



NASHVILLE UMC

Offering Better Life Through Christ

Connecting Point - January 2019

Dear Church Family,

Grace and His peace,
Pastor Ralph

Children & Youth

Sunday Nights: All Children & Youth Sunday Night Programs will start back on January 13 at 5:00pm: Kings Kids (3 year olds - 5th grade), Youth PAC (Middle School), Pathfinders (High School). Invite a friend and come for supper, fun activities, and to grow closer to Christ and each other.

Children & Youth Email Updates: The best way to stay updated on children and youth events is through the weekly email updates. To get on the distribution list, contact nichole@nashvilleumc.net (King's Kids), ps1powell@embarqmail.net (Youth PAC), or kaitlyn@nashvilleumc.net (Pathfinders).

Pathfinders - Shine On! Invite a friend and join Kaitlyn on Wednesday mornings for breakfast and Bible study at the Sheetz on Old Carriage Rd. at 6:15am.

Sunday School: Build lasting friendships and explore and learn strong Biblical teachings in Sunday School. High School meets in the Basement, Middle School meets upstairs in A201, and Children meet in the classrooms behind Braswell Hall at 10am.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Needs for Christian Care

Every day you see people who are hurting: those who have lost a job, lost a loved one, gone through a divorce, or are battling a terminal illness. Stephen Ministers are God's representatives who bring his love to those who are hurting.

God is waiting to make a difference in their lives through you! If you want to find out about how you can be involved in this one-to-one caregiving ministry, come to a Lunch and Learn event at 12:15 p.m. on Sunday, January 6th in Cockrell Hall.

Please call Jackie Swindell in the church office at 459-7178 if you would like to attend or need further information. A new training class is starting soon.

Terminal Living

One of my favorite Christian authors and teachers, Christine Caine, said something after being diagnosed with cancer that really resonated with me: *“Cancer isn’t terminal. Life is terminal.”*

But how often do we fail to live like we truly know that? Many of us, myself included, live each day taking for granted that we will see tomorrow. We prioritize things that don’t matter this side of eternity, and we allow trivial matters to cloud our views and steal our time, focus, and joy.

When looking through some old Christmas decorations this year, I found stacks of Christmas cards from the first few years of our marriage. Cards that held memories from friends and families, some more than 15 years ago. I fought back tears as I looked at signatures of loved ones no longer with us, marriages no longer intact, and children no longer babies. I was flooded by the reminder of how precious and fleeting our time here is, and how much can change so quickly.

Friends, life as we know it is terminal. So what grace and mercy that we have the promise of eternal life through Jesus! As we welcome 2019, don’t forget that promise. If you have Jesus in your heart, then you have the power of the Holy Spirit living in you—a power that grants us salvation, redemption, and restoration. But if you don’t have Jesus in your heart—and I mean truly in your heart in such a way that transforms your reason for living—then I pray you seek Him and surrender yourself to the only One who can overcome the diagnosis of a terminal life.

I don’t know what 2018 held for you. For me it was a year marked with immense loss and grief. Thankfully I grieve not as one without hope, but as one who clings to the promises of Christ who overcame the grave. He can overcome whatever has you buried too. In this New Year, I pray we become better at living externally like people with internal hope.

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Romans 15:13

By His Grace,
Dr. Nichole Huff
Director of Children and Family Ministries

The Race Has Not Changed Me



Submitted by Caley Bass

With only a few days until I was to fly home to the States, I began really thinking about how I had changed this year on the World Race Mission Trip. And you know what, you read the title correctly - the race has not changed me. It's God who has changed and grown me over this past year.

Don't get me wrong, the World Race is an amazing organization and has been a wonderful experience, but stepping into what God has called me to do and seeking Him daily is where the real change happened. The Lord showed me a plethora of new lessons over the past year that I never want to forget.

I want to live a life of uncomfortableness. Live boldly. Love everyone unconditionally. Not care about the world's opinion. Thirst for His wisdom. Seek out His "small" miracles daily. Most importantly, make sure I'm not just sitting around waiting for "the next big thing" to happen in my life. God is in the simple, everyday things. We just have to be willing to seek Him out. It may be a little cheesy (but let's be real, who doesn't like some cheese?), but it's so true that He's in the waiting! That is where we have to rely and faithfully trust God is there for us.

