

THE CONNECTION

CHURCH ON THE DRIVE NEWS

October, 2019



CHURCH GROWTH MASTERCLASS

Dear COTD Family,

I want to invite you to the Church Growth Masterclass we're holding Friday night, October 18, 2019 from 6 - 8:30 PM and Saturday morning, October 19, 2019 from 8:30 AM - 12 PM. I realize this is a big ask of your time. But I'm asking because I believe COTD's future will be determined, in large part, by church members who understand the issues facing the church during the present time. COTD cannot afford to ignore current church realities. Bill Wilson wrote the following in the most recent Center for Healthy Churches newsletter:

"The painful truth of the 21st century traditional congregation is that it faces a very grim future without significant intervention. More than the usual hyperbole or alarmist rhetoric, the crisis is real. David Olson, of the American Church Project, has documented the painful truth carefully. (www.theamericanchurch.org) Olson, using realistic counts of attendees, reveals that traditional, established congregations that are more than 40 years old are in steady and persistent decline. Some are in dramatic decline. This tends to hold true regardless of theology, worship style, denomination or locale."

As many of you may know, COTD has been in decline for the last thirty years. We all would like to see a return to the "good old days" when the sanctuary was full and COTD seemingly did not lack financially. But those good old days are **probably** not coming back for COTD or thousands of other traditional congregations. The congregations that will survive and thrive today will be those who understand the times and act on today's realities not yesterday's successes.

The Church Growth Masterclass is designed to inform us about current realities, but more than that, to start a discussion among church members about what is needed at COTD. This is especially important since we have entered into a season of discussing what we, the church, will do with the 2 plus million dollars we will receive from the sale of the College Park Towers. Yet, more important than a discussion about dollars is a discussion about people—how to reach them for Christ, minister to them in Christ's name, and be the body of Christ for each other.

I could go on and on about the importance of this event, but let me conclude by saying that COTD needs your presence at the Church Growth Masterclass this weekend. My hope, my prayer, is that, if you are able, you will make the sacrifice of time by attending.

In Christ,
Jack

SIGN UP

NIGHT OF *Spirituals*

PRESENTED BY CHOIRS FROM COTD, PARK LAKE PRESBYTERIAN, AND
EDGEWATER, EVANS, AND JONES HIGH SCHOOL CHORUSES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23
7:00 PM IN THE SANCTUARY

CHURCH ON THE DRIVE
CHURCHONTHEDRIVE.ORG

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Have you been taking part in COTD's Discipleship Groups? If so, we'd love your feedback! Please take 2 minutes to complete this Discipleship Group Survey. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/V7LLLYR>



Through November 24:



Through October 27:
8-week Baptist Doctrine Seminar
Sunday, 5:30p-6:30p- "Baptists and
Religious Liberty"

12-week Christian History Seminar

Sunday, 5:30p-6:30p– “The Shaping of the Faith – Part 2: Gentile/Jewish Impact on Christianity”

Led by Dick Atkins

Learn how Christianity was influenced by the religions of the major empires preceding the time of Christ – in Persia, Greece and Rome. Discover the importance of the Babylonian Captivity and the 400 “silent years” of the intertestamental period – between the Old and New Testament writings. All these elements were significant history for understanding the “fullness of time” and the appearance of the new Christian faith.



November 3 – November 24:

4-week Theology Seminar

Sunday, 5:30p-6:30p- “Anticipating Advent”

Led by Ramona Reynolds

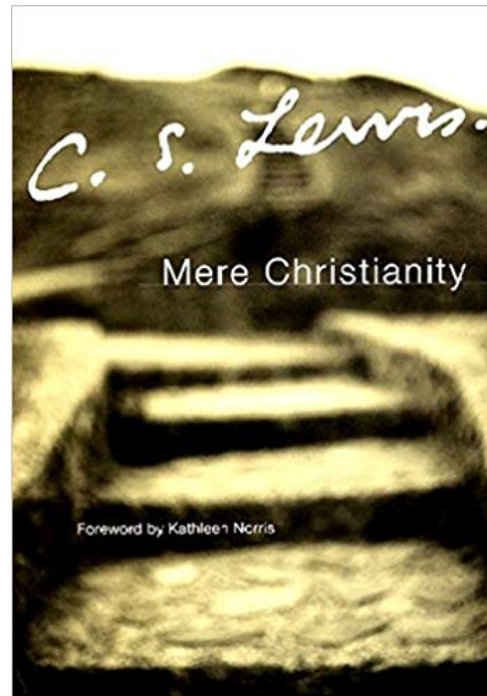
Examine what the coming Advent season will mean for you. We will connect with the anticipation of the preparation for the celebration of Christ’s birth and second coming, through an historical, theological and personal spiritual practice lens.

