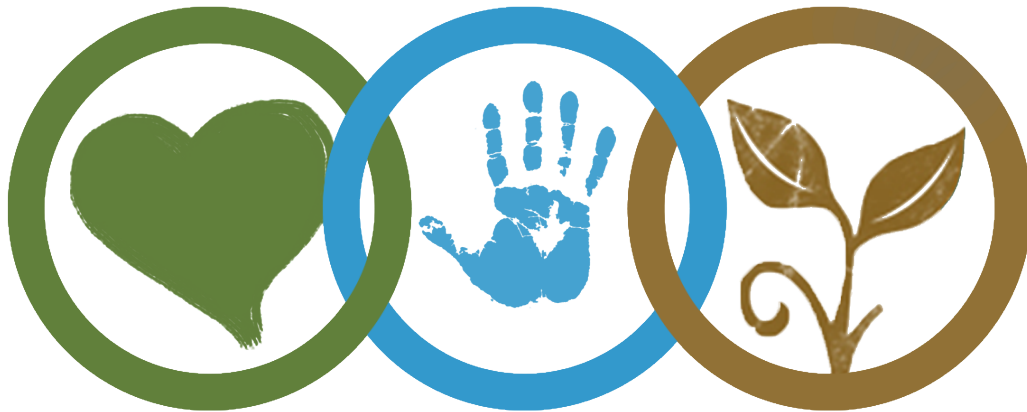




First Edition

LOVE SERVE GROW



WELCOME TO CITYCHURCH...NOW WHAT?

Brian Higbee, Senior Leader of CityChurch, speaks out about what it means to be part of CityChurch.

CAUSE YOU WANT TO

Greatness in the kingdom described by those who enjoy serving

OUTGROW YOUR OLD YOU THROUGH...

Moving beyond the past so you can step into your future

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First Edition



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A publication of CityChurch that helps you know a little more about CityChurch, the Church, and what we are up to and all about.

Published Summer 2016

Volume 1, Number 1

PUBLISHER CityChurch Publishing

EDITOR Brian Higbee

COPY AND LINE EDITING Jessica Stuart

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Is it...

LOVE

SERVE

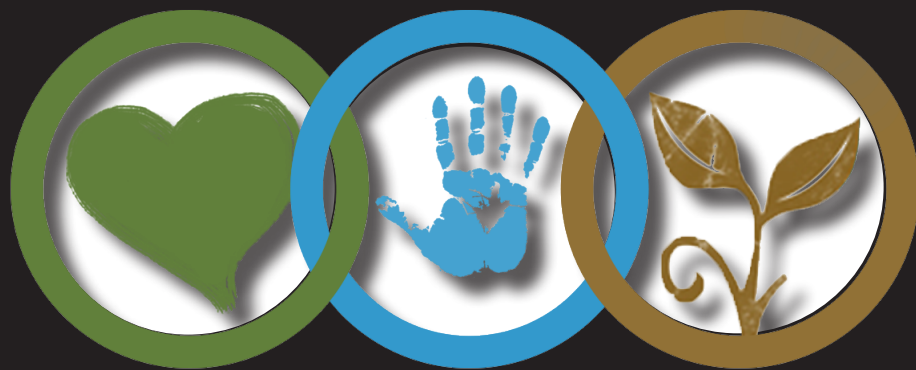
GROW



Or

Is it...

LOVE SERVE GROW



Love Serve Grow

article by Brian Higbee

If you walk into the foyer of CityChurch you will quickly see a large banner that has the logo "Love Serve Grow." What is the meaning behind Love Serve Grow? These are three of the core values that help define CityChurch. Allow me to explain.

LOVE



Love—this is where it all begins. God loves. Begin and end everything on that one statement. Love is how God defines Himself. The love of God—agape—is the self-giving, self-sharing love. It is love without a hook, without condition, without expectation for return.

Love has some characteristics that are important for us to recognize. Love contagiously grows. Like a life-giving virus, love is continually looking to infect. Like tentacles reaching out, the love of God is continually searching to attach, infect, and grow.

SERVE



Love, by default, desires to give without wages, to share without demand. Love goes beyond emotion and into action. Love is seen. Seen love in action is serving.

Love your family and you gladly serve your family. Love your employer and you serve your employer with great joy. Love the church and you serve the body of Christ with the best you can offer.

But, there is a problem. Love demands that you serve with your highest and best. When you serve with your highest and best, it is not long until you come to the end of you...the you that you have been. And discover that the you that you have been is not the you that you are becoming. That is by design. Just like a caterpillar that must go into the cocoon to become the butterfly you must come

to the end of what you can do on your own. You then are forced to lean into God, access His grace on a level you have never accessed before. This transformation occurs because you discover God on a level you have never before known Him. You can't leave that discovery unchanged.

GROW



Similar to the caterpillar/butterfly metamorphosis, the beautifully marked gecko lizard undergoes a similar change. The gecko becomes aware that

change is coming as it becomes dull and uncomfortable, feeling squeezed and trapped within its own skin. What once was so part of vibrant life has now become a prison of self. The old version of the gecko must give way. It must let go and shed the old to discover again vibrant and new life within.

And you, just like the caterpillar and gecko, must come to the end of the old you to discover the new and improved you by knowing the Lord in a way you have never yet known Him. This is the process that God uses to make the new and improved version of you.

Each time you grow you become the greater version of you with a greater capacity to love. And with that greater capacity to love comes a greater heart to serve. And with that greater heart to serve comes new growth.

God will bring into your life greater challenges, more difficult people, situations far beyond your ability to resolve for the distinct purpose of



Just like the caterpillar, the believer must come to the end of a season allowing God to transform them.



Life for the gecko becomes dull, uncomfortable, and even painful just before it becomes the greater and more beautiful version of itself.

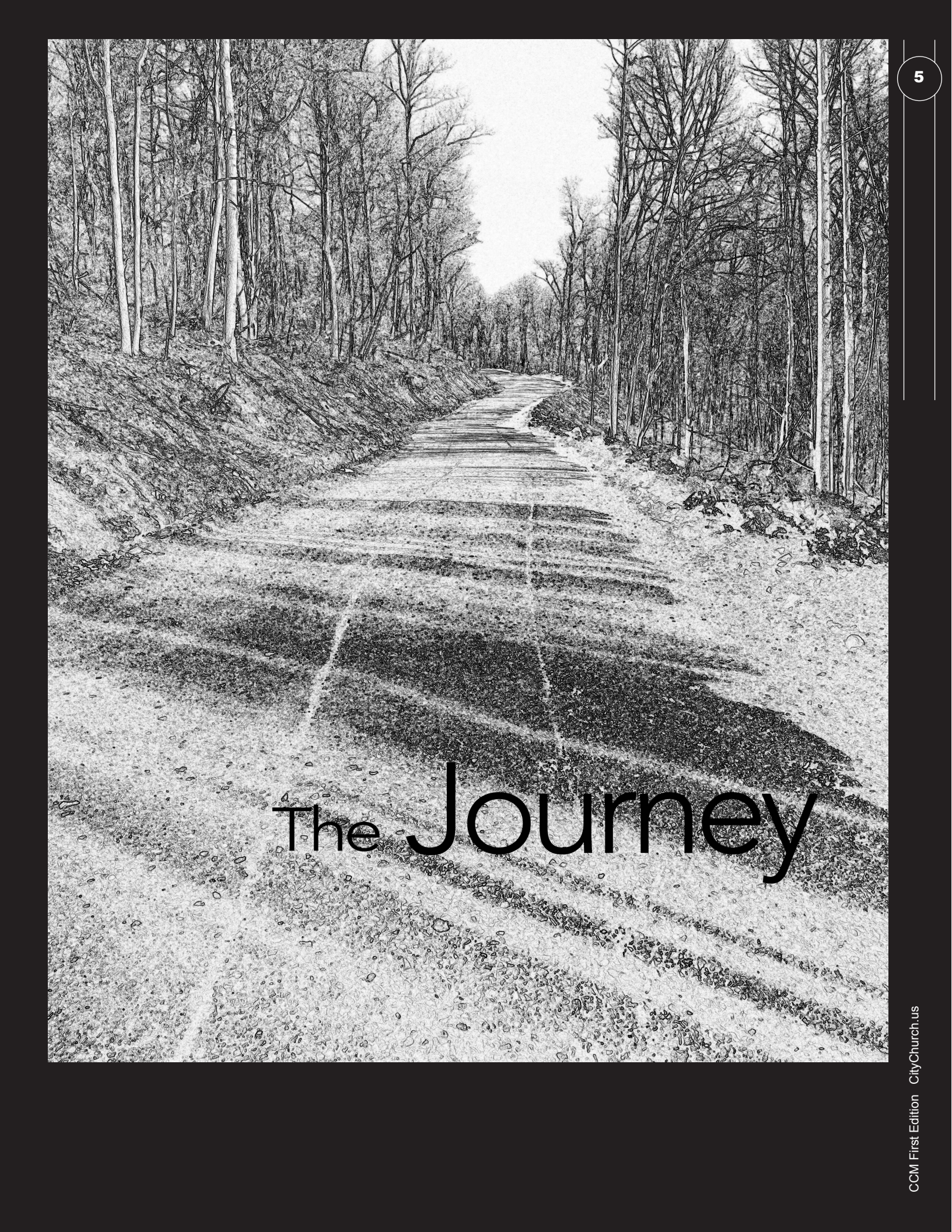
needing Him in a way you have never needed Him. That gives God the ability to reveal Himself in a way that you have never known. When you know God in a way that you have never known Him you grow.

Simple.

You love, serve, grow. Then repeat.

LOVE SERVE GROW





The Journey

The Journey

The greatest life is one that begins and ends in Christ

In 1648 John Bunyan wrote an allegory called *Pilgrim's Progress*. C. S. Lewis wrote *The Chronicles of Narnia* and more recently Rick Joyner wrote *The Final Quest*. All of these were written to specifically reveal the journey of the believer in their walk with Christ.

