

## COLLEGE MINISTRY— DAILY WALK IS EASIER WITH A LITTLE HELP OF FRIENDS

Katie Arnold

We are commanded as Christians to not only love one another with words or tongue, but also with actions and in truth (1 John 3:18).

The College Group at Central Church of Christ constantly strives to love one another in this manner as it continues to grow. This ministry serves students and young adults in the area by providing opportunities for outreach, service, and fellowship. It is instrumental in helping students transition to the college life while continuing to grow spiritually.

In Mark 16:15, Jesus tells us to go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation. In the College Group, students have opportunities and support as they work together to reach out to fellow students and community members.

Many such opportunities have presented themselves over the past two semesters of the program. To highlight a few — on several Sunday mornings, Christians in the group have gone to Wellington Place for a worship service with the residents. In October, the group took part in a workshop with Ron Wilkins on dealing with emotional pain. Over sixty students and community

members came to the college house to hear Mr. Wilkins speak! Every Tuesday evening, students gather at 708 West Maple Street for dinner and a Bible study. Over the past year, attendance at these Bible studies has risen to over thirty people per week. It is a

wonderful problem when we run out of seating! These devotionals, along with young adult classes about the importance of baptism and the truth of the Bible, are imperative tools in outreach. We are thankful for new brothers and sisters in Christ who are now important members of the College Group. Like outreach, service is an important part of our Christian walk. We are told to “let [our] light shine before others so that they may see [our] good works and give glory to our Father who is in heaven”

(Matthew 5:16). Over the past year, the College Group has taken part in many opportunities to serve those in this community, across the country, and in other parts of the world. Members of the group have served through teaching children’s classes and providing child care during seminars. Several members

of the group worked in Edisto on the continuing efforts towards a church building in that area. In March of 2007, the College Group went on a mission trip to Alajuela, Costa Rica. Here, we had the opportunity to invite community members and host English classes that focused on the Bible. We also had a Vacation Bible School to teach the Scriptures to children. In December of 2007, members

of the College Group went to San Diego, California to assist in the clean-up efforts after wildfires devastated many homes. We look forward to spending a week on Edisto Island in May as we work on the building project there.

Last, but not least, the College Group has many opportunities for fellowship among Christians. We pray for the spirit of encouragement and unity Paul describes in Romans 15, so that we may, with one voice, glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (verse 6).

As the College Group has grown over the past year, we have had many opportunities to edify one another as we spend time together. Members share activities such as winter and spring retreats, meals, singing devotionals, sports events and ski trips. Time spent with one another has presented opportunities to positively influence each other and provide encouragement. As one can see, the group acts as a support group for each other as we work together to serve the Lord.

While it may often seem difficult to live a Christian life in today’s world, we know that the Lord is ever present in our everyday lives. We look forward to what the Lord will do through our college ministry in the coming year!



THE

# Connections

Getting Everyone Involved in the Life of the Central Church of Christ

## NEWSLETTER

### MORE THAN A DINNER —

Ken Misterly

On Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup> approximately 50 group leaders & their spouses met for the 2<sup>nd</sup> biannual group leader dinner with the Central Connections group. The gathering was to continue the development/fostering of Connections groups and to celebrate the successes. Matthew 25 tells us that when we use our talents to multiply...it pleases the Lord. If we are lazy or fearful and bury our talents (as did the servant with one talent)...it does not please Him. We are accountable for our talents.

An illustration by Steve Williams gave examples of the need to continually invite new people to groups. Steve talked about the stages of the group life cycle in the Men’s early morning Bible Study. First, the initial excitement of an early morning Men’s Bible Study, then the decline of group attendance as time pressure (and the 6:00am start time) weighs in, other commitments take priority and group members flow in & out. He reminded us that we all need to be inviting new folks...to keep the water flowing & fresh. By inviting new members to the Monday Men’s Bible Study we have doubled our group attendance, learned much more about the Bible and developed several key friendships

Toni Abercrombie and Jill Fair spoke about using the Connections Newsletter as a way to communicate group information, build excitement and make memories. A request was made to the various group leaders to

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A fantastic dinner was prepared and served by Patti Fatherree and Ken Lutterman.

### NEW WORKBOOK INTRODUCED CREATED FOR THOSE NEW TO CENTRAL

A copy of the first *New To Central Orientation Workbook* was distributed among group leaders. This first class series was offered over a span of three weeks in January. New To Central class attendees learned of the:

- Past/Present/Future of Central Church of Christ
- The new building
- Current education programs
- Received directories of the Staff, Elders and Deacons
- Signed up for various lines of communication (e-bulletins, prayer lists, phone tree, etc)
- Learned of the outreach programs
- And *Connections* (1) Get to know the family (2) Use your Talents for the Lord and (3) provide a Safety Net helping to prevent family members from falling away

centralconnections@hotmail.com

## EVEN SIMPLY "HANGING OUT" BRINGS ENCOURAGEMENT —

Luci Jernigan

We are the 7th-12th Grade Girls. A subgroup of the Youth Group, we meet every Wednesday night in room 6A.

