

Greetings from North City Church of Christ. We hope this letter finds you well. The colors of the leaves are changing, the days darkening, and the weather grows colder. When all around seems dark, we celebrate the God who made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. (2 Cor. 4:6) At North City, we are surrounded by the community of Christ which warms our hearts and allows us to labor on in the work of the Kingdom.

Tutoring 2.0 Released This Fall

When we began our fall tutoring session in September, we were happy to see many familiar and new faces. The program has grown to 25 tutors, 45 students, and now includes all grades. We continue to meet for two hours on Thursday nights. LeClaire Christian Church returned for their 4th year of tutoring with not only a van-load of volunteers, but an additional car-load of new SIUE student volunteers too! Five new volunteers from Ferguson Heights Church of Christ have taken several leadership roles in the program.



For ages 5-12, in addition to Bible class, we focus on reading and math skills. In the reading room, tutors pair with students for one-on-one reading time. When the kids reach their reading goals, they are rewarded with a new book to take home for their personal library. During math class, students partner with tutors and use cards to practice basic skills. Our goal with both of the classes is for the children to strengthen the skills they are learning at school, and for the subjects to become fun and exciting for them.

We are happy to share about our newest expansion to provide teenage classes. As the students in our program grew up, we wanted to meet their needs by providing tutoring time for them too. This semester, we are teaching money management using Future Profits curriculum designed for urban youth. The students are learning about using money wisely and making good financial decisions. The teenagers also are enjoying their new art class. We are looking forward to them learning about silk screen printing and designing program t-shirts for us. Their Bible class this semester is comparing good and evil themes from superheroes and Biblical principles.



Of course, our favorite time of the evening is getting to sit at the table together and share a home-cooked meal. The talented women from our Ladies' Day Out program cook and serve all of us yummy food. It's a great time to get to know the kids and to build relationships.

Future Leaders Among Our Youth

In the past several years, we have worked with many of our neighborhood children. Some have been with our summer programs since the church move to its present location. As of January 2013, we thought it was time to look among those young people (teen boys) and set some apart to start a program that would help them make the transition into manhood. The teens are learning what it means to be created in the image of our Creator. The teens meet with Robert Lawrence every second and fourth Saturday of the month. These young men have the responsibility of cooking breakfast before they start the morning. They also have specific projects that they do such as taking care of the community garden during the summer, and helping with different beautification projects around the campus.

As we assess the program, it can be said that these young teens are taking ownership and pride in working to-

gether. They are growing in the knowledge of scripture. The challenge is to help them understand that we must apply them to our everyday living. However, as we move into 2014 we ask that you pray for the continual grow of these young men and that they will stay focus on their goal for life.

Outreach to Women in the Neighborhood

A Ladies' Day Out ministry began in April 2012 as an evangelistic effort to reach the ladies in the Mark Twain Community. The group has increased from five initial participants to over twenty regulars with a weekly average of twelve attending. We meet each Wednesday from 11:00am - 2:00pm. We begin with a coffee and tea fellowship time. In order to help subsidize the families with needed toiletry and household items, we play Bingo to win those items. We have a 15 minute Bible talk and prayer time. We end our time together with a hot lunch.



In addition, the ladies are serving the community in several ways: serving food at tutoring, making baby bibs and bears for nurseries in the area, and operating a clothing closet. The clothes closet, open twice a month, helps distribute warm clothes and coats to families in need. In October, 100 people received clothing.

Leading and Caring for the Body

During October, the church had a congregational life meeting, formally recognizing the leadership of the church: Ministers: Robert Lawrence and Alden Bass. Ministry Leaders: Candace Bass (Tutoring), Daniel Gray (Administration), Arondala Atkins (Teens), Craig Piper (Scouts), Nancy Lawrence (Women).

Cary Bragg, and elder at Halls Ferry Christian Church, is completing his degree at St. Louis Christian College. As part of the degree, he is completing a ministry apprenticeship at North City. During the year, he will be participating in spiritual formation activities and music engineering with teens and young adults.

The month of October revolved around the Kingdom of God. To bring in different perspectives, a number of people preached, including Robert Lawrence, Alden Bass, Kevin Romain, Daniel Gray, and Cary Bragg. The adult Bible class this fall centered on medicine and how we as followers of Christ make decisions around medical issues.



Raheem Burkes, baptized 11/10

Stewardship and Current Needs

For the first time in several years, the church has been able to maintain a balanced budget, operating on about \$6,500 per month. This could not have been achieved without the commitments made by many of our external supporters, both churches and individuals. The convent is currently being rented out to a program providing transitional housing and job skills training in renewable energy. However, the boiler system in the convent is broken and will have to be entirely replaced, which will cost the church a significant amount of money.

We ask that you continue to pray for our ministry. Please pray for our tutoring program as we consider expanding to a second night per week and would need additional volunteers. Please pray for the Mark Twain neighborhood as we continue to seek ways to serve and grow with our neighbors.

As the holiday season approaches, we are seeking donations for our tutoring program, including kids bikes (used) and toys for our Christmas store. Contact Candace Bass (candacejbass@gmail.com). Also, our women's ministry is seeking children and baby clothes for the closet. Contact Nancy Lawrence (ncarrl@aol.com).

We sincerely appreciate your partnership in our work in the Kingdom. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Sincerely,

The Family of God at North City Church of Christ