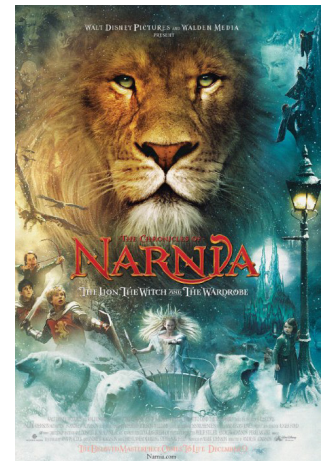
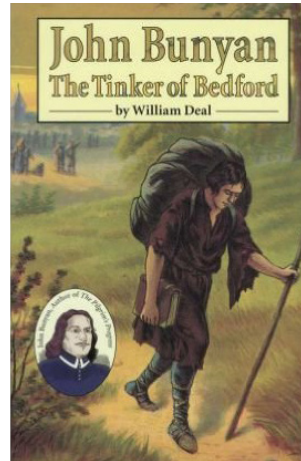
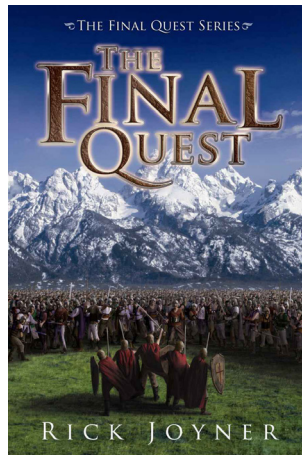
Other stories such as *The Matrix*, *Polar Express*, *Star Wars*, or even *The Lord of the Rings* have such similarities to the christian walk. In all of these intentional or unintentional allegories there are those who are on a journey. Each journey takes them far beyond where they thought they would go, doing far beyond what they thought they were capable, costing them far beyond, but gaining far more than anything they imagined.

In *The Matrix*, Neo, had no idea what to expect. Even though his eyes were opened to the Matrix the journey was just beginning. His capabilities were just being revealed.

Luke Skywalker was completely unaware of his destiny to help the Rebellion overcome the evil Empire. It was not until tragedy occurred that he would even embrace leaving his home.

Frodo Baggins was a little different. Unlike most other Hobbits, he wanted adventure. But long before his journey ended he yearned to go back to The Shire and leave his disastrous adventure. The excitement and monumental importance of his task paled next to exhaustion, hunger, thirst, and fear. Although his friends believed that he was meant for the greatness of this task, he doubted. It was not until his journey was complete that he accepted that he really was meant for saving Middle Earth from darkness.

Each of these stories brilliantly light our imagination as we journey through *The Matrix*, across the galaxy, or through the bogs of Middle Earth. Danger, excitement, crisis, lack, conquering all fill the journey to the brim and spill onto our own lives as we live each story on the screen of our minds.



Each of these classics took those journeying far beyond.

Each story leaves impression, encouragement, inspiring to go beyond one's self and become what we dared only to silently hope.

May I suggest that this journey we are on, each of us, goes far beyond the bog, *The Matrix*, or even the galaxy. This journey is cosmic, universal, expanding beyond time and into eternity. It involves those who occupy even the most remote corners of existence where only light has gone and those who lurk in the deepest darkness seeking reprieve from the light.

The Journey Defined

Jesus said that the journey begins with being born-again. What does that mean? How does that happen? Can that happen to anyone?

Before we answer those questions we need to define the journey:

Jesus speaking to the multitudes on a mountainside in Galilee said these defining words, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things (all the stuff you are concerned about) will be added to you." Our journey is a journey of pursuit, exploration, and discovery of the kingdom of God AND a journey of pursuit, exploration, and discovery of who I am in relation to the kingdom.

A kingdom is defined as the place of the king's dominion. It is any and every place that the king rules. Natural

kingdoms are defined by geographic boundaries. The kingdom of God has boundaries as well. But those boundaries are found within the human heart because this rule is different. It is based on a love relationship between God and you.

In the beginning God ruled everywhere with His amazing, loving kind of rule. He spent much time with Adam and Eve teaching, sharing, giving as they explored and discovered the earth that their Father invited them as a son and daughter to co-rule with Him. We cannot be sure the length of time this continued but we are sure of the time it ended—the moment that Adam and Eve rejected God's rule. It is also the moment the earth went from perfection to corruption. Life, joy, purpose, and love were removed from the earth and replaced with death, decay, sickness, blame, and fear. The earth and all its inhabitants were now subject to the absence of God and His life-giving rule.

What is the remedy? Begin the journey. Paul tells us how in a letter he wrote to the Romans:

Romans 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. (*complete restoration body, soul, and spirit - my note*) This is the journey defined—you returning to God's love and rule within your life.

The Journey at CityChurch

The Church - Together in the Journey

The journey not only reconnects us with God, but connects together all under the love and rule of God...called the church.

Jesus, so in love with the Church, calls her His bride. This bride is about people, not buildings, denominations, nor programs.

CityChurch is a part of this bride and connected to the whole bride of Christ. We, at CityChurch, are learning how to be the bride of Christ and walk out this journey with Him.

Being part of CityChurch necessitates relationship. Relationship has expectations. So talking about expectations, with regard to being part of CityChurch, is important.

On the Journey...Not Arrived

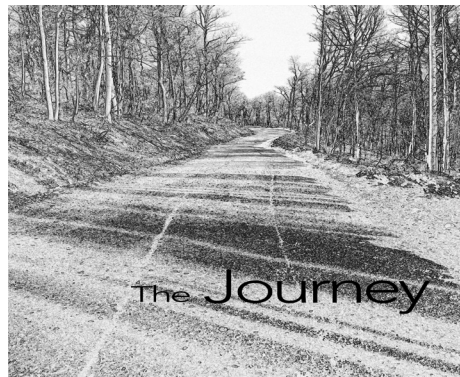
As part of this journey with this group of people called CityChurch what can you expect from them? You can expect the very same thing that CityChurch expects from you. To journey together connected with God and each other. Remember, we are all on the journey. None have arrived yet...not the Sr. Leader, not the worship leader, not the administrative people, nor the cell leaders. No one has arrived. So that means we are learning, exploring, discovering who we are individually and together.

So what can you expect?

- You can expect people to love God and love you.
- At the same time you can expect them to fall short of that lofty goal.
- You can expect to forgive and be forgiven.
- You can expect to help others and be helped.
- You can expect to love and be loved.
- You can expect to be healed and to help others heal.
- You can expect to meet others filled with joy and be filled with joy yourself.
- You can expect peace and give peace.
- You can expect your life to change and can expect others lives to change around you.

- You can expect that life will sometimes be hard for you and can expect that sometimes life is hard for others.
- You can expect that when someone falls you will help them up and when you fall someone will be there to help you up.
- You can expect that you will keep gossip away from others and others will keep gossip away from you.
- You can expect to believe the best of others even when it is hard and others are expected to believe the best of you even when they find it hard.
- You can expect to rejoice with others successes and others are expected to rejoice with yours.
- You can expect to be leaned on when another's heart is heavy and you can expect to lean on another when your heart is heavy.

I could go on but I think you understand that we do not hold CityChurch out as having arrived. We, together, are on the journey.



Being Part of CityChurch

Being part of CityChurch allows you to grow together under the atmosphere of love, commitment, and encouragement. Each week we do several meetings:

- **Sunday Morning Experience** - the Sunday Morning Experience is a time of corporate worship, relationship, and ministry that equips, encourages, and prepares the body for the next week of going out into world.
- **Servant/Leadership Team** - those who have shown themselves to serve and be part of the body here at Citychurch are given the opportunity to lead, guide, and be part of the building

and implementing the vision of CityChurch. To whom much is given, much is required.

- **Cell groups** - cell groups are small groups that meet throughout the week. You can find a list in the back cover of this magazine.

Once each month:

- **TheCore** - those who consider themselves an integral part of CityChurch meet once each month to strengthen, encourage, and equip in relationship, understanding, and engage in building the kingdom together.
- **Regionwide Prayer** - brings those part of the body in the region to pray bringing heaven to earth.

Once every quarter:

- **So You Want To Be Part of CityChurch?** - This is an evening with Brian and Janis Higbee, several of the Servant/Leadership Team, and several from TheCore that share vision, their heart, discuss CityChurch, and what it means to be part.

Help Along the Journey

Although we are all on the journey together, we have all started at different places in life and at different times. There are those who have been at this for quite a while and have some wisdom and experience to share. To do that we lean on them to help others along the way. We do this in many ways:

- **Twenty Minute Talks** - four twenty minute talks that give four pillars of truth that life in Christ relies.
- **Foundations** - a three semester discipleship program that will help each follower of Christ explore and discover who God created and designed them to be. Foundations takes the believer through three-part interaction of informing, imparting, and impacting.
- **SOZO** - Sozo is the ministry of CityChurch that helps those struggling in their journey with the Godhead, others, or themselves.
- **Counseling** - our approach to counseling those who are struggling is from a ministry/pastoral perspective.

cityspeak

Cause You Want To

article by Jason Pishney

SERVE



I remember when I first encountered God and realized there was a whole other world beyond what my physical eyes could see. I felt God drawing me in and was humbled and honored to have the opportunity to serve the Creator of the universe! In order to feed this hunger of serving, I contacted the church and asked what I could do to get started (I didn't wait for an announcement or someone to persuade me to volunteer).

Are there times that serving feels like a "have to?"

Of course! The difference between serving God as a "have to" and a "cause you want to" is the mindset. If one person doesn't step up to the plate, God will draft another player who desires to be a team player. Serving out of the "have to" mindset does not allow the servant to enjoy the process of serving and has the fast forward button on until the end of the mission.

Unlocking greatness in the kingdom:

servicing because you want to!

Your attitude can dictate the experience of serving or your serving can put attitude towards the test and open up the possibility of growing and learning new things! If volunteering your time is foreign and painful initially, start as an entry-level servant. Entry-level serving is where someone initially decides that putting others above themselves is good and perseverance is needed from clocking in to clocking out of the volunteer job. This level is not "good" or "bad", but it is a stepping stone towards Kingdom serving. Kingdom serving is where one can look at what they are doing (rather than the clock), asking God how they can serve in a way that pleases Him, and growing in connection with God and those serving on the team. Serving because you want to allows you to learn more about yourself, about God, and what it's like to bring more of Heaven to Earth.

