



THE TABLE

Keeping Carmel Connected



WELCOME

February 2016

Dear Carmel Family & Friends:

In January we gave away close to 1,500 Bible reading plan/prayer journals in the Gathering Space. I love that. There is no more important conversation we can have each day than with our Creator! Way to go Carmel - let's soak in His Word every day of 2016!

February is here - and there are two key things in *The Table* I want to highlight:

The Cultivate Challenge - Are You In?

Please **PRAY**. This Challenge is first and foremost about Him pruning and growing us to yield fruit. My hope is that you are taking time to adore Him for His sovereignty over your life. Confess to Him what He already knows, thank Him for not giving up on you and humbly ask Him to weed out those things that keep you distant from Him. I hope to see you at the Carmel Mile Prayer Walk for Cultivate on Saturday, Feb 13!

Please ask lots of questions and **DISCERN**. If you're struggling with your next steps in growing deeper in your relationship with Christ or have questions about the Student Discipleship Center, reach out to a member of our team. We're in the Gathering Space every Sunday and here for you throughout the week.

Please **COMMIT** to the Student Discipleship Center on or before February 21. We have an exciting opportunity to invest in the next generation and finish our campus! I hope you will join Christy and me in committing to the Student Discipleship Center. Check out Page 4 for more details and be sure to visit carmelbaptist.org/cultivate.

New Wednesday Night Format Launches February 10 - Participate!

I love that we gather mid-week for fellowship and equipping. Pastor Jeremy Amick and his team are tweaking our Wednesday Night format for the next three months - I think you'll like it! It is all about **Rest, Reconnect or Recharge**. Check out the details on Page 3. I hope some of you will join me this month for the class led by Roger Gum on *Developing a Spending Plan*. I double dog dare you to take a RECHARGE class every month!

As I look at February, the year 2016 and beyond, I am filled with anticipation and excitement for what God has for each of us and His Bride that is Carmel.

Love you Carmel,

Pastor Alex





NEAREST

How can **Adults** spend **Wednesday Nights @ Carmel**? Check out these **NEW** options!

Rest

Rest Spend time with God in our designated “quiet spaces.”

Reconnect Linger after dinner and catch up with old friends or make some new ones.

Recharge Learn something new in just 3 weeks! Recharge classes consist of three (3) Wednesday-night sessions and are offered monthly through April.

Kids’ Brains and Screens

Have a child who is overusing video games, social media or their smart phone? Come learn the brain science behind screen use and the developmental impact of video games and social media on children. Use this knowledge to develop a plan to successfully manage your child’s screen use. *Led by Melanie Hempe / Families Managing Media*

Go Across the Street (For Women)

Want to help reach those in your neighborhood with an intimate environment in which to study God’s Word and experience authentic community? Already hosting a neighborhood/home Bible study? Come be equipped and encouraged to make the most of a neighborhood Bible study in your home - and be part of an exciting new effort of Carmel’s Women’s Ministry. *Led by Catherine Nations & Alise Nettles / Carmel Women’s Ministry*

Developing a Budget Spending Plan

Desire to better steward the resources God has given you? Come learn Biblical principles of spending and walk away with a workable spending plan and tools that will equip you to live with open hands. *Led by Roger Gum / Carmel Stewardship of Life Team with Compass Financial Resources*

Finding Your Nearest Place to Serve

As a part of the Carmel Family, God has a place for you to serve based on the gifts, experiences, and abilities He has given to you. Come explore the possibilities and learn more about how you can be a part of the ministry team. *Led by Jeremy Amick / Carmel Adult Ministry*

Wednesday Night Bible Study

This semester, explore God’s Word in the Book of Philippians. This ongoing study is open to all and does not require registration - just come as often as you can! *Led by Charles Cranford and Bill Smith*

Recharge Details

Visit carmelbaptist.org and click on EVENTS to learn more and to register.