Peering through the eyes of those who waited for his birth and considering who Christ is to us today – in both his incarnation and his second coming.

Prepare for a meaningful season of anticipation and hope.

Led by Aubrey Ducker

Explore what religious liberty is and how Baptists came to value religious liberty and the separation of church and state. Learn about contributions of Baptists through the years to the defense of religious liberty in the United States, the risks to this freedom and accommodations that government makes for religion and some of the legal implications of those protections. Take a challenging look at what freedom-loving Baptist history means for Baptists today.



Through October 30:

8-week Online Book Study **Wednesday, 12noon – 1pm**

“Lunch and Learn:Mere Christianity”

Written by CS Lewis

Discussion led by Ramona Reynolds

Join us online, while you eat your lunch! This will be discussion and reflection on this classic Christian writing. You will need private internet or data access with audio and video capability to join the group, and a copy of the book. Register online to join and then click on the link each week to join the conversation:

Registration

Through December 18:
Part One of a 12-week Study
Wednesdays at 6pm

Sermon on the Mount
Teaching led by Various Teachers

Whether you have been a Christian for years or you are desiring a fresh look at what it means to be a disciple, this study is for you! You will gain a greater understanding into Jesus' primary teaching on what it means to be a disciple and learn to show the world God's character through life together in the church.

If you would like to purchase the book to go with this study (not required - Cost \$7), contact Betsy Stern.



Sonshine Kids

Contact: Amy Byrd - abyrd@churchonthedrive.org

Family Pumpkin Carving

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

An evening of fun for the whole family! Meet in the church courtyard off Edgewater Drive at 5:00 PM, and bring a pumpkin for each child to carve or paint. We'll provide all the supplies plus handle the clean-up! Festive snacks and treats will be provided. (Chess Club and Worship Arts Dance will still be held at their regular times at 4 PM)

Pro tip: Purchase your pumpkins across the street at the College Park United Methodist Church pumpkin patch!



Family story time

in the library

stories, songs & crafts
each Friday @ 10:30 am

CHURCH ON THE DRIVE
CHURCHONTHEDRIVE.ORG

SONSHINE KIDS

KIDS ARE INVITED TO JOIN US EACH
SUNDAY MORNING & EVENING

CHURCH ON THE DRIVE
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SUNDAY MORNINGS

8:45 am: Traditional Worship

10:00 am: Community Groups for All Ages

11:00 am: Contemporary Worship & Kids Worship

SUNDAY EVENINGS

Beginning August 18

4:00 PM: Chess Club & Worship Arts Dance Class

5:00 PM: Worship/Performing Arts



Student Ministry

Contact: Josh Plant - jplant@churchonthedrive.org

JOURNEY

CHURCH ON THE DRIVE STUDENT MINISTRY

6TH-12TH GRADERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN
US EACH SUNDAY MORNING & EVENING

SUNDAY MORNINGS

8:45 am: Traditional Worship

10:00 am: Community Groups for 6th-12th Grade

11:00 am: Contemporary Worship

SUNDAY EVENINGS

Beginning August 11

4:00 PM: Open Gym

5:00 PM: Games, Songs & Small Groups



Missions/Outreach

Contact: Debbie Hairel - dhairerl@churchonthedrive.org

WE SERVE

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another." 1 Peter 4:10

Thank you to all who came and helped with our We Serve projects. We had a great turn out and we had a total of 165 community hours of work done.