Different Perspectives on Serving from Servant Leaders of City Church

I asked several leaders to share what serving means to them. Here is what they had to say:

"I serve not because I'm expected to but because I care deeply about those who may be experiencing church or the kingdom for the first time ever in their lives. Serving is a reflection of our love for the Father." – Rick Fike

"I believe serving keeps you connected to the heart of God as nothing else can. For me, it transcends the realm of *I want to* and goes into the realm of *there is just no other way for me to be or live*. After all, I am my Father's daughter. He created me to be a reflection of Himself. Serving is in my DNA." – Brenda Siple

"Serving requires me to push through challenging mindsets and being able to connect with the hearts of others." – Theresa Kollar

"Matthew 20:28 To be a great servant we must continue to strive for excellence to please and to be called a great servant of Jesus." – Kenny Leyda

What doors can you unlock to discover greatness in the Kingdom?

What is Communion?

article by Kathy Thayer

LOVE



Celebrating the Lord's Supper/Communion is significant and full of meaning. It was instituted by Jesus Christ during the Last Supper. All four gospel writers give us the details of this important event. (Mt 26:19-30, Mark 14:17-25, Luke 22:7-23, John 13:18-28) Also in I Cor. 11:23-26 it talks about the Lord's Supper. Jesus gave His disciples

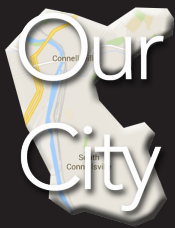
bread and wine during the Passover. He referred to the bread as "His body" and the wine as "His blood". Also in I Cor. 11:23-26, Jesus commanded His followers, "Do this in remembrance of Me." We look back to the death of our Lord at the cross and ahead to His victory over death. In I Cor. 11:27-32 it says, we must examine ourselves first and not take it in an unworthy manner. But there are so many benefits in taking communion. In John 15:5 Jesus said, "He who abides in Me, and I in

Him, bears much fruit." Communion is about being a part of His body and the body of Christ as a whole. There is forgiveness, reconciliation, healing, and restoration in taking communion because of the blood of Christ. So in taking communion let's be reminded not only of all the benefits, but most importantly the love Jesus has for us!

(For more information about taking communion at CityChurch check out the FAQ's on the last page.)



of connellsville
citychurch



...the city



...the region



...the nation



...and the world



Community Ministries...

A friend of Connellsville and a friend of God



Connellsville Area Community Ministries began in the Spring of 1974 but the idea of a ministry that would be an extension of Connellsville churches was discussed long before. The goal was to form a ministry to the elderly as a beginning point and to branch out in broader ministries in the community dealing with youth and general community needs following the lead of our Lord Jesus Christ. The ministry would be ecumenical and available to everyone without regard to denominational or congregational ties.

The “spark” that put the community ministry plan on the fast track occurred on March 21, 1968 when the Central Methodist Church (built in 1883 and located at 126 W. Apple Street) was destroyed by fire.

Since there were five other United Methodist congregations in Connellsville, the decision was made to merge the Central congregation into the other UM churches. After much prayer and debate, the fire insurance proceeds from the fire (approximately \$150,000) were put into an investment account and could only be used for mis-

sion beyond the local church. The principal amount of \$163,840 is still on investment and the interest from this investment still funds the ministry today with a quarterly distribution of \$2,300.

In 1974 Reverend George Shultzabarger was appointed to serve as CACM's first Executive Director. Prior to this appointment Reverend Shultzabarger was serving as the Central Methodist Pastor. The ministry began operating out of the Connellsville Community Center and in the first year the ministry was able to reach out in love to those who were in need of a helping hand. In the first 12 months of operation, 180 requests for information by elderly residents were answered.

Reverend Witt served from 1978-1996, the longest tenure of any Director. Under his leadership the ministry grew. Much energy went into the development of the vacant former high school. This 65,000 square foot building provided space for numerous programs. In addition to the space occupied by CACM, the Community Center hosted a variety of social programs operated

by agencies such as schools, mental health, community action, YMCA and other private non-profits. There were eleven educational programs for disadvantaged persons operating under its roof. The building was also home to a day care center, administration offices for nine group homes for mentally and physically impaired persons, and a soup kitchen operated by the The Salvation Army.

Reverend Terry Guiste was appointed Executive Director in 1996 and served until 2010. During his tenure, new ministries were started, existing ministries were expanded and CACM continued to provide help and hope to many families.

Reverend Shawn Goodwin was appointed Executive Director in 2010 and served until the Spring of 2012. During his term, the decision was made to move from the rented space in the Community Center and the ministry purchased a 21,000 square empty storefront in downtown Connellsville (formerly Burn's Drug and McCrory's). In January of 2012, the ministry began serving the community from this new lo-



Connellsville Area Community Ministries



ation. This location is more central and affords easier access as well as a conveyor system to more easily move donated food, clothing and other items.

Between 2012 and 2013 the Executive Director's duties were shared by Reverend Douglas Johnson and Reverend Charles Prevot. This was a time of transition for the ministry as they worked to adapt and remodel the new space to better serve the needs of the ministry and the community as a whole.

The CACM Board of Directors decided that the ministry would be better

served if the Executive Director had a business/management background to be better able to manage the many resources and areas of the ministry. James "Chip" Rowan, Jr. was hired in June of 2013 and is the first Executive Director who was not a United Methodist Pastor. Chip has spent the last year working with staff and volunteers to make improvements to the ministry and to continue the renovation of the ministry headquarters. Another priority has been raising funds and making the community more aware of the services and benefits that the ministry offers with the goal being a stronger community grounded in the love of God.

Connellsville Area Community Minis-

tries is an ecumenical effort supported by prayer, volunteerism and generous contributions by individuals, churches, civic organizations, businesses and grants from the United Way, the Western Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church, Catholic Charities, the Community Foundation of Fayette County, the Walmart Foundation, and many others who all work together to meet the needs of the community. The ministry has evolved over the years and with your prayers and financial support will continue to flourish.



Some of the medical equipment immediately available to help.

Bottom: Helping patch a neighbor's roof





In 1985, following his own spiritual regeneration through The "New Birth" experience (1 Peter 1:23 & John 3:3), as well as his personal rehabilitation from a lifestyle of organized crime and drug abuse, our Founder and Pastor - Henry Taliercio - had received what he knew in his heart was a clear vision and promise from God. This vision regarded the future of his own life and the lives of people he would influence for the Kingdom of God. In the fullness of time, Henry's vision had indeed proven to be a prophecy come true as it pertained to establishment of a ministry center (presently known as The Father's Heart Ministries, Inc.) dedicated to the restoration of the lives of people who, much like himself, would find themselves bound in drug addictions and other life-controlling problems.

Henry was partially skeptical about his vision, and remembers laughing as he said, "I believe I may help someone else accomplish this dream," also recalling the story of Abraham waiting on a promise of God (Isaac) where Abraham had also laughed at what seemed from a human perspective as an impossible promise to fulfill (Genesis 17:17). Henry spent most of his Christian life thinking about how he might accomplish this vision, albeit in his own strength, and there were many disappointments on a long road ahead. Nonetheless, Henry never let his vision die and continued paving the way with small steps of

A Father to the Fatherless



preparation mixed with faith. Finally, many years later in 2009, a friend in the real estate business reached out to Henry to discuss a property potentially suitable for a ministry center. Henry experienced an excitement on the inside, sensing reassurance that he did, in fact, hear from God some 26 years prior.

As Henry made the drive to view the property, he turned the corner to come into visual contact with the buildings when he suddenly heard the inner voice of God within his human

spirit saying, "This is it!" It wasn't a small building like he had assumed, rather it was a huge four-building campus that included a school and a church. While the buildings were in many different states of despair, ultimately The Father's Heart Ministries was born. A vision and hope for one man was a certain promise on God's timeline that was destined to come to pass for such a time as this.

Without prophetic vision people run wild, but blessed are those who follow God's teachings. (Proverbs 29:18)



The Father's Heart
MINISTRIES, INC.



Above: Kids Ministry with their amazing leaders Nick and Brittany Wyzkiewicz



Right: Celebrating Christmas with the community

Below: the ladies and staff in front of the Father's Heart Facility in Penn, Pennsylvania



article reprinted with permission from The Father's Heart Ministries. <http://www.thefathersheartpa.org>



Interview with the Robertsons

interview by Carmen Marotta
article by Brian Higbee

Too often we see someone come across the stage of CityChurch and never get to hear their stories. The lives of Eddie and Deborah Robertson are so rich with the life, love, and laughter of God that you just need to know more about them.

Eddie and Deborah head up a ministry that is stretching the walls of church, going beyond traditional building-centered ministry. Their focus is three fold. The first is discipling families with kingdom principles and truth that press into them deep into their relationship with the Lord and each other. In addition, Eddie and Deborah come alongside local and regional ministries throughout the nation to strengthen, encourage, and strategize with them into the next season. Finally, Eddie meets with men whose lives have taken them behind the steel bars of prison. "Although they daily see the steel and concrete of prison, their freedom goes far beyond the mere limitations of a cell. Many of these men are sons of God who need encouraged and strengthened. They need reminded that they are sons of a much greater kingdom," says Eddie.



Eddie and Deborah live in Hammond, Louisiana which is an hour north of New Orleans. They have seven daughters, two son-in-laws, seven grandchildren, and a whole lot of life to give.



On behalf of CityChurch Magazine, Carmen Marotta interviewed both Eddie and Deborah Robertson and wanted to share with you what he learned.

CityChurch Magazine (CCM): How did you become part of our City Church family?