Classes are offered monthly on these dates:

February Class: February 10, 17 & 24 ♦ March Class: March 2, 16 & 23 ♦ April Class: April 13, 20 & 27

NOTE: Classes DO NOT meet on the nights of Pastor Alex’s Monthly Prayer Gathering and Famjam.

Opportunities to SERVE our Nearest

Here are a few areas that need help to SERVE Carmel’s Nearest. **For a complete list of SERVE opportunities, visit the SERVE tab on our website and select Nearest.**

Carmel Committee: Carmel Committees include: Audit, Carmel Christian School, Carmel Educational Foundation, Chinese Ministry, Deacon Selection, Finance, Global Outreach, Nominating and Governance, Personnel, Property, and WEE School. Membership at Carmel is required for serving on a committee and most committees require a three-year commitment that includes monthly meetings.

Preschool: Volunteer on Sunday mornings to care for and share the love of Jesus with our youngest children, ages birth through 2 years. We have opportunities at both the 9:30 and 11:00am Worship hours. Interested? Contact Michele Johnson at michelej@carmelbaptist.org or 704.847.8575.

ARE YOU IN?

Our Cultivate Call to Action

Generosity at its core is a lifestyle in which we share all that we have and all that we are as a demonstration of God's love and a response to God's grace...Generosity flows from an understanding that all that we have, are and ever will become is not ours to possess and it results in sharing what we've been given with others for the advancement of His kingdom and the glory of God. - Chris Willard

PRAY

Let's keep praying - both individually and together as the Carmel Family.

Join us for these Cultivate-focused prayer gatherings:

- **With Pastor Jay**
Wednesday, February 3 @ 6:15 (Worship Center)
- **With Daughters of the King**
Tuesday, February 16 (7:00 - 8:00pm)
Thursdays, February 4, 11 & 18 (11:45am - 12:45pm)
- **With the Carmel Family**
Prayer walk the Carmel Mile for Cultivate on
Saturday, February 13 at 11:00am.

DISCERN

Listen to the Spirit's direction, respond in obedience and commit with confidence to the ways He is calling you to live generously!

COMMIT

Let's make the Student Discipleship Center a reality! Return your Commitment Card or Commit online on or before **Sunday, February 21.**



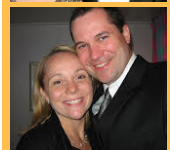
How Does Carmel Disciple the Next Generation?

Carmel has developed a comprehensive plan to assist the Generations to become disciples that make disciples. To learn more about this plan and the impact a Student Discipleship Center can have on Carmel's investment in the next generation, visit carmelbaptist.org/cultivate.

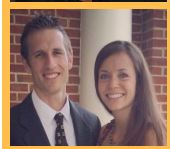
What do you think about the Cultivate Challenge?



Christy Kennedy - God continues to reveal deeper and deeper places where I need to open my hands in a greater capacity. I am challenged and strengthened by this time in prayer and seeking.



Brady & Nikki Hoffpauir - God has already blessed us through the Cultivate Challenge by placing more of an eternal focus on our finances towards the long term investment in Carmel students and our own children.



Brian & Sue Baum - Since we have committed to the Cultivate Challenge we have both felt God at work in our hearts to live more generously and live with open hands. He is cultivating our hearts as we pray and seek Him with how we can impact the next generation. We are excited to see how this student center will impact His kingdom.



*"You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God."
2 Corinthians 9:11*

**PRAYER WALK THE
CARMEL MILE FOR
CULTIVATE
FEB 13 @ 11:00AM
(OR ANYTIME)**



NEAREST



Senior Adult Ministry Events

If you are 55+ years old, join us on **Thursday, February 11** for Game Day, lunch and the *War Room* movie. We'll also gather **Thursday, March 10** for Carmel Christian Upper School's presentation of *James and the Giant Peach*, followed by lunch. Register online or contact Robin Davis at robind@carmelbaptist.org or 704.847.8575.