Coming home brought up so many emotions for me. I was excited to see my family and friends. I was excited to have some steadiness back in my life. I was pumped to not have to wonder if I can flush the toilet paper in the toilet or if I have to throw it in

the trash. Four words: free chips & salsa. I couldn't wait to be back in a country where I could understand everyone and everyone knew what "y'all" meant. However, I was nervous about falling into a life of comfort. I was a little overwhelmed at being back in a first world country and wanted to make sure I had grace and patience in every situation. I was also little anxious, because I didn't know what my plans were after I get my bunions removed!

BUT, I know the Lord is sovereign and is literally everywhere you and I go, paving the way before us. Even when we don't know what lies ahead, God is good and only does good. We just have to remind ourselves that God sees the entire picture and we often only look at what's right in front of us. But I want to remain faithful, knowing He's going to provide just like He has done my whole life.

This year has been amazing and growing in my walk with the Lord has given me a deeper appreciation for His free gift. I never want to take this year for granted, but I also know this is not the greatest thing or "the best year of my life". He has much greater plans in store, far greater than we can imagine.



Broken Branches

Matthew begins his Gospel with the genealogy of Jesus, tracing the roots of His family tree. To the modern reader, this seems like a terrible way to start a story. Our eyes glaze over and minds wander as he recites branch after branch of names that mean nothing to us. But Matthew is not only establishing that Jesus was born into the unbroken royal line of David, but that he was also born into the broken storyline of humanity.

The names Abraham and David stir up memory of God's covenant with His people. His faithfulness to them fuels our hope in Advent as we await the ultimate child of promise, that brightest star in Abraham's sky, who will reign on David's throne as our Anointed Shepherd King. And yet these names cast a shadow as well, their failures sowing the seeds of ancestral sin.

Matthew makes a strange move in recounting the history of Jesus' arrival. Against the tradition of his patriarchal society and time, he chooses to include the names of women in this lineage. And not just any names. There is Tamar, a victim of injustice who in turn disguises herself as a prostitute in order to deceive her father-in-law Judah. She becomes pregnant by him and their offspring becomes an ancestor of the Messiah. Then there is Rahab, a prostitute by trade who rescues the spies of Joshua in Jericho. She plays a key role in that military victory and eventually takes her place in the family line of the Savior. And Ruth, a foreigner from enemy territory who marries Rahab's son and becomes the great grandmother of King David.

And speaking of David, Matthew lists him here alongside Bathsheba. David drags her into this genealogy by way of lust, adultery, betrayal, and murder. (Try to make a Christmas card out of that.) He sleeps with Bathsheba while her husband Uriah is fighting David's war. After she conceives, he arranges for Uriah to be abandoned in battle, killing him to cover the sin.

Now, a word for Bathsheba. She is often cast as a temptress who seduces David and draws him into her web. But please remember the story. This takes place in a patriarchal society where David, military hero and man after God's own heart, serves as a monarch divinely chosen by God Himself. All of the power rests on David in this scenario. We should not see this as a passionate affair. Instead, this is a tragic abuse of power. And God will not stand for it. David is confronted and judged. And God refuses to reject Bathsheba, bringing her into the line of Jesus.

Matthew shows us that Jesus came through a lineage of broken people to heal and save and redeem broken people. He is like the artist that salvages unexpected materials and breathes beauty into them. From the broken pieces of our story, He carefully constructs a stunning mosaic of grace that shouts forgiveness is possible and redemption is coming for you.

The journey from Sarah's womb to Mary's is marked with willing sin, gut-wrenching injustice, and the grotesque abuse of power. Those who sin and are sinned against. It's into the middle of this reality—our reality—that Jesus is born, reversing the trajectory of the entire story. He confronts us with the truth that sin is strong, but grace is stronger. Sin doesn't get the final say. Because of a little baby born in Bethlehem, grace always has the last word.

Remember this: You aren't the only one with a past. God has one too. Peace is knowing that your past is not nearly as defining as His.

Matt LeRoy

*Printed from The Seedbed Daily Text (www.seedbed.com/daily-text) with permission from Matt LeRoy, Teaching Pastor at Love Chapel Hill Church.

Making Disciples

The term 'discipleship' has become quite the buzzword amongst churches these days, but what does it actually mean? Discipleship is simply the process of growing as a disciple; it is growing toward maturity in Christ and helping others do so as well. It is seeing a righteous life modeled for you, it is hearing the Word of God being spoken for encouragement and accountability, it is encountering Christ through holy fellowship, and it is being passionately loved and prayed for daily. Sounds pretty good, right? As believers we should have a hunger for this style of growth, especially for our children (3 John 1:4). It seems as though we as Christians are intrigued by this idea but don't really know how to make it happen. I believe the Church (universally) has become a people reliant on programs, weekend retreats, and large group studies, hoping that will do the trick. But when we look at the patterns in Scripture, we see that true disciples are made through intentional relationships.