Eddie Robertson (ER): I came up to a church in Pennsylvania to help with an Encounter. I met Pastor Brian through a mutual friend, and then Pastor Brian became connected with Pastor Bray's network in Hammond, LA. Pastor Brian would come to LA

for team meetings with Pastor Bray and that's when Pastor Brian and I began to connect more. It became a Kingdom relationship that continues to increase natural and spiritual family.

CCM: What's your favorite sports team?

Deborah Robertson (DR): Saints, even though they're not doing good and LSU.
ER: Saints and University of Tennessee. I have been a Cowboys fan.

CCM: Well that's better than the Ravens or Browns.

So, you have 7 daughters...do you have any good stories about losing track of them in a public place or anything?



Eddie and Deborah Robertson with their wonderful, and powerful daughters.

From left to right: Cheryl, Elizabeth, Sarah, Eddie, Deanna, Deborah, Michelle, Stephanie, Melissa

DR: I can definitely say that we have never lost them before, but we did leave the youngest 2 at home before.

ER: We were leaving to go to the movies and we told the girls to get in the car. So we left and it did seem a little quiet in the back...it wasn't until we arrived at the movies that we realized we were missing the youngest 2. Then we drove back to get them...

DR: ...and it was scary at first because we couldn't find them when we got home. Then we saw them with our next door neighbors. They were 6 and 7 years old and they were crying. It turns out that they went into the new car, got stuck in it, and the neighbors noticed ...but that was a long time ago.

CCM: That's okay, Pastor Brian forgot to bring his boys to church and that happened just a couple of months ago.

ER: Oh yeah, I did hear about that (laughing).

CCM: What is your favorite vacation spot?

ER: Hawaii.

DR: Yes, I agree.

ER: It's a perfect balance, because I like the water and she likes the mountains.

CCM: What is your favorite movie?

DR: I love Disney movies, Tangled and Captain America

ER: Remember the Titans.

CCM: What is your favorite dessert?

DR: Chocolate brownie with vanilla ice cream and caramel.

ER: ANYTHING CHOCOLATE!

CCM: What do you look forward to most when you come to visit us in Connellsville?

DR: Fellowship with people, everybody is awesome...and Janis' cooking.

CCM: Anything specific?

DR: The Stromboli thing...well it's all good.

ER: I look forward to Carmen's Pastor Eddie impressions. (laughs)

DR: We love the opportunity to go to PA...and be cold and enjoy the snow.

ER: Yeah we really treasure the Kingdom relationship. We're grateful and thankful. It's an honor to partner with God and what He is doing.

DR: You guys are real people that love Jesus and love people.

Eddie being Eddie. Spending some fun time with the grandkids.



Every Nation One Tribe



Kashabba Tribe Ministries was started in 2007 in Maryland as the communicative and support vehicle for me (Peter Neuberger) as I left behind the world I knew and moved to the one God called me for in Tanzania, Africa to minister the gospel of Jesus Christ. Merely two months later I met my future wife, the lovely Rebekah Donelson, as she attended a ministry trip I was helping to coordinate in Dar es Salaam.



Rebekah Neuberger ministering

The following year we were engaged on the shores of Boracay Island in the Philippines. A year later we married in her hometown of Wasilla, Alaska. A year and a half later we welcomed our first child into the world, Noelani Anna Sophia. We are currently located in Moshi, Tanzania at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa. Kashabba Tribe is officially recognized as a non-profit by the state of Alaska. We also enjoy 501(c)3 status with the United States government as well.

We exist to bring the revelation of the



Peter Neuberger ministering at a crusade

Father's love as revealed through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ to the nations. It is our heart's desire to release this revelation through ministered love and manifested power in Holy Spirit in the same manner as Jesus when He walked the earth. We

are compelled to give away freely that which we have received as we have experienced life transformation through this grace, this love. We desire to see the lost, broken, and forgotten come into experiential knowledge of this truth: "For God so loved the world, that



The beautiful Sonjo People of Tanzania



He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him, shall not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16).

What is Kashabba?

Kashabba is a fun, spiritual word that was birthed in a leadership meeting in Peter's home church in 2003 after a wonderful corporate

time of experiencing God's Presence. Kashabba can be defined as the experience of the glory of the Father's love resulting in the Kingdom of God being manifested into an atmosphere bringing transformation (2 Cor. 5:17-19) through salvation, healing, and deliverance in love, peace, and joy, with miracles, signs, and wonders following.

What is Kashabba Tribe?

The Kashabba Tribe is simply the family of believers who value and desire to experience the love of God (John 3:16) and bring the hurting, broken, and lost into the experiential truth of this love. We long to see the transforming love of God released in the nations and partner with God to see this longing fulfilled as He desires and wills.



Above: Mount Kilimanjaro



Left and below: Peter has some fun with the kids and even the old warriors.



FAQ's about CityChurch

What is the average service like on Sunday mornings?

We call our service on Sunday morning an "experience." Why? Our motivation is for you to meet with God and His wonderful people. Our worship may be considered intimate, contemporary, or upbeat. The atmosphere could be described as relaxed, energetic, and full of some really loving people. The preaching is focused on becoming who God made you to be as well as pursuing the kingdom of God. Experience Time: Sunday Morning 10 AM and usually finishes around 11:30 AM.

Can I take a beverage into the sanctuary?

You sure can take a beverage into the sanctuary. We ask that children be supervised. If you have a spill just let an usher know and we can clean it up after the experience.

How can I contact CityChurch?

by email: citychurch@citychurch.us by phone: 724.628.0700 by USPS: 206 North Pittsburgh Street, Connellsville, PA

Do you have a ministry for addiction?

We do. Celebrate Recovery meets at Word of Life in Greensburg every Tuesday at 7:00 PM. The address is: 4497 State Route 136 Greensburg, PA 15601. We also have long term addiction ministry at The Father's Heart Ministries in Penn and McKeesport.

What about baptism and child dedication?

At CityChurch we baptize adults and dedicate children. We baptize at least twice each year: Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend. We call our baptism "The Big Splash." We dedicate children when we have families that are ready to dedicate their children to the Lord.

How do I become a member of CityChurch?

At CityChurch we believe membership is based on relationship. Every healthy relationship has visible components such as spending time together, serving each others needs, being a blessing to each other. The same is true of being part of the local body of Christ. And that is how we determine officially if one is part of this local body called CityChurch. To be a member of CityChurch you must actively serve, tithe, and be a regular part of what we do. We are not looking to create lists, but significant and valuable relationships as believers.

Do you do mission trips?

Absolutely. We are actively engaged in several areas of the world: Tanzania (Africa), Kraljevo (Serbia), and Békés (Hungary). We encourage those who are part of CityChurch to go into these uttermost parts of the world.

What are the ages for nursery?

Nursery is open to those children three months to three years of age. For safety of our nursery kids only cleared and authorized staff are permitted in the nursery.

What are the ages for KidzChurch?

Three years up to and including sixth grade.

Is there a teen ministry?

Seeing young people as the church of today is important. Our heart is to integrate young people into the flow and function of CityChurch as soon as they are able. You will see young people serving behind the sound booth, in the café, all throughout the experience. Young people meet in a small group each week but are part of the make up of the whole of CityChurch and are included accordingly.

How do people dress at CityChurch?

As you can see in most of the pictures, everyone is pretty casual. Anything from shorts and T-shirts to a tuxedo works. We do not get our shorts in a knot about how people dress.

What kind of church is CityChurch?

To give you the best answer we need to adjust the question a little. CityChurch is not so much a kind as it is a who. And CityChurch is made up of people. The truth is that CityChurch is made up of those who are a part. So if you ask, "Do you believe in tongues?" The answer is, "Depends on who you ask." We come from different backgrounds and experiences. Many never attended church before; others were Methodist, still others: Catholic, Baptist, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Church of God, atheists, and non-denominational. If you ask someone on the senior leadership team of CityChurch they will respond with something like, "I believe that all of the bible, including the gifts, expression, and miracles are for us to pursue. Yet, each one pursues them a little differently and at a little different pace."

LOVE SERVE GROW



Ministries and Events of CityChurch

Now that you have visited CityChurch you may want to know a little more.

- How do I get involved?
- What kind of mission work is there?
- Am I allowed to take a coffee into the sanctuary?
- Are there bible studies or small groups during the week?
- Is there a nursery? What are the ages?
- What is available for our kids on Sunday morning?
- Is transportation available for someone who doesn't drive?
- Can anyone show me around Citychurch?
- Are your messages available to hear throughout the week?
- What kind of ministry is available throughout the week?

This next section is all about what ministries and events make up CityChurch.

CityChurch Café

A great café with an even better atmosphere

SERVE



The CityChurch Café provides excellent café refreshments while banners an atmosphere of excellence and presence.

Head of Café: Karl Siple

What is the role of a CityChurch café worker?

Café workers promote a vibrantly enjoyable atmosphere for both workers and customers. They foster a warm, friendly, and clean atmosphere before, during, and after each experience. Café workers know and understand excellent preparation of menu items through sufficient instruction and training.



When do Café workers serve?

Café workers serve before and after Sunday morning experiences and throughout special events hosted by CityChurch. Café workers serve on average 2 times per month.

Responsibilities of a CityChurch café worker:

- Arrive 15 minutes prior to café opening.
- Prepare and serve excellent café drinks and goods.
- Maintain a vibrant and enjoyable atmosphere for workers and

customers through friendliness and a warm welcoming smile.

- Maintain good sanitation and cleanliness of the café and foyer area.
- Work at a fast pace to provide quick exceptional drinks and food to customers in a timely fashion.
- Operate the café register with accurate recording of all sales and transactions and maintain financial accountability.
- Perform closing duties which include cleaning and completing a financial report.



The CityChurch Café is open one hour prior to each experience beginning and immediately after the end of each experience.





Scenes from the café where the workers delight in making those visiting the café the tastiest, freshest snacks. From tea to latte, smoothies to muffins the CityChurch Café sets a refreshing, enjoyable atmosphere as you come and go at CityChurch.

Oh, and by the way...please feel free to take your drinks in the sanctuary.