Women's Ministry Reminders

- Come pray with us! Daughters of the King Prayer Gatherings - details on Page 4.
- Plant a Bible study in your neighborhood! Sign up for the *Go Across the Street Recharge* class on Wednesday Nights! Details on Page 3.

Looking Ahead

Family Night of Worship - March 9

We are excited to once again host a Family Night of Worship! Come for dinner on Wednesday, March 9 and stay for an evening of intergenerational praise and worship!

Resurrection Weekend - March 25, 26 & 27

- Good Friday Service - Friday, March 25 @ 6:00pm in the Worship Center
- Resurrection Services - Saturday, March 26 (5:00pm) and Sunday, March 27 (8:00, 9:30 and 11:00am; no DCs)

Save the Date - Summer Camps @ Carmel

Amazing Journey Back to Bible Times: June 27 - 30

For ages 3-5 and completed 1st - 2nd Graders; online registration begins April 7.

Student ECamp: July 11 - 15

For all Students, completed 7th - 12th Grade; online registration begins February 24.

CarmelKidz Tabernacle Camp: July 17 - 22

For completed 3rd - 6th Graders; online registration begins March 3.

Carmel Christian School Camps

CCS will again offer half and full day camp options throughout the summer for students K-12th Grade. Details and registration will be available mid-February at carmelchristian.org.



Staff Milestone Anniversaries - Todd Moser

January marked the 5th Anniversary of Todd Moser's employment with the church. Todd works on our Facilities Team, providing support to all ministry areas in so many ways - from repairs to clean-ups to light construction. He is always willing to help, quick to respond and has the heart of a servant. In addition to his work here at Carmel, Todd serves as a lay leader at his church, All Nations Church, and was ordained in January. If you see Todd on campus, be sure to thank him for his faithful service to the church and schools.

How We Disciple Preschoolers

As part of the Cultivate Challenge launch, the Generations Team shared Carmel's discipleship plan for babies thru 12th Grade. Here's a snapshot of the Preschool years at Carmel!

- **Babies/Toddlers hear the name of God and Jesus and associate them with warm, happy feelings.** They are learning 1) God made me and Jesus loves me and 2) trust is essential to our faith walk. As our youngest children learn to trust caregivers each week to meet their most basic physical and emotional needs, they are also learning that God is trustworthy.
- **Twos are introduced to the Bible.** They learn the Bible is a special book that is true and teaches us. These boys and girls hear a year of foundational stories where they learn the truth God teaches from each story.
- **Threes, Fours and Kindergarten have a 3-year scope and sequence** where they are introduced to almost every story in the Bible. Gifted storytellers and communicators help the children see the Bible as one story - God's story from beginning to end.

Sunday Morning Overview

Lower Level Preschoolers: Jesus' Miracles

Children love to hear stories and the most important are the ones told by Jesus to His followers! This month our youngest preschoolers will hear several parables that teach what it means to show love, compassion and kindness.

This Month's Special Words: Jesus will always love us!

Bible Stories:

February 7 - A Fisherman's Net
February 14 - The Good Samaritan
February 21 - The Lost Sheep
February 28 - The Lost Son

Threes - Kindergarteners: Come, Follow Me - Jesus' Ministry Begins

Jesus guides us, forgives us, and loves us no matter what! This month our older preschoolers will discover Jesus' love for us is at the heart of who He is and what He does.

This Month's Special Words: Jesus loves us no matter what!

Bible Stories:

February 7 - Jesus Forgives a Woman's Sin
February 14 - Mary and Martha in Bethany
February 21 - Lazarus is Dead-and Alive!
February 28 - The Transfiguration of Jesus



Moms of Preschoolers (MOPS): 1st Tuesday of the Month

Need a safe space to breathe and be encouraged that what you are doing matters? Join Carmel's Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) for crafts, games, fellowship and dinner, interesting conversations and challenging speakers. Our **Tuesday, February 2** meeting includes a service project and Q&A with local pediatrician, Dr. Stephen Renfrow. And then mark your calendar for our **next gathering on March 1**. Childcare is available with a reservation. Questions? Email MOPSatCarmel@gmail.com.



