



THE PULSE

A Monthly Look Into Ministry at CPC

Ministry Moments

College-age young adults and students home for the summer have a place to connect and grow in their faith at Kairos, CPC's college ministry. Led by Tony Howard, the group meets weekly at 7:00pm on Thursdays at the KREW House, and for volleyball nights and outings to Cardinals games or ice cream shops.

Kairos provides an opportunity for 18-21 year olds to feel like there is still a place for them at CPC, even if they go away for college during the school year. "It has been so encouraging to see students come home this summer and feel a real sense of reconnection with not only the church, but also with each other in community," Tony said.

"It's easy for college students to feel disconnected from the church," agreed Joe Roseman, a senior at UMSL. "Kairos is an easy place for new people to show up and feel instantly connected, as well as a place to foster friendships among college students who grew up at CPC or are in town year-round. I'm so thankful Kairos has been a part of my college life."



Packing a truck of donations to deliver to Oasis International

CPC Committed to Local Outreach

by Lynn Norfleet

Jesus instructs us in Matthew 28:19 to "go therefore and make disciples of all nations," but we often forget that our own nation, and our own community are included in that instruction. That's why CPC includes, among the many missions and missionaries it supports, several organizations that extend the love of Christ to those who are hurting or in challenging situations in the St. Louis area.

These supported organizations include Sunshine Ministries, Thrive St. Louis, Mission Gate Ministries, Campus Outreach, Restore St. Louis, Grace and Peace Winter Shelter, and First Step Back Home, as well as several other Christian outreach ministries.

"I believe that part of living out the gospel is being a good neighbor. And the gospel makes it clear that when we see neighbors in need we should offer whatever help we can," said Owen Tarantino, Pastor of Local and Global Outreach. "CPC continues to be connected to ministries that reach out globally and locally. Our local connections and opportunities are a significant way for us to live out our faith in the midst of a community that has various needs."



CPC Up Close

Ruth Ellen Jones

CPC's Friendship Ministry, one of the first of its kind to be offered by a local church, started in the 1980s when a parent and Sunday School teacher created a Sunday morning class for a student with special needs. It soon expanded from a one-on-one teaching opportunity to a network of families of individuals with a range of mental and physical challenges from within the church and the broader community.

For almost the past two decades, Ruth Ellen Jones has taught this Sunday School class that is now a fixture at CPC. "I started out volunteering to teach once a month, but soon realized that this group needed consistency and predictability," Ruth Ellen said. "So I became the regular teacher of this class. It still follows the same curriculum designed for adults with special needs as when the class started, and the students often know the Bible stories and can quote Scripture better than I can!"

Ruth Ellen always opens the class by having the students share prayer requests and praises, and closes the class with prayer. "They remember these prayers from week to week and really care for one another," she related. "The pure love that comes from their hearts has made me weep with joy. It truly is a privilege to work with them...it just makes my Sundays so special!"

CPC Committed to Local Outreach (cont.)

This month, CPC is collecting items and backpacks for children in foster care to support One Heart Ministries. This local organization began in 2004 and has trained 500 families in the St. Louis area to foster children in need. They equip and support these families, and will distribute the backpacks loaded with school supplies we collect to more than 150 elementary and middle school students in Missouri impacted by foster care.

The annual backpack drive will run throughout July. There will be a board in the entry of the main church building which will have tags, each listing a supply and the number needed. Everyone is encouraged to pick up a tag, purchase the needed supplies, and return them to the donation bin. Packing Sunday will be July 31, and we will have tables outside with the supplies on them. As you enter or exit the building for worship services, you will be invited to help pack the backpacks.



Packing backpacks with supplies for foster children



Wrapped Christmas gifts for Mission Gate Ministry



From more than 300 suggestions submitted by the congregation, a name was chosen last month for our new building at Clayton and Baxter roads: **The Commons!** Mark your calendars for Sunday, Aug. 21, when our church family will celebrate the one-year anniversary of the building purchase and the new name.



**THE
COMMONS**