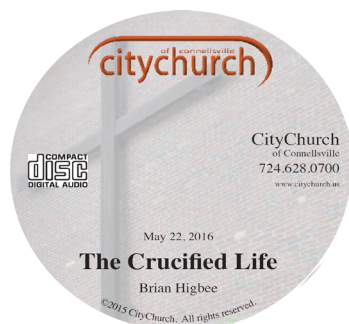
CityChurch Bookstore

The CityChurch BookStore ministry is to promote continual spiritual growth in the Kingdom of God by making relevant resource materials easily accessible at a fair price.

Head of BookStore: Janis Higbee

Role of a BookStore worker

BookStore workers are knowledgeable about books and materials that promote



CD's of each week's message are available at the bookstore.

kingdom growth, are able to answer questions about materials available at the BookStore, promote and sell BookStore materials, and provide friendly service at the BookStore.

When do BookStore workers serve?

BookStore workers open the BookStore prior to the Sunday morning experience and also once the experience concludes. BookStore workers serve 1-2 times a month on Sunday mornings as well as during special CityChurch events.

What responsibilities do BookStore workers have?

- Arrive 50 minutes prior to the experience to participate in Sunday morning prayer meetings.
- Be knowledgeable about materials available at the BookStore.
- Maintain a peaceful and friendly atmosphere at the BookStore.
- Manage the BookStore finances with accurate recording of all sales and transactions and maintain financial accountability.



An example of books sold at the CityChurch bookstore. This one, Living the Kingdom Life, by Sr. Leader, Brian Higbee.

Transportation Ministry

The transportation ministry team provides reliable transportation to and from CityChurch for the purpose of creating a way for those who have no other transportation to come and experience God, His presence, and His people in the local Church.

Head of Transportation: Kenny Leyda

Role of transportation ministry

The transportation ministry drives to local homes and facilities to bring visitors and members to CityChurch experiences. The transportation ministry provides clean transportation with friendly service. Volunteers need to be able to easily follow directions to get to their destination.

When do volunteers serve?

Transportation is offered every Sunday morning prior to the experience to transport people to service and after the

experience ends to return them back home. In addition, the transportation team helps transport guest speakers when they come to CityChurch and at times also provide transportation for special events.

What responsibilities does the transportation ministry have?

- The transportation team needs to have clean and reliable transportation and be willing to use their personal vehicle if needed.
- When picking up guest speakers, have water/their favorite beverage and/or snacks available to them in the vehicle (especially when transporting a guest speaker to/from the airport).
- Be responsible and willing to make additional stops to accommodate guest speakers as need arises.
- Be a licensed, responsible, and safe driver.



Rob and Jody (pictured) Bloom are often found picking up those who need a ride to CityChurch.

Altar Ministry

The altar ministry team is to create, maintain, and increase heavenly flow between the people and God by praying, assisting the lead minister with ministry, assisting those being ministered to, and creating a safe and comfortable atmosphere for those being ministered to.

Head of ministry:
Kenny Leyda

Role of an altar minister

Altar ministers are an extension of the lead minister. They are expected to

affect the spiritual atmosphere through prayer, intercession, and discernment. They are also expected to affect the natural atmosphere at the altar through awareness of people's need for comfort, assisting those seeking ministry to the altar, keeping order at the altar, and creating a safe atmosphere for those receiving ministry.

When do altar ministers serve?

Altar ministers serve during Sunday morning experiences, regionwide prayer (once each month), and any other special events where altar ministry takes place. Altar ministers

serve each time altar ministry takes place.

What responsibilities do altar ministers have?

- Arrive 50 minutes prior to the experience to participate in morning prayer meetings on Sundays they serve at the altar.
- Safely and appropriately catch anyone who may fall down during ministry at the altar.
- Pray and partner with the lead minister as they minister at the altar.

Audio/Video Production

The audio and visual ministry reaches beyond the four walls of CityChurch and provides relevant Kingdom teaching to those who are not currently part of the Church, are unable to attend traditional church (whether temporarily or permanently), or want to study deeper the concepts taught by hearing the message multiple times.

Head of Production:
Jill Wiltrout

Role of a CityChurch audio/visual producer

The audio/visual production team is first expected to record and keep excellent audio/visual records of every service

and/or special events that CityChurch participates in. They then use those recordings to produce quality media and make it available to the public through CDs, DVDs, YouTube videos, podcast, the CityChurch website, cable television, and social media.

When does the audio/visual production team serve?

The production team is most noticed on Sunday mornings while recording the experience and filming at special events/outreaches that CityChurch participates in. Production and editing happen at varying times throughout the week. Each experience takes between 2-4 hours to produce in full to all the media formats CityChurch offers.

Responsibilities of an audio/visual team member

- Arrive 50 minutes prior to the experience to participate in Sunday morning prayer meetings when scheduled.
- Presentation of the projector and screen during Sunday morning experiences and special events.
- Recording, editing, and production of the CityChurch TV show.
- Production of CityChurch CDs and DVDs.
- Production and publication of the CityChurch podcast. Production and publication of the CityChurch.us website.



Watch CityChurch TV on:

ARMSTRONG
ONE WISE. INFINITE POSSIBILITIES.

Channel 61 - CUTV 11:00 am Sunday



Channel 77 - FCTV 6:00 am Sunday

Channel 77 - FCTV 10:00 am Sunday

Channel 17 - CUTV 11:00 am Sunday



youtube.com/citychurhus

Messages Available



Now on CD:

- *Becoming Powerful - Where to Look, Where to Speak* - Brian Higbee
- *Becoming Powerful - The Mirror of Emotions* - Brian Higbee



These messages are also available on Podcast

Welcome Team

Making your first moments at CityChurch

SERVE



The welcome team makes the ideal experience for a person visiting the first time or regularly. What is an ideal experience? It is to have an enjoyable

and positively memorable experience meeting God and God's people.

Head of Welcome Team: Bryan & Jen Metzger

Role of a CityChurch welcome team member

Welcome team members provide excellent greeting with the "five absolutes of an excellent greeting":

- A warm verbal welcome - "Hello.

Welcome to CityChurch."

- A friendly physical touch - extending a hand shake or a hug
- Keeping entrance areas clear and accessible
- Greet with a smile
- Let each person know they are seen by making eye contact

When does the Welcome Team serve?

The welcome team places importance on every person who comes to CityChurch. They greet throughout the entire Sunday morning experience so not one person enters CityChurch without being greeted.

Welcome team members serve 1 hour time slots once or twice a month on Sunday mornings. Additionally, the welcome team also greets for regionwide prayer meetings (once a month) and special events or meetings

at CityChurch. The average welcome team member serves twice each month.

Responsibilities of a Welcome Team member:

- Be on time and in position to greet prior to the start of your shift
- Make it a priority to greet every person entering CityChurch
- Hand out bulletins
- Follow the five absolutes of an excellent greeting
- Set the atmosphere for people to have an enjoyable and positive experience meeting God and God's people through personal preparation in prayer and intimacy with the Lord
- Keep conversation to a minimum and remain focused on greeting





welcome



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KidzChurch

CityKidz being the powerful church of today.

SERVE



We recognize that our children are not the church of tomorrow but are the church of today. KidzChurch creates an atmosphere by which kids are going

to "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" for their lives.

Head of ministry: Kathy Thayer

Role of KidzChurch teachers and helpers:

KidzChurch teachers bring inspiration that fosters breakthrough, inspiring the kids to believe in Jesus, to believe God, to believe for healing, to be disciples. They impart the tangible and real kingdom of God through excellent preparation, leadership, teaching, and impartation. They are expected to prepare and teach so that the children will understand, pursue, and begin to apply in their everyday lives what they have received.

When do KidzChurch teachers/helpers serve?

KidzChurch teachers and helpers serve during the Sunday morning experience



from the conclusion of worship until all children have been picked up by their parents after the experience ends. They also serve at special kids events and special events hosted by CityChurch. Teachers serve 2 concurrent weeks every 6 weeks and helpers serve once every 2-3 months.

Responsibilities of a KidzChurch Teacher/Helper:

- Develop teachings from curriculum and execute it in such a way that the kids understand it and can put it into practice.
- Be organized and maintain order in the classroom.
- Be a Godly example to the kids and a role model they can look up to and follow.
- Provide the Church with a clear criminal clearance and child abuse clearance prior to serving.
- Be 18 years of age or older.
- When teaching be part of the staff prayer/preparation meeting held in the green room at 9:10 AM.



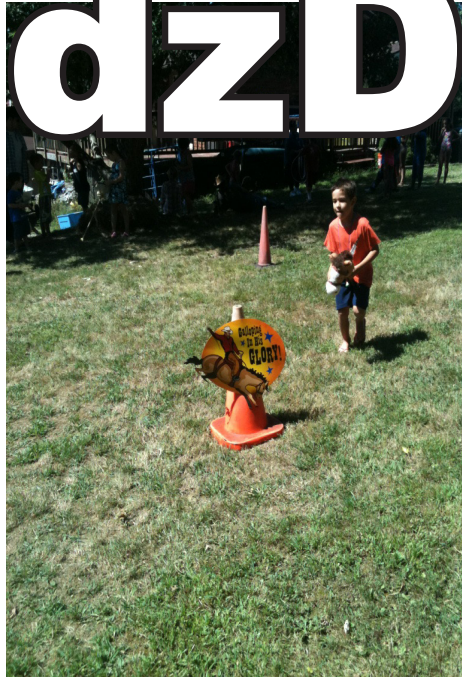
Kidz Church



Fun all around:
Having fun while learning to walk out the journey with Jesus is what our CityKidz do. Their coaches are committed to not only teaching them about the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit but helping them to experience the Lord powerfully.



Kidz Day



Worship Team

Presence above performance

It is the heart of CityChurch to seek the kingdom and His righteousness. David set our example at the beginning of his life as he worshipped the Lord in the sheep fields. He may have begun simply because he enjoyed music, but the end result was David falling headlong into a deep and intimate relationship that left an impression on the Lord. There are not many that the Lord called, "One after My own heart." That is our desire at CityChurch. Our worship is to lead those who are part of our experience into a deep and intimate encounter with the Lord. To that end, CityChurch worship is lead by a team committed to that very purpose.