Weekday Early Education School: Registration Taking Place for the 2016-2017 School Year

Registration is underway for Carmel's weekday preschool experience for children 6 weeks through Transitional Kindergarten. From September - May, children are loved, learn about Jesus and gain readiness and life skills for success in Kindergarten. Options for the 9:00am - 1:00pm preschool day range from 1 to 5 days. Stop by the Preschool desk for an information packet or call to set up a tour.





FamJam = Church + Home

Parents - our monthly Famjam is one way Church + Home work together to make a bigger impact on your child. This month's Life Application is **Cooperation** and we have an incredible Family Time Famjam activity planned. Don't miss it! Also, be sure to explore the NEW Wednesday Nights @ Carmel offerings for YOU while your kids are in Kidjam - details on Page 3.



Sunday Mornings:

God loved us first and made the first MOVE so we could know Him... Here is how CarmelKidz are filled with wonder for our Amazing God this month:

1st Grade:	Miracles You'll See to Discover an Amazing Jesus
2nd Grade:	The Extreme Life of Jesus...Love, Forgiveness and Serving
3rd Grade:	Jesus' Mission Unstoppable and Teach us How to Pray (Lord's Prayer)
4th Grade:	Gift Quest (Spiritual Gifts) and Giving Adventure (Stewardship)
5th Grade:	It Fits Together - God's Story: Ezra, Esther, Nehemiah
Preteens:	David and Daniel: A Contrast in Character (learning to do a Character Study)
Special Needs:	Amazing Jesus helped people with His miracles



Wednesday Nights:

High Gear, Faster, Further, Better TOGETHER...

As kids grow up, they become more aware of the people around them and the need to learn to work together. Cooperation is a spiritual concept that originates with God. God designed us not only to need each other, but also to need Him. God is all-sufficient and doesn't need us, but He created us to have a relationship with Him and participate in His work.

God put all of us together on this planet to do more together than we could ever do alone, and in some cases - with His help - to do things that might even seem "un-doable." Practical Truths you can reinforce at home based on the Bible stories we are learning at CarmelKidz this month include:

- We can work together to get God's work done (Building the Tabernacle)
- We can work together to help someone else succeed (Defeating the Amalekites)
- We can work together to change someone's life (Jesus Heals the Paralytic)
- Working together can point others to Jesus (The Early Church Helps Each Other)

Key Dates:

Sundays, February 7, 14, 21, 28: February First Step Class (pre-registration required)

Wednesday, February 3: Famjam

Friday, February 5: Preteen (6th Grade) Night Out (pre-registration required)

Wednesdays, February 10, 17, 24: Kidjam

Sunday, March 6: March First Step Class starts (pre-registration online now)



**Check out
Summer Discipleship opportunities
for CarmelKidz - on page 5!**



NEAREST



Students to SERVE this Month

Discipleship is not only about learning but also living. This month each grade will participate in a SERVE project with one of Carmel's Local Ministry Partners. The purpose of these SERVE projects is to create opportunities for students to experience local missions with the goal of developing a lifestyle of mission.



7th Grade:	Jackson Park (Saturday, February 27; 10:00am - 12:00pm)
8th Grade:	Pregnancy Resource Center (Saturday, February 27; 10:00am-12:00pm)
9th Grade:	Crest on Providence (Saturday, February 27; 10:00am-12:00pm)
10th Grade:	Carrington Place (Saturday, February 27; 9:45 - 11:00am)
11th Grade:	Young Life Capernaum (Thursday, February 25; 5:45 - 7:30pm)
12th Grade:	Charlotte Rescue Mission (Sunday, February 28; 5:15 - 7:30pm)



HS Students/Parents Pancakes/Dodgeball

All 9th - 12th Grade students and parents are invited to join us for a morning of pancakes and dodgeball from 9:00 - 11:00am in the Gym on **Saturday, February 6**. You can just eat pancakes, just play dodgeball, or do both! It's going to be a lot of fun. Sign up at carmelstudents.org.