We have lots of fun together as well as do service projects. We have many sleep overs where we play games and just hang out. Our last project was shopping for the children of the Blountville, TN Children's Home. We went to Kohls and shopped for four children, getting each a number of outfits, coats, and some toys. There were 23 of us who piled into Kohls, spreading out to various areas of the store and conquering individual tasks to find gifts for their assigned child.



On Wednesday nights the girls have had various ladies from our church family come in and offer wonderful lessons. Margaret Sams did an incredible series on encouragement. A silver box was given to each girl which represented encouragement. Each week Margaret gave the girls gifts for their boxes. Each gift was presented with a lesson on how to use the gift to edify and build up whomever they come in contact with. Kathy Torgerson did a tremendous job sharing the lesson, "When Life Throws You a Curve Ball," teaching the girls that our plan is not always HIS plan, and God's will is ultimately perfect. I wished to show the girls how they might imagine being seen through God's eyes, so I presented a series from the book Captivating, impacting that women are the feminine image of God's glory. Therefore, their very presence in a room is beautiful. We look forward to visits from Violet Yates, Ann Booten, and a series on the tongue from Margaret Sams. If you are a 7th-12th grade girl, then you are most encouraged to join us. We would love it!



"Dinner" continued from front —

communicate meetings, attendance, fun stories and photos from group events. A special bookmark was given out reminding us that a group update is simply an easy E-mail to centralconnections@hotmail.com.

In closing, we reviewed the roles of a group leader. Communicate with your group. Understand the objective of the group (Fellowship, Service or Bible Study --- or combinations) Develop new leadership to avoid burnout, Report data to the Newsletter, Be Enthusiastic about the group, Recruit new members, use the Central Connections Group to help with any problems or promotion and finally remember that we are serving the Lord.

Finally – a special thank you to Patti Fatherree and Ken Lutterman for handling the invitations, RSVP's, food preparation and serving. Thank you to Brenna Williams, Emily Fatherree and Stephanie Warren for providing childcare.

## 55+ GROUP ENJOYS WONDERFUL WARMTH — UNRELATED TO THE WEATHER

Bill Cruikshank

Although "snowmen" was the theme for January's meeting, the 55+ Group fortunately didn't need to brave snowy weather to enjoy one another's company. We gathered as usual in the fellowship room at the church for a delicious covered dish meal with plenty of hearty main dishes and great desserts. The cold held back attendance, but the fellowship was warm for all 18 who attended. Blessed again for the second month in a row, without the freezing rain mix as was forecasted, February's meeting was a patriotic one with Uncle Sam and "In God We Trust" as the decor. The covered dishes were delectable as usual, the camaraderie warm, and a highlight was Violet Yates' reading of a farmer's story and his preparedness for "the storms of life" as a farmer. Likewise, the challenge in our lives is to be prepared by studying our Bibles. Twenty-three were present.



## KID'S NIGHT IN/PARENT'S NIGHT OUT EVEN BETTER IN '08 —

Patti Fatherree

Who doesn't like to stay in their pajamas all day? That is exactly what the kids did at February's Kid's Night In/Parent's Night Out. Thirty-eight kids and six adults in full uniform (PJ's) had a great time! The menu for the night was a Friday night favorite— Pizza!

The March KNI/PNO welcomed 32 excited kids and 7 adults, each armed with flashlights ready to spend an evening Flashlight Fishing. After scarfing spaghetti, the lights went out and flashlights came on for the search for fish throughout the building.

Each KNI/PNO includes a special event and the night is stocked with games such as "Simon Says", or "Hide and Seek". Downtime curling up on a blanket and watching a movie is also a favorite.

Every parent needs a night out, so make plans to bring your kids to the next KNI/PNO the first Friday of every month from 6-9:30 p.m.

A big "thank you" to Michelle Warren, Jennifer Boggs, Adam and Christy Maurer, Ken Lutterman, and Jason and Sarah Faddis!



## WHAT'S NEW WITH THE REDBIRDS —

Judy Jones

Central's Redbirds met on January 11th at Fuddruckers with 15 in attendance...a good turnout for a cold January day. The door prize was won by Nell Phillips. February's meeting was held on the 8th

at the Harbor House. Eleven attended and Lorene Arrowood won the door prize. Plans for March are to meet the 14th at Ryans. New members are welcome, plus visitors. Dues are only \$3 per year.

## THE GREAT OUTDOORS PROVIDES AWESOME SETTING FOR CONNECTIONS —

J. David Erickson

An Outdoor Connections Golf Outing is planned for Saturday, March 29th, at the Tri Cities Golf Club. Reserved tee times begin at 10:30 a.m. Now all that is needed are Central's men and women golfers to fill the spots! Cost for the event is \$30 per person for 18 holes of golf. This will be a good way for some of our members to fellowship together. A sign up sheet is posted. Spots may fill up fast so sign up as soon as possible. Please call 914-4745 for more information or questions.

Should golfing not be your thing, perhaps fishing is. Preliminary plans are in the works for a May half-day of fishing, with possibly a picnic to follow. No "hooks attached"...just good "clean" fun and fellowship in the great outdoors. More information will follow in the upcoming weeks as Allen Jackson is putting this together.