Head of Worship: Ben and Jessica Higbee

Role of worship team members

The first primal directive of the worship team is God's presence and leading others into the presence of God through worship. This requires a lifestyle of worship and deep relationship with God. Worship must flow from a heart and lifestyle that desire one thing alone...Him.

The second involves the practical application of musicianship. Because of the nature of the worship team and expertise needed, basic skills are required to be part of the active experience. A tryout is to assess the basic skills to determine whether a musician can be active or in training. Team members include but are not

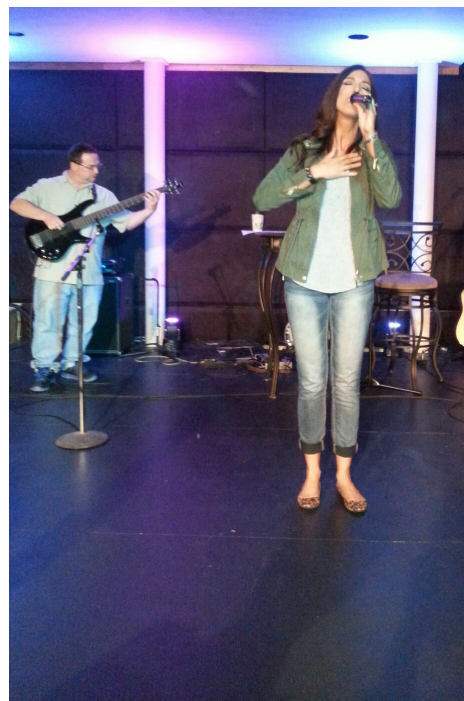
limited to vocalists, musicians, sound technicians, and let's not forget the Necessary Editing Recognition Display Specialists - NERDS. (by their own naming)

When does the worship team serve?

- Every Sunday morning as part of the Sunday morning experience.
- Regionwide prayer meetings (once a month).
- TheCore meetings (once a month).
- All special events and/or meetings held at CityChurch.
- Periodically the team is asked to play at city events and/or regional events such as: The National Day of Prayer, the Palm Sunday processional, etc.

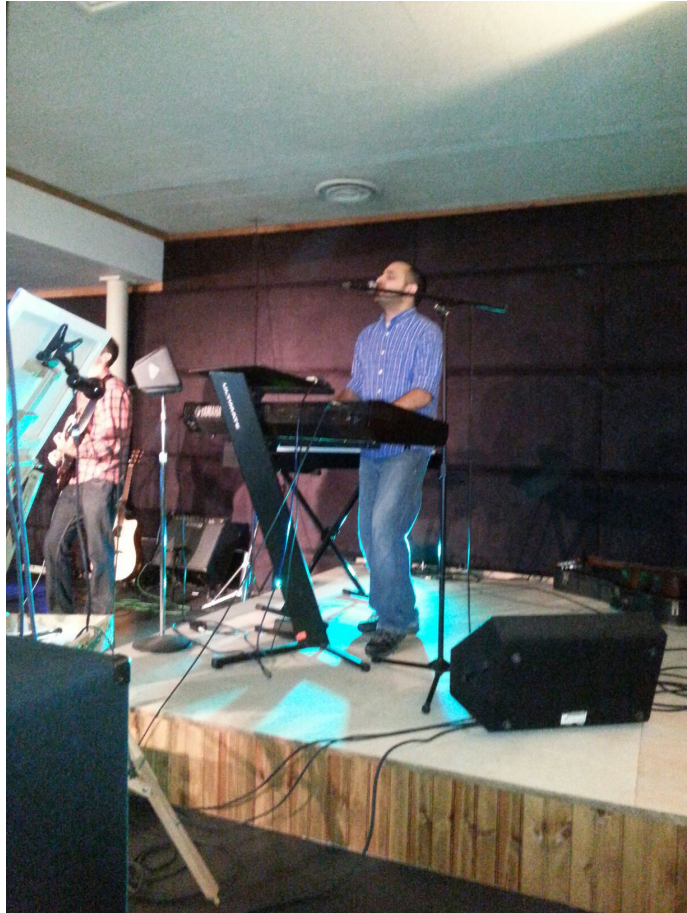
Responsibilities of Worship Team members:

- Be devoted to prayer and seeking God in the Word as a daily lifestyle.
- To be prepared for and attend all worship team practices.
- Practice at least twice a week, separate from team practices.
- Be in position and ready before practices are scheduled to begin.
- Continually pursue growth in your musical abilities, which may include seeking lessons or additional practice with team members.
- Arrive at 8:30 AM. Sunday mornings and attend a weekly prayer meeting Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM.
- Be responsible to learn and master your specific musical parts.





Above left: Jason Pishney slashing it on the electric.
Below left: Spontaneous worship led by Breanne Marotta (not part of the regular worship team)



Above right: Carmen Marotta vocals and keys
Below right: David Quairiere on bass



The Guide Ministry

Connecting visitors

The guide ministry connects visitors with the people and the facilities of CityChurch so they feel accepted, welcomed, and comfortable.

Head of ministry: Cheryl Leyda

Role of a Guide

The guide ministry facilitates an excellent CityChurch experience through: personal welcome, introduction to the congregation, introduction to the facilities, and genuine caring conversation. This is accomplished by having a presence in the café area and actively looking for persons who are feeling awkward, persons in need, and/or persons unknown or separate from others.

When do guides serve?

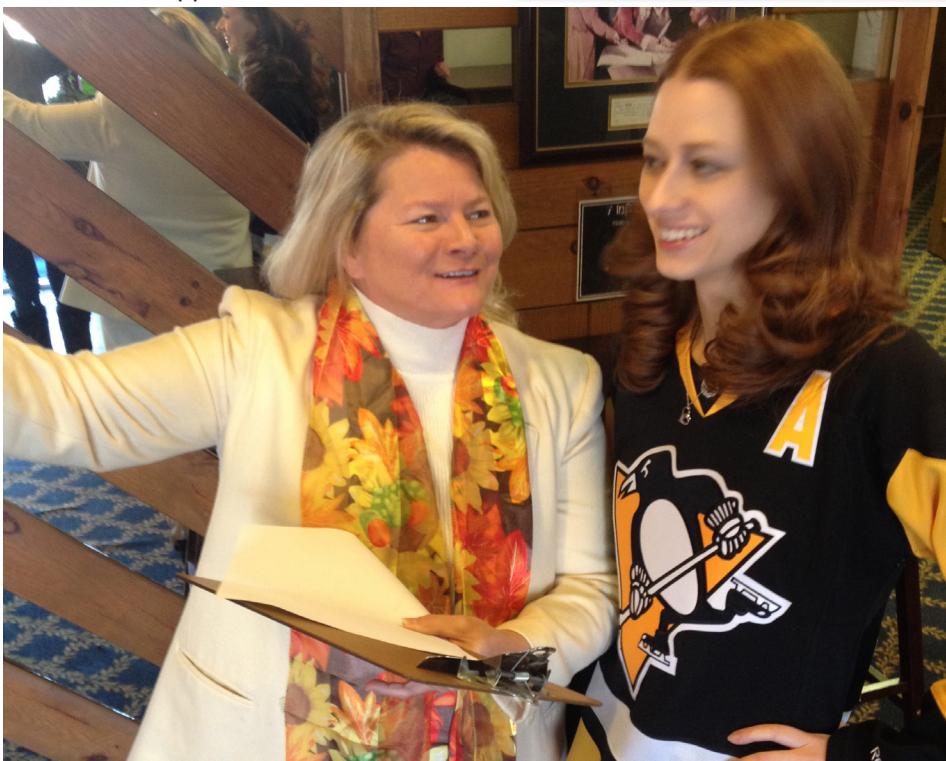
CityChurch guides are engaged on Sunday mornings prior to the experience as well as after the experience ends.

What responsibilities do guides have?

- Be available and accessible in the café/foyer area Sunday mornings
- Actively look for persons that are in need, appear to feel awkward/



Cheryl Leyda, head of the guide ministry, shows Sarah Tucholski how a guide helps visitors to feel welcomed at CityChurch.



- separate, or are new to CityChurch
- Address the needs/wants of those attending CityChurch through direction, explanation, and/or information
- Know locations of places of interest at CityChurch and direct those in need to these places (nursery, KidzChurch, rest rooms, sanctuary, bulletins, exits, café, foyer, book store, green room, offices, etc.)
- Have knowledge of additional CityChurch resources: cells, TV shows, CDs, podcast, Constant Devotion Facebook page, CityChurch Magazine, website, etc.
- Know how to answer questions like “What denomination is CityChurch?”, “What does CityChurch believe?”

Nursery and Toddlers

Not just babysitters



The nursery ministry provides a safe and spiritually charged atmosphere for children ages 3 months to 3 years old through prayer, worship, interaction, and playtime.

Head of nursery:
Terri Kollar

Role of a nursery worker

Nursery workers have the privilege of being the first of the CityChurch teams to introduce our babies and toddlers to the kingdom of God. Nursery workers do this through praying for, worshipping with, interacting and playing with the children, and extending genuine Godly love to them.



When do Nursery workers serve?

Nursery workers serve during the Sunday morning experience each week, regionwide prayer and TheCore once per month, and other special events. A nursery worker can expect to serve once every two months.

What responsibilities do Nursery Workers have?

- Arrive at 9:10 AM to participate in experience team prayer.
- Arrive prepared and in position to open the nursery 15 minutes prior to the start of the experience.
- Maintain a safe, spiritually charged atmosphere and minister to the children.
- Keep casual conversation between adults to a minimum as well as cell phone usage.
- Learn and use the child/parent identification system.
- Clean the nursery at the end of every experience or event.
- Understand and follow all discipline policies and nursery procedures.
- Have a clear criminal background check and child abuse clearance prior to serving in the nursery.
- Be age 18 or older.



