality health care to uninsured and under-served children and their families in Chattanooga's urban communities, including East Lake.

During the Christmas season, we remember that Jesus was born into poverty, born in a manger that did not even belong to him. His parents called on the mercy of an innkeeper—a stranger—to provide a make-do labor and delivery suite. If there were such a thing in those times, he would have had no health care, no midwife to usher him into the world he made, no nurse or pediatrician to make sure he had all ten fingers and toes.

When Jesus became flesh he chose to dwell in poverty, in the midst of great need.

We exist at LifeSpring to demonstrate his love and mercy to the poor, the stranger, the oppressed, and the forgotten.

We offer the clients of LifeSpring redemption and restoration for sick and weary bodies and souls. God is at work in the lives of our clients. We have caught glimpses of redemption as clients make healthy lifestyle choices and see their health improve, and as they come to see that they are "fearfully and wonderfully made."

For more information about LifeSpring, contact Michele Pickett at (423) 624-4846.

Healthy Teamwork

(as told by LifeSpring nurse, Kara Cabezas)

I saw an 11 year old Latina today...a patient we've cared for since February 2008. Since June 2008, we've addressed her above-normal Body Mass Index. She has participated in Chattanooga Sports Ministries' summer soccer program the last two summers and we have counseled her on diet choices on her clinic visits as well. It's so fun and makes me smile ear to ear to see how her lifestyle has gotten healthier — little choice by little choice.

She also has amazing support from her mom. Her mom encourages her in making healthy eating choices and controlling portions at meals as well as having healthy snacks to offer her. This patient continues to play soccer with her school, East Lake Academy, and is practicing an hour a day 4-5 times a week! And her mom not only encourages her to be active but exercises along with her — they walk together or her mom walks beside her as she bikes. I'm so excited to see their teamwork. It's fulfilling to see this happening.

WORKING OUT OUR SALVATION

SCOTT AND CAROL COLLIER

Small groups are vital to the health and the growth of our church. In these groups we find the opportunity to share our lives with others, engage in mercy ministry together, study God's word, disciple one another, and share the gospel within and outside of our groups.

The small group leaders met in October at the home of Scott and Carol Collier for a time of fellowship and encouragement. It was a blessing to hear from the small group leaders as they shared about their groups. The small groups are actively studying the Word together, caring for one another and the community of East Lake.

As a Christmas gift the small group leaders were given a copy of the book edited by C.J. Mahaney and Greg Somerville entitled *Why Small Groups?*

C. J. Mahaney says:

Do you want to get on the fast track to Christian maturity? Small groups provide the ideal context for "working out our

salvation" together. Whether you attend a small group or lead one, this book will raise your vision and inspire you to excel in the areas of service to which God has called you.

We invite you to "work out your salvation" with your brothers and sisters in a small group.

Contact Scott and Carol at (423) 877-0189 or smallgroups@newcityeastlake.com for help in connecting with a small group. We look forward to hearing from you.

FEATURED: THE FLINTSTONE SMALL GROUP

Scott and Aimee Riley are the leaders of the Flintstone small group.

Their group has enjoyed going through different studies and taking the first weekly session of each month to fellowship together over a meal, bonfire, or playing games.

The Flintstone group has been able to serve the church in various ways such

as VBS, ESL, children's ministries, and checking out the youth group.

Their group will be studying *When Helping Hurts* and seeking God's lead as they pursue a more established outreach to the East Lake community.

If you are interested in joining the Flintstone group, you can reach Scott and Amy at (423) 820-0318.



SMALL GROUPS:

Brainerd

Host: Greg and Sara Davick
Meets: Sunday evenings
Contact: Greg Davick
855-9684

Brainerd

Host: Ben and Laini Huffine
Meets: Wednesday evenings
Contact: Laini Huffine
240-3246

Glenwood

Host: Jim and Michele Pickett
Meets: Wednesday evenings
Contact: Jim Pickett
629-1421 ext. 108

Flinstone, GA

Host: Scott and Aimee Riley
Meets: Wednesday evenings
Contact: Scott Riley
820-0318

Hixson

Host: Scott and Carol Collier
Meets: Wednesday evenings
Contact: Scott Collier
877-0189

St. Elmo

Host: Jessica Cunningham
Meets: Monday Evenings
Contact: Caleb Long
629-1421 ext 102

Highland Park

Host: John Mark Chesney
Meets: Wednesday evenings
Contact: Kenton Johnson
902-8126

If you have questions about joining a small group please contact one of the groups above or email us at: smallgroups@newcityeastlake.com

Pray:

*that the Lord will touch the hearts of the people from NCF East Lake to adopt a Latino person or a family from ESL ministry to witness and show the love of God by caring for them.