These intentional relationships can take on several different forms, one of which being mentorship. Taking a brief scan through Scripture, we see these mentoring relationships demonstrated by Moses and Joseph, Elisha and Elijah, Naomi and Ruth, Jesus and the twelve disciples, Paul and Timothy, and many more. Growth happens over time, which is why the context of a relationship is so important. Christians need consistency, accountability, and reassurance, in order to further their faith. Large group studies and weekend retreats can only do but so much for our youth. Learning to navigate your faith isn't easy, especially in high school. Sometimes we have questions and we don't know who to ask; sometimes we don't know how to solve our real-life problems in a biblical way; sometimes it can be difficult to practically apply what we read in Scripture. It is for this reason, after much prayer and consideration, I believe establishing stable mentoring relationships for our youth at NUMC is the start to filling a great need.

We have presented an open invitation for our high-school aged students to engage in a mentorship program. Those who are interested and ready to take this step will be paired with an older, spiritually mature member of our congregation to meet together consistently to study Scripture together, express prayer needs, and offer encouragement and accountability. One of the most valuable benefits to engaging in a mentoring relationship is that it is a personalized way to grow. Each relationship will look different as it caters directly to the current needs of that student. We want NUMC to have a youth group that makes disciples and we believe this ministry will do just that. As we seek to be faithful and obedient to the mission of Christ, please join us in prayer over the start of this new ministry!

If there are any youth interested in beginning a new discipleship relationship, or if you would like more information, please contact me at kaitlyn@nashvilleumc.net.

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.
3 John 1:4

Joyfully,
Kaitlyn Stocks
NUMC Youth Pastor

Events

Disciple I Fast Track Bible Study: Lynn Ward will be leading a bible study of the Old Testament beginning in January. Disciple I Fast Track is a 12 week study of the Old Testament involving 3 to 4 hours a week of independent study and a 1 ½ hour group session. The group sessions will be held on Tuesday nights from 7pm- 8:30 pm beginning on Jan. 15. If you are interested in attending, contact Lynn Ward at 459-5679 or lward@suddenlink.net.

Undecorating: We'll be taking down our Christmas decorations on Jan. 2 beginning at 9am. Come if you are able to help.

Mom's Bible Study: We will kick off the New Year on Tuesday, January 15, with the book *Everybody Always* by Bob Goff. The book can be purchased at any major retailer or by contacting nichole@nashvilleumc.net. The study will meet 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6:30pm in the church office. Childcare is provided.

New Sunday School Class: We are looking at starting a new Sunday School class for the "Thirty Something/Young Couples" group. We will meet in the Sanctuary on January 6th to gauge the interest and start the process. If you are interested in this class please try to attend the meeting January 6th in the basement at 10 am. If you cannot attend please contact Wayne Lamm to show your interest.

Senior Adult Ministry: Our S.A.M. will meet again on Jan. 15 at 12 noon in Cockrell Hall. We will have homemade soups, sandwiches, dessert, and beverage. Bring \$5 that day for the lunch. Program to follow the meal. Invite a friend & join the fellowship, good food, and fun! For more information contact: Victoria at 459-2396.

Photography: The NUMC Media Team is always looking for pictures to post on social media. If you have pictures of church events, send them to Dana at info@nashvilleumc.net.

ASP Sponsorships: Everyone can support our 2019 ASP team through tax deductible sponsorships. Gifts can be made through the church offering, online by visiting the NUMC website www.NashvilleUMC.net/worship#give or mailed to NUMC, PO Box 86, Nashville, NC 27856. With a sponsorship of \$50 or more you will receive a 2019 t-shirt. Just indicate your t-shirt size with your donation. If you have any questions about ASP contact Lewis Smith at eatsmoke4u@gmail.com or 252-903-9848.

Methodist Men's Breakfast: Our UMM Breakfast will be on Sunday, Jan. 13 at 7:30am in Cockrell Hall. All men are invited for great food, fellowship, and a short meeting to discuss upcoming ministry events.

Men's Bible Study: Our men have a Bible Study every Tuesday at 8:30am in the Bus Garage. This study includes men from several other churches in our area. Come study God's word with others who are growing in their faith.

Prayers with the Pastor: Join our Prayer Warriors every Tuesday morning at 7am in the Parlor as we pray for those in our congregation and community.