Sozo Ministry

Saved, Healed, Delivered

SOZO is the Greek word translated “save, healed, delivered.” Sozo ministry is a unique inner healing and deliverance ministry aimed to get to the root of things hindering your personal connection with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. With a healed connection you can walk in the destiny to which you have been called. Sozo is a time of interacting with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for wholeness and pursuing your destiny.

Head of Sozo: Breanne Marotta

Role of a sozo team member

Sozo team members must maintain a lifestyle of relationship with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is through these relationships that they create an atmosphere where others can pursue salvation, healing, and deliverance.

Responsibilities of a sozo team members

- Sozo team members must complete 12 2-hour training sessions to learn the sozo tools followed by a trial period of learning to apply those tools.
- All sozo team members must go through a sozo ministry session prior to joining the sozo team.
- Sozo team members must attend monthly sozo meetings (third Tuesday of every month).
- Sozos are typically scheduled Tuesday evenings at which time sozo team members need to be available to minister.
- Maintain a lifestyle of relationship with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Recommended that all sozo team members read Culture of Honor by Danny Silk
- Understand sozo materials completely, how to lead a sozo session, and the ultimate impact sozo has on the local Church.
- Be actively involved in a City-Church cell group (attending weekly meetings and accountable to a cell leader).
- Keep all ministry sessions safe, comfortable, and confidential.



Below: Breanne Marotta, team leader and Chelsie Fike, team member ministering to Becky Pishney. As you can see, Sozo is enjoyable and relaxed yet helps bring about great change.





Above: Jason Pishney being sozoed by Karl Siple and Breanne Marotta

Center: Another Sozo session, this time with Chelsie Fike and Jessica Stuart



Below: The Sozo Ministry Team
From left to right: Jessica Stuart, Breanne Marotta, Chelsie Fike, Karl Siple



Cell/Small Groups

What are cell groups? Cell groups are small groups that meet each week throughout the surrounding communities. The purpose of cell groups are for believers to come together in a relaxed home atmosphere to share, pray, and foster great relationships. We have mens, womens, kids, and mixed cell groups meeting at various times and locations. Healthy kingdom relationships are important to living healthy kingdom life. And that is the very reason we value cell groups.

What can you expect if you visit a cell group? First, every cell group not only welcomes but invites you to visit and take part. We believe that we are far

better together than apart so we value you finding the right cell group. Each time the cells meet you can expect a brief time of sharing the Word, prayer, worship, needs being met, encouragement, and impartation.

Cell groups communicate, discuss, and keep fresh the vision God has given us. Vision keeps us moving forward toward what God has for us. To get where God wants us to be, we need to know where we are headed and work as a community to get there.

Cell groups supply everyone's needs and therefore strengthen each other and CityChurch as a whole.

Because cell groups meet in homes they are a safe and gentle place to bring those who have not yet met the Lord. They are also places of faith where ministry takes place by everyone and anyone that wants to be used by God. Brand new believers attending cell groups have found that they can pray for people and God answers their prayers too.

Cell groups are not the only answer to helping people at CityChurch feel like a vital part of the kingdom of God...but they sure do go a long way to make that true.

Cell Group Information

Women's Cell Groups

Tuesday 7:00 PM – led by Lee Higgs

Where: 133 Pennsylvania Ave., Vanderbilt

Contact Lee for more information at 724-398-5188

Tuesday 7:30 PM – led by Tish Tucholski

Where: (contact Tish)

Contact Tish for more information at 724-708-0285

Wednesday 11:00 AM – led by Kathy Thayer

Where: 326 Englishman Hill Road, Connellsville

Contact Kathy for more information at 724-628-4353

Wednesday 5:30 PM – led by Jessica Stuart

Where: 321 Back St, Mt. Pleasant

Contact Jessica for more information at 724-309-6093

Wednesday 7:00 PM – led by Kathy Thayer

Where: 326 Englishman Hill Road, Connellsville

Contact Kathy for more information at 724-628-4353

Thursday 10:30AM – led by Brenda Siple

Where: 106 Griscom Street, Dawson

Contact Brenda for more information at 724-562-8667

Thursday 6:30 PM – led by Terri Kollar

Where: 623 Stone Street, Greensburgh

Contact Terri for more information at 724-309-3394

Men's Cell Groups:

Monday, 12:30 PM – led by Keith Price

Where: 7 Railroad St. Apt. B, Fairchance

Contact Keith for more information at 724-322-7075

Wednesday, 7:30 PM – led by Greg Stuart

Where: 321 Back St, Mt. Pleasant

Contact Greg for more information at 724-912-2574

Friday 7:00 PM – led by Jake Tucholski

Where: CityChurch – 206 N Pittsburgh St, Connellsville

Contact Jake for more information at 724-708-4428

Youth Cell Group:

Thursday 6:00 PM – led by Lee Higgs

Where: CityChurch (206 N. Pittsburgh St., Connellsville)

Contact Lee for more information at 724-398-5188

CityChurch Voices

article by Jason Pishney

What if people have a desire to grow in worship but do not feel the call to join the worship team? What if people desire to grow in their worship gifts and worship experiences and are looking for a way to explore? These were questions that members of the worship team and CityChurch leadership had that God answered in the summer of 2015 when this ministry began.

What is it about? How did this ministry begin?

“The focus of the group is to develop our community of worship here at CCOC (CityChurch of Connellsville),” states Carmen Marotta, the visionary and leader of CityChurch Voices. “I saw a hunger in our congregation and I didn’t want everyone to feel like they had to join the worship team in order to deepen their worship experience.”

Why do members attend this ministry?

“Members have attended for multiple

reasons. Some people have come to develop a better understanding of worship. Some have an interest in learning to lead worship vocally or use their musical talents. Others attend to develop their song writing skills,” says Carmen.

What have the meetings looked like so far?

“We’ve had discussions on our experiences in worship as well as casting vision for the group. We’ve (continued from

also had two meetings that focused on song writing as well as a meeting where we just worshipped in God's presence," Carmen says.

When do they meet? When can people join?

They meet on the third Wednesday evening of every month. There is open enrollment for interested participants.

Where is this group heading in 2016?

"In 2016, we are looking to lead the worship segment in at least a few CityChurch events. We also plan to

have more meetings that focus on song writing and flowing in God's presence. Some of us plan to attend a prophetic worship workshop at an outside church." – Carmen Marotta

Encounters

the most life changing thing we do

Talk to anyone who has been at CityChurch for a while and you will find that one of the most life changing events that they have experienced being part of CityChurch is an encounter. You hear the excitement and freedom that is part of an encounter in their voice. You can feel the intimacy with the Lord that has become a regular part of their lives after an encounter.

So what is an encounter? An encounter is a time you and others set aside to spend with the Lord that allows you to be ministered to, grow, root out, tear down, build up, and generally make yourself available to accelerate into the next season of who you are.

We accomplish so much in a short time for several reasons:

1. We set aside the majority of a weekend to spend with and make ourselves available to the Lord. An encounter typically begins on Friday night, continues through Saturday, ending on Sunday morning.
2. The Lord takes serious when His sons and daughters get serious with Him. A good Father wants to spend time with His kids so there is a noticeable, tangible increase in the presence of the Lord.
3. Our encounter team is one of the best in the nation. They are experienced and available at the encounter to help you navigate into the next season of your life. Those

things in your life that have been plaguing you or that you have just given up on become targets that Holy Spirit helps you to take aim, pull the trigger, and deal with once and for all.

4. The facilities we use are chosen for their ability to inspire, encourage, and allow for intimate time with the Lord, encouraging time with other believers, and an overall life changing time.
5. The schedule makes great use of and encourages time for: teaching, ministry, fellowship, meals, personal reflection and recreation time.

TheCore

If you are an active part of CityChurch, you are part of TheCore.

TheCore is made up of those who consider themselves an active part of CityChurch. We meet once each month for meaty teaching, impartation, discussing what is ahead for CityChurch, and being available to be what is needed within the body. TheCore is what makes CityChurch able to

accomplish great things for God. We meet in the sanctuary of CityChurch at 5:30 PM the third Sunday of every month.

Almost every other month we invite one of the senior leaders within our region to speak into, impart, lay hands

on TheCore. We believe that without TheCore taking an active role, we will only accomplish a small part of the calling God has placed on CityChurch.



3rd Sunday Each Month 5:30pm

The Core

Essential



Deep-rooted



Elemental

Benevolence Ministry

The love of God one help at a time

article by Brenda Siple

SERVE



What is the CityChurch Benevolence Ministry? A dictionary will define benevolence as the wish to do good; kindness, generosity. A charitable act. Under these terms, the world in general is chock full of benevolent ministry being carried out every minute of every day by thousands of good-hearted people with good intents as they perform countless random acts of kindness. So what sets our

benevolence ministry apart from all that? God's love does! Here at City Church we believe that Father God, Jesus, and Holy Spirit are very intentional in Their love for and towards us. So, we in turn, are very intentional about the way we go about loving people and pointing them to God's love. We go beyond good intentions to reveal God's intentions for their life. By meeting one physical need at a time, we're able to offer tangible hope that God's love for that person is real and that He cares about them right where they are, in whatever circumstance they're in. They are not alone. And, whatever crisis they're going through is only temporary. God has a plan. It is to provide for all our needs and to cause each one of us to prosper within His Kingdom. His Kingdom is now and it is eternal. Therefore, as we fulfill each 'now-time' need, we are touching people with the 'forever-realm' of God. He loves us now. He loves us tomorrow. He will still love us a million trillion years from now: personally, intimately, extravagantly, undyingly.

I like to think of our benevolence ministry as family taking care of family. Papa God has designed His Kingdom to be supernaturally relational. He is our Father. We are His children. His Son, Jesus, is our brother. We are all family! Even more than that, we are His body, Christ's bride, THE Church. We are supernaturally connected to Him and to each other. That's why everything we do through the benevolence ministry is done with the desire to love people and connect them to the Father's love. From there we encourage them to get connected to their spiritual family within THE Church; whether that's here at City Church or at another house of worship that's flowing with a different flavor/ expression of Kingdom.