*for our new schedule at ESL—Sundays from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. and our monthly fellowship dinners provided by the Hixson small group.

*for protection while we recruit through the neighborhood in January for classes beginning in February

*that the Lord will bring the right volunteers next semester for an additional English class on Tuesday nights—4:00-5:30 p.m.

Praise God:

*that my knee is not swollen again. After many tests, the doctors don't know why I am having this problem. But God knows and He is in control. Please pray that I won't need surgery.

*that He provided the money to finish our semester.

*for our many volunteers, students, and teachers.

*for providing training for our ESL teachers by the Director of ESL at MNA (Mission to the World will cover all expenses.)

*for giving us the opportunity to show the love of God by sharing the gospel in word and deed to the Latinos through ESL.

*for East Lake Church of The Nazarene, which donated toys to the children of ELECT and ESL.

*for Chattanooga Christian School, which donated toys to the children of ELECT and ESL.

*for a bible study (and a house in the neighborhood to have it in, as well as a leader!) for the ESL students and the East Lake community in Spanish. Please pray for us. We are planning to start Saturday, January 9.

LATINO MINISTRY

EUNICE MENDOZA

English as a Second Language is a ministry of New City Fellowship East Lake. We seek to provide a multicultural community which impacts the academic, emotional, social, physical, and spiritual lives of the Latinos in the East Lake community. Through mentoring relationships, we seek to produce disciples who become God's instruments of grace, justice, and mercy—centered on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Greetings in the Lord, friends of New City East Lake! Wow! Can you believe that we are almost at the end of 2009? By God's grace, we had another great semester.

We celebrated our Independence Day as a fundraiser event. We had an awesome time. Even though it was a rainy day, a lot of people came. About 90-100 Latinos and non-Latinos (including children) attended. Gracias! I am grateful for your financial support and prayers. With the money that we raised I was able to buy 10 picture dictionaries and 6 student books. Thank God!

Another wonderful event was our Thanksgiving dinner. God surprised me again. I have to confess that I was very discouraged. The fellowship hall at East Lake United Methodist had flooded from all the rain. It was full of water but our sister, Jo H, has a great vacuum—I mean a GREAT machine—that took care of the water in 30 minutes. Then we were ready to have our celebration. We had about 60 people that night. The volunteers and the Hixson small group provided the meal. I thank the Lord for the people who came to spend time with the students.

That night we had the opportunity to thank each other and praise the Lord for the gift

of his son who died for us and gave us eternal life.

We also thanked the Lord for the diversity and the richness of each culture that we experienced during this year at the ministry.

God also blessed the Latino ministry through Ruth and Esther Wilson's late mother, who loved this ministry. When she went to be with the Lord, her family requested that gifts be given to ESL in lieu of flowers.

We were so blessed to have the money for our last two events. The Teacher Appreciation Lunch was held at the Picketts'. We are so thankful for each of our 21 teachers and our many volunteers who helped with food and childcare during the semester.

A traditional "Posada"—Christmas Party—was held at Jo Hooker's house with 17 students, 12 volunteers, and 4 guests in attendance. We had a traditional meal and also sang Christmas carols led by Señor Brian Holland.

God is moving at East Lake! Have a blessed Christmas as we rejoice that Jesus came to earth to reconcile us to the Father and to one another!



“WHEN A STRANGER SOJOURNS WITH YOU IN YOUR LAND, YOU SHALL NOT DO HIM WRONG. YOU SHALL TREAT THE STRANGER WHO SOJOURNS WITH YOU AS THE NATIVE AMONG YOU, AND YOU SHALL LOVE HIM AS YOURSELF, FOR YOU WERE STRANGERS IN THE LAND OF EGYPT: I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD.”
LEVITICUS 19:33-34

ELECT: EAST LAKE EVERY CHILD TAUGHT

RONDI GARNER

ELECT is an after-school ministry of New City East Lake. We seek to offer a safe and holistic environment where neighborhood children can grow academically, spiritually, and emotionally.