Events

Prayer Watch: Join with others at NUMC if you desire to pray for the church, our nation, government, and individual needs. Come monthly on the fourth Friday at 6pm upstairs in the War Room. Contact Marilyn Poll (252-452-3006) with any questions.

Food Bank: We support Faith Christian Ministries with our communion offerings and food donations. Bring non-perishable food to the donation basket in the Gathering Area.

Church Directory: We've been blessed with so many new families this year at NUMC and our directory needs to be updated. We'd love to have every family that attends in the directory. We'll be taking pictures in the spring, but if you have a family picture from Christmas, please send it now to info@nashvilluemc.net.

La Estrella: La Estrella Resplandeciente is a local ministry our church supports that provides tutoring, meals, games, and a time of worship on Saturday mornings for Hispanic children in Stanhope. Volunteers can sign up for a Saturday and help provide tutoring in English, serve lunch and play with the kids. If you are interested in volunteering at La Estrella, Contact Dennis or Kay Coggins at 459-3933 or dkacog@embarqmail.com.

Followers Following: Calling all Followers of the Way who love to read, think, and grow in their walk with Jesus! Pastor Luke sends out a weekly email called, "Followers Following" that is a smorgasbord of recommended articles, blogs, websites, books, podcasts, music, etc. that are meant to encourage and aid you in your walk with Jesus as we grow in holiness. To receive these emails, contact Jackie@nashvilleumc.net.

Library: Visit our Library in Room B104 and check out the many books and DVDs to help you grow in your walk with Christ. Also, view the website resources page (WWW.NASHVILLEUMC.NET/RESOURCES) for a listing of pastors' recommendations.

prayers

Do you have a prayer request or want to pray for those in need? Join our **Prayer Chain**.

Contact our office at 459-7178 or info@nashvilleumc.net to be added to the email or phone distribution list.

Submit prayer requests to 252-459-7178 or info@nashvilleumc.net. Join our Prayer Warriors on Tuesday mornings at 7am in the Parlor for Prayers with the Pastor. They pray for our community, country, and all prayer requests in the church.

stay connected

Get schedules for Children, Youth, and Adults at our Information Centers located at both entrances. You will also find brochures on various ministry groups, Church Council Minutes, and more.

Save a tree and postage costs by receiving your newsletter via email or view the newsletter anytime at www.NashvilleUMC.net.

To schedule a church event, complete the church event form at WWW.NASHVILLEUMC.NET/RESOURCES and submit to info@nashvilleumc.net



Nashville United Methodist Church



[@nashvilleUMCNC](https://www.instagram.com/nashvilleUMCNC)

Facts & Figures

Attendance

2018 YTD Average Attendance

8:30 Praise & Worship: 272
11:00 Praise & Worship: 105
Traditional: 83
Thursday Nights: 37
Sunday Night Youth Worship: 50

Average of all Services: 462
Includes combined and special services.

Financials

2018 Year-to-date through September

Revenue: \$716,685.21

Expenses: \$791,329.89

Net: <\$74,644.68>

Detailed Revenue & Expense Reports
are available in the Work Room.

Mission & Service Commitments 2018

Books highlighting the NC Conference
shared missions that we support through
our apportionments are available in the
Information Centers and online at
WWW.NASHVILLEUMC.NET/RESOURCES

Do You Have an Upcoming Event?

Schedule events using the Church
Event Form in the workroom or
online at NASHVILLEUMC.NET/RESOURCES.

Additions to the bulletin should be
sent to the church office by Mondays
at noon. Newsletter deadline is the
10th.

You can also find finance guidelines,
bus reservation information, and
more—all on the RESOURCES
webpage.

Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Kate Burns | 15 Deck McCain |
| 2 Britt Bobbitt | Christy Smith |
| David Griffin | 18 Brandon Hill |
| Chris Rehm | Lula Shackelford |
| 3 Kevin Calloway | 19 Darla Bowles |
| Christopher Lumppp | Steve Dunbar |
| 5 Denise Helms | Trystan Kearney |
| Brooks Knight | Russell Miller |
| 6 Larry Boyd | 20 Mary Hatton Whitehead |
| 7 Megan Beal | 21 Charlotte Burns |
| Noah Brown | 22 John Denton |
| Bryan Huff | 23 Erin Binkley |
| 8 Gary Helms | Bobby Brannan |
| Ann Kirkman | Mahala Henke |
| 10 Sam Collier | Charles Rollins |
| Ethan Pardue | 24 Carrie Morningstar |
| 11 Cana Shrock | 26 Susan Broom |
| Liz Wilson | Debbie Mesh |
| 12 Olivia Leeson | Bethany Williams |
| Jackie Swindell | 28 Ryan Bidwell |
| 13 Chris Cobb | Abi Broom |
| Chuck Craft | Eugene Tinklepaugh |
| Eli Lanfranchi | 29 Marguerite Bishop |
| 14 Jeannette Shaw | 30 Hayden Morris |
| | 31 Barry Nethercutt |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 13 Jim & Mary Boehm | 26 Todd & Susan Henke |
|---------------------|-----------------------|