Every person seeking help is hugged on, loved on, prayed for,



The iCan ministry is part of the benevolence ministry at CityChurch. Once a month we ask everyone to bring one or two cans or boxes of non-perishable food to have on hand for those in need.

and prayed with. Every item of food that we touch is prayed over to satisfy a hungry belly, as well as reveal the need to hunger for the pursuit of God. Likewise, every dollar that is sown into the benevolence ministry is prayed over to not only buy fuel to warm a family but their hearts will melt as they feel the consuming fire of His burning love. Or as it pays a water bill to keep water flowing into a home, they will experience Christ's living water first-hand and never be thirsty again. CityChurch's Benevolence Ministry is not a bill paying center, nor is it an extended food closet. It is a bridge to a better life, a Godly life, a kingdom life. We do not just put people on the bridge to a better life, pat them on the back, and say, "Good luck with that." We follow up with them, check in to see how they are doing, and if need be, we help them connect to other ministries and agencies who can help them in a broader way. For example, if there is a medical issue, but they can't afford to see a doctor, we may direct them to Wesley Health Center. If we do not have the resource they need, we help them find it. If you are reading this article wondering how you can be part of this fantastic, life-changing ministry team (I'm glad you asked!), perhaps the most important ways are:

- 1) Donate non-perishable food items. We host the iCan ministry every third Sunday of every month. We ask everyone to bring in two cans of food in order to keep our shelves stocked and readily available for those in need.
- 2) Consider making monetary donations to the Benevolence Ministry a regular part of your giving. You may not think a five dollar monthly contribution sounds like much, but when combined with my five, and Suzy's five, and Jim's five....it adds up quickly.

Through your generous giving, in the past six months, we were able to provide food to five different families, and helped two families avoid utility service termination. Of those seven needs, four were right here in our CityChurch family. Also, when Connellsville Community Ministries food bank was running low, we were able to share food with them.

Interested in being involved in Benevolence Ministry in a more hands-on way? Let Brenda or Karl Siple, Jake or Tish Tucholski, Dave or Jill Wiltrout know. We would be happy to provide information on duties, what is required, and how to serve.



Application to Serve

Name: _____ Age: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Do you text? Yes No

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

I am applying to serve in the department or ministry of: (example: usher ministry) _____

for the position of: (example: usher) _____

Do you have any experience in this position? Yes No

If so please explain: _____

Please list any other positions you currently serve: _____

Before applying to this position, have you prayed and asked the Lord if this is His will for you to serve in this position?

Yes No

Before applying to this position, have you considered the qualifications, expectations, and responsibilities for this position?

Yes No

Do you understand that you will be challenged with regard to your time, effort, energy, and willingness to serve?

Yes No

Are you willing to seek out and access the grace that God has given to you to serve in this position even when challenged?

Yes No

Do you understand that it is God's intent and part of His plan that you serve and are challenged in serving as part of His greater plan for you to grow and love?

Yes No

It is the heart of CityChurch to help you in every way to love, serve, and grow. We are committed to you and understand the challenges that are ahead. Each leader is committed to pray for you, encourage you, and enjoy with you the abundant grace and provision that God provides.

Please share your heart concerning why you want to serve in this position: _____



The Application to Serve Process

What do I do with this application?

1. After completing in entirety, drop in the offering or in the box in the foyer marked Applications to Serve.
2. The application will be received by the staff of CityChurch, recorded, then assigned to leader of the department you are applying.
3. The leader will contact you for a personal interview.
4. Your application will be accepted or an explanation of why it is not accepted will be provided.
5. You will be assigned a trainer, and the necessary training.
6. You will then be assigned to the position and scheduled.
7. You will have periodic reviews by leadership to help you grow and mature and serve with excellence.

A Letter From the Senior Leader of CityChurch

I am writing this to the one choosing to serve.

First and foremost, I am grateful that you are part of CityChurch. It is my conviction that you make CityChurch better. Secondly, I am excited that you are in God's process of loving, serving, and growing.

I recognize that the challenges ahead, as you serve, will not be easy. But, they will be what move and mature you from one season of this kingdom life to the next.

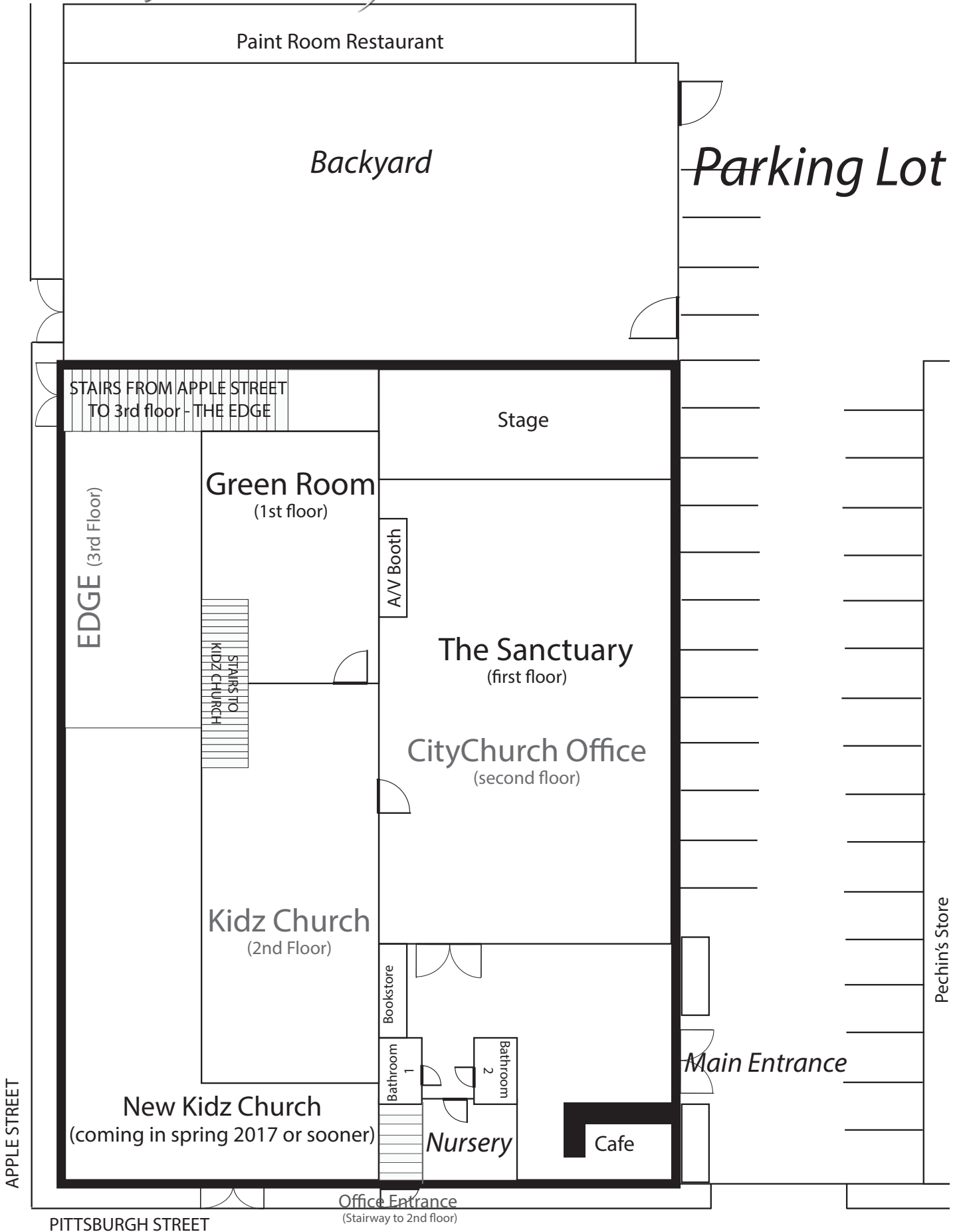
It is my personal conviction that no position, no task, nor anything the Lord asks is to be determined too small or too large, above or beneath me. If the Lord asks, then it is important to the Lord and He thinks it can and should be done. He thinks that the time, energy, and resources of the one He is asking are enough.

As you serve, you will come to the end of yourself: your time, energy, resources, desire. And that is the point. You discover that you have limitations but God does not. When you get to the end of you, you run into the endless provision of Him. That is by design...love, serve, grow (see page 4).

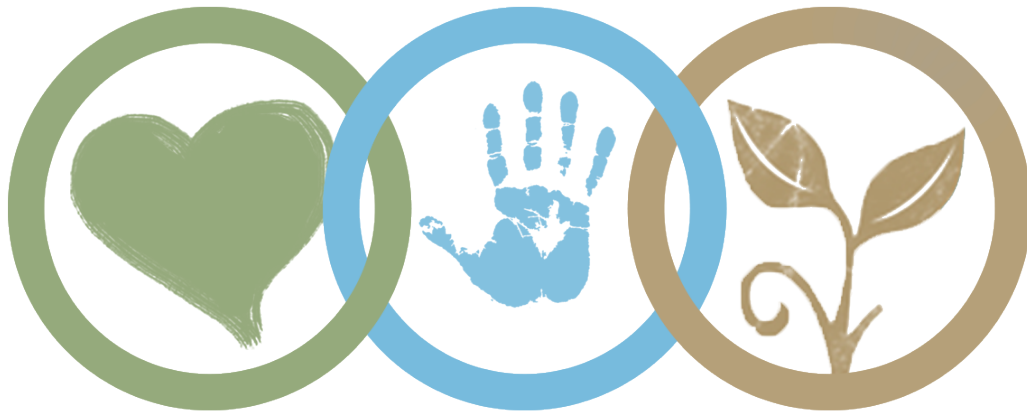
I and all of Citychurch are looking forward to loving, serving, and growing with you.

In Him,

Brian Higbee
Senior Leader of CityChurch



LOVE SERVE GROW



pursuing the King, His people, and the kingdom

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email: citychurch@citychurch.us

website: www.citychurch.us

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