ELECT has had a wonderful semester. We started out with eleven kids and grew to fifteen children as the number of tutors grew. We were very blessed with many tutors to help the children with homework and reading every day. It was so encouraging to see the work of the Lord as each of the children bonded with their tutor and asked about them when they were not there. What a great outreach into the East Lake community!

This semester, the children were challenged to read 50 hours together while at ELECT, which we diligently added up every day. We reached our 50 hour goal a little before Thanksgiving, and the kids really enjoyed our READ 50 party as a reward for such hard work. It was so great to see the kids' love for reading and books grow as they were able to read one-on-one with an adult; this is something they may not get to do very much at all with busy parents.



We want to thank all the tutors that came to help out with ELECT, including Alex, Amber, Becki, Josh, and John. We appreciated all those who came to help even once. We also really appreciate all the help with transportation and snack donations, and a special thank you to Eunice Mendoza for coordinating all the transportation.

Thank you to Bob and Cristi Sloan for coordinating the snacks, which turned out to be complete, healthy meals that the kids loved. Thanks to Jeff Fairbanks for his dedication in getting the word out and bringing in many tutors including Lori and Maci Fairbanks, Tracy, Jacquell, Sarah Kate, Silas and Jack Gartman, Scott Paone, and Matt Zeiser. Thanks to Katy Garcia for cooking many of our snack/meals and helping out with parties and tutoring.

For more information about ELECT, email Rondi at elect@newcityeastlake.com.



EULALIA'S STORY

EUNICE MENDOZA



Eulalia is 10 years old and in 4th grade at Clifton Hills Elementary. She came to the United States a year ago. Her family speaks Q'jobal, which is a Guatemalan language. This makes it harder for Eulalia to handle the language barriers. Even when she speaks Spanish it is very hard for me to understand her. By God's grace the Lord sent a tutor, Becki Cordes, who is fully committed to Eulalia.

The kids at school were making fun of Eulalia because she couldn't read. For her birthday I took her to McKay's bookstore (one of my Spanish students Jessie H. gave me a credit to buy books) and she was so excited to get her own books. On my way back to her house, I couldn't

hold back my tears of joy as I heard her read in the back of my car. I know that this is the fruit of the hard work that Eulalia and her tutor have been doing this year. Eulalia and Becki have become so inseparable that if Becki is five minutes late, Eulalia cannot stop asking for her. I am so proud of Eulalia and others who encounter many obstacles. To God be the glory!

A month ago I went to Clifton Hills to pick up the kids for ELECT. Gabriela, the ESL teacher, ran to me with a BIG smile and gave me a big hug, and said "You guys are a blessing to our kids. Eulalia is getting great scores! She has improved a lot this year. THANK YOU!"

YOUTH MINISTRY

LAINI HUFFINE

The youth ministry at New City East Lake seeks to raise up disciples of Christ, from all ethnicities and backgrounds in East Lake, who become active members in the life of the church, and in transforming their community.

Youth Ministry at New City East Lake is in full swing! God has blessed us with many connections into the community, through the youth that God has brought into our midst. It has been very exciting for many of us to be a part of this growing ministry which has basically just fallen into our laps. We may not be ready, but God is on the move!

We meet every Thursday night for Youth Club at the East Lake United Methodist Church from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. The night consists of games, food, fellowship, and small group discussions. Students in the 6th-12th grade are invited to come. If any of you are interested in helping, or would like to just see what God is doing, come and join us one night!



Kathryn and Davia at the Youth Costume Party

2010 Youth Theme Verse

"FOLLOW MY EXAMPLE, AS I FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST."
I CORINTHIANS 11:1

Changes for the New Year

Laini Huffine has been heading up this ministry, but is great with child and will be stepping back come the new year. This means that there is a need for leadership on Thursday nights. Pray for the leaders that will need to take on more responsibilities next year. Pray for willing hearts and boldness to do what needs to be done.

Transportation is a big need in our ministry. In order to drive the church's 15 passenger van, one must have a "F" endorsement on their license, as well as be 25 years old (or 21 and married).

If you are interested in serving the Youth ministry in this way, please contact Laini Huffine at youth@newcityeastlake.com.