Operation Christmas Child is back! We will have free red cardboard boxes to hand out as well as plastic boxes for \$2.00 each. Have fun filling your boxes with school supplies and small items for the children. Please remember 2 things:

1. NO liquid, candy or toothpaste can be included.
2. Please fill out the label with the sex and age of the child and include \$9.00 shipping if possible.

Collection Day: Sunday, November 17



PARADE OF FLAGS

We will be decorating our sanctuary on October 27th with flags from around the world. If you are able to carry a flag during the 8:45 A.M. Traditional service, contact Debbie Hairel.

A row of international flags flying on tall poles against a clear blue sky. The flags include the German, Argentine, Australian, Belgian, Czech, Danish, Estonian, Finnish, French, and Latvian flags, among others. The flags are arranged in a line, receding into the distance.

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are held every Monday from 7:00-8:00 pm, in room 302.

English Literacy Ministry
needs TEACHERS!! If you are
interested, or just curious,
please contact Marilyn Atkins
or Rosemary Barna

Contact: Church Office - btstern@churchonthedrive.org

consideration.

The Ad Hoc Listening Committee is made up of: Rosemary Barna, Kate Gross, Jason Holic, Ramona Reynolds and Karen Schimpf

The following represents the plan for gaining both individual feedback and the feedback of committees and ministry committees/councils/teams as well as churchwide listening sessions.

All church members and groups are asked to prayerfully and deliberatively consider the following:

1. Review the church mission and values and use those as rationale for your priority setting.
2. What are the short-term ministry priorities of your committee/council/team?
3. What are the long-term ministry priorities of your committee/council/team?
4. In what way would funding support those priorities?

The Schedule for the Ad Hoc Listening Committee is:

August 11: Meet with Church Council

September and October: Meet with Properties Committee, Deacon Council, Finance Committee, and Church Staff at regular scheduled meetings

October: Host Churchwide Listening Sessions

Sunday Morning: November 3, Sessions at 10:45 am 12:00 noon

Wednesday Night: October 30, 6:00 pm, in lieu of Adult Bible Study

Collect feedback from Ministry Teams: Adult Advisory Team, Student Advisory Team, Children's Advisory Team

November: Churchwide Survey

January, 2020: Present findings to the church

Church members can always communicate with the Listening Committee directly by sending messages to: dreamteam@churchonthedrive.org

EACH TUESDAY @ 9:15 AM

A PLACE FOR MOMS TO CONNECT

mom
to mom



CHILDCARE PROVIDED

REGISTER TODAY @ CHURCHONTHEDRIVE.ORG

Flowers for the Sanctuary

If you would like to give flowers for a Sunday Morning Traditional Service in honor of or in memory of someone, here's a quick overview of the process.

Call the church office (407-843-0140). If the Sunday you want is open, ask the receptionist to put your name, phone number, and email address on the flower list at the front desk.





WEDNESDAY DINNER

JOIN US EACH WEDNESDAY AT 5 PM !

\$6 PER PERSON/\$20 MAX PER IMMEDIATE FAMILY

OCTOBER MENUS

October 16

Chicken Tenders

Baked Potatoes

Salad Bar

Rolls

Dessert

October 23

BBQ Chicken

Parsley Potatoes

Green Beans

Salad Bar

Rolls

Dessert

October 30

Homemade Lasagna

Broccoli

Salad Bar

Texas Toast

Chocolate Texas Cake

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The deadline for the *November Connection* is Friday, October 18.



Monthly Business Meeting
Sunday, October 27 @ 6:30 PM
in the Fellowship Hall



Mondays & Thursdays
Contact Marlo Wright for more info

From the Pages of the Library



The October Song by Beverly Lewis
Captivating tale from the heart of Amish country

Chasing the Horizon by Patrick & Thomas Kinkade
Our adventures through the British Isles and France

Ghost Canoe by Will Hobbs

Nathan McAllister, 14-year old son of the Lighthouse keeper, looks for a lost survivor of a sailing ship off Washington. He discovers a ghostly canoe.

Happy Halloween, Little Critter by Mercer Mayer

Little Critter and Little Sister are going to a Halloween party at a Haunted House.

Don't be scared away! Come in and check out a book from the Library.