Survivor 8th Grade Retreat - Register Now

The shift from middle school to high school is tough with all the pressure, stress, and demands! Friends, teachers, coaches and parents have expectations and difficult questions. Survivor 8th Grade Retreat helps prepare students for this transition through challenges, worship, survival tips and time to hang out with friends. This event is designed to be part of the church celebration of the Purity for Life/Milestone 4. Dates are March 18 - 20. Details and registration available at carmelstudents.org. *Space is limited!*

Key Dates:

February 6: HS Students/Parents Dodgeball/Pancakes

February 10: Family Fuel - Special Night of Worship and Prayer with the Wayne Kerr Band

February 21: Deadline for students to COMMIT to the Cultivate Challenge



Night of Worship to feature the Wayne Kerr Band

We have a special Family Fuel Night of Worship and Prayer planned for **Wednesday, February 10 in the Gym from 6:15 - 7:30pm**. We've invited the **Wayne Kerr Band** to join us as Worship Leaders throughout the evening. We encourage all students to come and join our voices together through song and prayer. Parents are welcome! Check out their website waynekerrmusic.com.



NEIGHBORS

We celebrate and invite you to join what God is doing through Carmel to Love + Serve our Neighbors.



Neighbors Notes

During the first week of January, 41 Carmel Christian School Upper School Students served locally during J-Term, Loving + Serving our neighbors. Students took time to serve meals at Charlotte Rescue Mission, help in the warehouse at Beds for Kids, clean the homes of low income older adults through Love, Inc and help staff and teachers at Lansdowne Elementary.

Prayer for our City

Lord, open the eyes of our hearts that we may know the Hope to which you have called us (Ephesians 1:18) and share that hope with our neighbors that call the Charlotte area home. Christ, You are the Light of the World and the hope of this city. May we reflect Your light in all that we do so our city will know You and ultimately be known as the City of King Jesus.

Amen



How Well Do You Know Charlotte???



Can you match the question with the correct answer? **Alarmed by these numbers?** Pray for the people in our city impacted by these statistics.

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1 - How many countries are represented in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System (CMS) student body? | A. 17,146 |
| 2 - How many people live in Mecklenburg County? | B. 19 |
| 3 - The City of Charlotte grants how many low-income housing vouchers each year? | C. 74,000 |
| 4 - How many children in CMS have limited English proficiency? | D. 158 |
| 5 - How many children in Charlotte live in single parent homes? | E. 990,997 |
| 6 - How many skilled-living nursing homes are in Charlotte? | F. 15,000 |
| 7 - How many investigations of domestic violence took place in Charlotte last year? | G. 400 |

ANSWERS: 1-D, 2-E, 3-G, 4-A, 5-C, 6-B, 7-F



Thursday, March 3
7:00 - 9:00pm
Church at Charlotte will host Q Commons, **"Equipping Christians to Engage our Cultural Moment."**

Topics to be addressed include Immigrants & Refugees, Foster Care & Adoption, and the Future of Neighboring.

Visit qcommons.com/charlotte to register or email angelas@carmelbaptist.org.

Key SERVE Dates:

February 11 & 25: Young Life Capernaum

February 12: Joyful Hearts Club

March 3 & 17: Young Life Capernaum

April 29 & 30: Joy Prom

Questions? Email conniec@carmelbaptist.org.

Want to learn more about what Carmel is doing to make disciples of the Nations? Visit the SERVE/NATIONS page on carmelbaptist.org.



Is Short-Term Missions For You?