Thanks to everyone that
purchased a poinsettia to
decorate our church for
Christmas. They can now
be picked up in the
Gathering Area.



Weekly Events

Sundays

- 8:30am Praise & Worship Service
- 10:00am Sunday School
- 11:00am Traditional Service
- 11:00am Praise & Worship Service
- 4:00pm Youth Band Practice : Basement
- 5:00pm Children & Youth
- 6:00pm Ralph's Small Group :Parlor
- 6:15pm Youth Worship : Basement

Monday

- 7:00am WICK Emmaus : Hardee's
- 7:00pm Bells of Praise : Handbell Room

Tuesday

- 7:00am Prayers with the Pastor : Parlor
- 8:30am Men's Bible Study : Bus Garage
- 6:30pm Disciple IV : Library
- 6:30pm Mom's Study : Church Office
(1st & 3rd Tuesday only)
- 7:00pm Disciple I : Men's Bible Class
(Beginning Jan. 15)
- 7:00pm Praise & Worship Band Practice
- 7:00pm AA : Bus Garage
- 8:00pm NarAnon : Basement

Wednesday

- 6:15am Youth Bible Study : Sheetz
- 3:00pm NES Mentoring : Cockrell Hall
- 6:30pm Begin Band Group : Parlor
- 6:30pm Choir Practice
- 7:00pm Worship Team Practice
- 8:00pm NA : Bus Garage

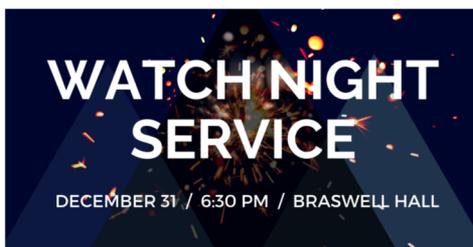
Thursday

- 6:30pm Thursday Praise & Worship
Braswell Hall

Saturday

- 10:00am La Estrella Ministry
4118 W Hwy 97, Stanhope

Special Dates



- Jan. 1** Church Office Closed
- Jan. 2** Un-decorating the church
- Jan. 6** New Young Adult SS Class Meeting
10am : Basement
- Jan. 3 & 7** Compassion Café
11am : Bus Garage
- Jan. 8** Traditional Worship Meeting
6pm : Parlor
- Jan. 13** Methodist Men's Breakfast
7:30am : Cockrell Hall
Children & Youth start back
- Jan. 14** Blood Drive
2:30pm : Cockrell Hall
- Jan. 15** Senior Adult Ministry
12pm : Cockrell Hall
Disciple 1 Begins
7pm : Library
- Jan. 25** Prayer Watch
6pm : Braswell Hall
- Jan. 28** Church Council Meeting
7pm : Cockrell Hall

Team Meetings:

- Jan. 2 Administrative Chair Bkfst
6am : Oak Level Café
- Jan. 13 Stephen Ministers
5pm : Library
- Jan. 9 Trustees, 7pm : A205
- Jan. 15 Finance, 7pm : Parlor
WDS Meeting, 6pm: Chapel

Staff

Pastor: Ralph A. Brown

Associate Pastor: Luke Whitehead

Director of Children & Family Ministries: Dr. Nichole Huff

Director of Welcoming Ministries: Wayne Lamm

Youth Pastor: Kaitlyn Stocks

Director of Operations: Dana Nethercutt

Director of Finance: Dot Binkley

Receptionist: Jackie Swindell

Minister of Music & Worship: Gary Rapp

Contemporary Worship Leader: Jackson Rollins

Thursday Night Praise & Worship Leader: Kevin Shaw

Organist and Membership Secretary: Ellen Ward

Nursery Coordinator: Jennifer Bunn

Weekday School/KidSpace Director: Denise Calloway

Connect:

E-mail: info@nashvilleumc.net

Website: www.NashvilleUMC.net

Phone: 252-459-7178 (office) 252 459 7636 (Weekday School)



Nashville United Methodist Church



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