Seth, Robert, Patrick, and Jonathan at the Youth Costume Party in October

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SARA DAVICK

We have been blessed with a dedicated and talented group of teachers who prepare lessons each week and give up their time of worship with you in order to be with our children. Please pray for them. Their desire is to be used by God as they teach His word and build relationships with our children. Their prayer is that the Holy Spirit is present with them, touching the hearts of our children and building a faithful army of children who love God and live to serve Him.

This quarter the younger class will be looking at how God created us all in His image and how sin has spoiled that. They will then see how merciful and forgiving God is and how faithful He is to those He has called to be His people. They will see these things lived out in the lives of Noah, Abraham, Jacob, and Joseph. Pray that the Lord will use these lessons to speak to our children and show them that just as He worked in the lives of these men and their families, He also has called us to Himself and offers us the same forgiveness and mercy and continues to be a covenant-keeping God.

The older class will be talking about worship. They will look at the holiness and the glory of our God. They will study the Lord's Prayer and see how we can worship



God through prayer by giving honor to God's name, by bringing our needs before the Lord, and by asking for forgiveness. They will also look at ways we worship together. They will talk about the act of worship through singing, listening to God's word, giving, confession, baptism, the Lord's Supper, and receiving the blessing of our God.

Beginning this semester the older children will be joining the adults when we observe the Lord's Supper. Even though most of them have not yet met with the elders and will not participate by taking the elements themselves, they will be able to participate by watching and hearing what we do and why we do it. Pray that they will develop a real desire to worship our true and living God.

Many thanks to our Children's Church teachers Trish Riley, Paul Rhudy, Sarah and Jose Ocando, Emily Crawford, Ruth Wilson, Amber Brown, Marte Williams, and Hannah Murphey.

We still need teachers and teaching assistants. If you are interested, contact Sara Davick – children@newcityeastlake.com

CHURCH NURSERY

Our nursery is growing and our congregation continues to be blessed with lots of new babies. A couple have already arrived and there are at least five more on the way.

We are grateful to all of you for sacrificing your worship time to take a turn in the nursery. It is a big stretch for some of you to spend an hour with these little ones, but you should know that you are ministering to both the children and their parents in a very important way. This service is one small way that you are actively keeping the covenant you make each time we baptize one of these blessings. Thank you!



NURSERY VOLUNTEERS:

January

3- Aaron and Kristen Lesondak, Daniel and Brooke Baker, Anna Meiner
10- Noah Pickett, Evangeline Wilkinson, Mark Wantanabe, Alice Wigdon, Josiah Noble
17- Kathryn Franklin, Scott Schinbler, Jessica Cunningham, Kyle Cunningham, Lowen Howard
24- Noah Pickett, Lauren Hartzel, John Mark and Faith Chesney, Kenton Johnson
31- Juliana Chapman, Heidi Vasterling, Chelsey Duble, Sarah Lester, Jason Greenlee

February

7- Noah Pickett, Scott and Carol Collier, Amber Ables, Chris Nystrom
14- John and Rondi Garner, Tom and Melody Horne, Kara Cadwell, Jeremy Vasterling
21- Noah Pickett, Meghan Katzenberger, Chloe Payne, Ben Huffine
28- Anne Barbieri, Wanda Aldredge, Bob and Christi Sloan, John Gannaway

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.

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CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB
WWW.NEWCITYEASTLAKE.COM

JOIN US EACH SUNDAY AT
EAST LAKE ACADEMY
2700 E. 34TH STREET

WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 20

Christmas Outreach

Following church, we will go out into the East Lake neighborhood taking Christmas gifts door to door to families. Following this outreach we will meet at the Picketts' for food and fellowship.

Sunday, December 20

Children's Christmas Concert

at Glenwood campus

Friday, December 25

Christmas Day Worship Service

at the Glenwood campus
11:00 a.m. to noon.

Thursday, December 31

Watchnight Service

to bring in the new year
at the Glenwood campus
10:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 9

Tennessee Valley Presbytery Meeting

at the Glenwood campus

Sunday, January 10

New City Fellowship Ministry Fair

at Glenwood before, between, and after
worship services on Sunday

Tuesday, January 19

ELECT begins

Friday & Saturday, January 22 & 23

New Members Classes for those
interested in joining New
City (including East Lake)

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 worshipping 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.