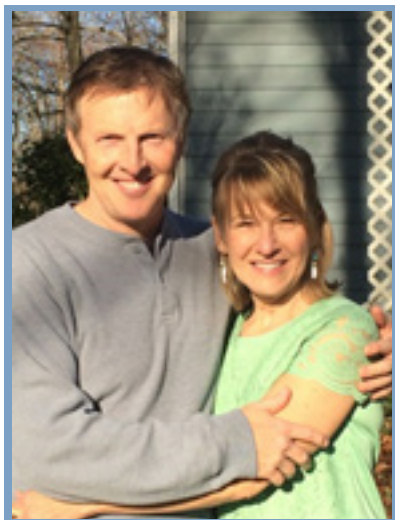
Carmel is in the process of expanding and changing the opportunities available in short-term missions and we **need people who are passionate about serving the Lord and are not willing to accept their spiritual status quo.**

We are seeking people who want to be a part of this exciting new direction. If you would like to be included in these new upcoming opportunities, email Diane McGee at dianem@carmelbaptist.org and we will add you to the growing number of people who are willing to be used well beyond their comfort zone.

For a complete list of 2016 short term mission trips check out the SERVE/NATIONS page on our website.

Pray for Unreached People Groups

God's Word tells us that He desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of who He is. He longs that all people would have access to that knowledge. **Did you know that two billion people in the world have never heard the Gospel?** To learn how you can be involved in praying for these groups on a daily basis, visit Carmel's website, click on "Serve", and then on "Unreached People Groups."



Carmel Missionaries: Jim and Renee Hughes

Jim and Renee work through Peregrine Ministries International to help men understand their identity in Christ, embrace their role as men and live out the personal calling God has for their life. Through retreats, mission trips, one-on-one sessions, father/son and father/daughter journeys, and church partnerships they build up the family as the primary institution created by God to prepare, train, and equip the next generation as followers and disciples of Jesus Christ. For details regarding Jim and Renee's work and upcoming parent/child retreats visit peregrinemministries.org.



MILESTONE 1

PARENT/CHILD DEDICATION

Our prayer:

Heavenly Father, we praise You for Your faithfulness and love for the precious children at Carmel and their families. Thank You for leading these parents to the vital milestone of Parent/Child Dedication. Our prayer is that these parents will continue to live out their role as primary disciple makers in the home. May they begin this journey by first being committed to a Life in Christ themselves. Father, we ask that these little ones will learn, at home and here at Carmel, timeless truths from Your Word so that they will be transformed for their lifetimes by a saving relationship with Jesus.

Amen.

Dedicated February 2016

From left to right: Addis Spencer, Deacon Spruill, Charlie Pinkston, Daniel Shoffner, Aiden Brigman, Declan Alwarn, Ezekiel O'Connor, Haley Brown, Henry Jackson, Jack Pinkston, James Parker, Judah Fairbaugh, Luke Ross, Maddox Womble, Samatha Pinkston, & Theodore Varghese

Parting Prayer



Carmel will again celebrate Parent/Child dedication on May 15. For details visit carmelbaptist.org

CARMEL NUMBERS

ON-CAMPUS
PRAYER
GATHERINGS
THIS MONTH

13

NEW OPTIONS FOR
WEDNESDAY
NIGHT: REST
RECONNECT OR
RECHARGE

3

ON-CAMPUS BIBLE
STUDIES
THIS SEMESTER

14

100% OF THE
CARMEL FAMILY CAN
PARTICIPATE IN THE
CULTIVATE CHALLENGE

PRAYER
JOURNALS
HANDED
OUT IN
JANUARY

1500

36

SUNDAY
MORNING
ADULT
DISCIPLESHIP
COMMUNITIES
Not in a DC?
Check one
out today!

21 LAST DAY IN FEBRUARY TO COMMIT TO THE CULTIVATE CHALLENGE

THE TABLE

Carmel Baptist Church

carmelbaptist.org

704.847.8575

Schools

weeschool.org

carmelchristian.org

Carmel Counseling Center

carmelcounselingcenter.org



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