

KC CONNECTIONS

Official Newsletter of the Knoxville Church



MINISTER'S MINUTES

Dan Downs
Lead Minister & Elder



Life Together Discipling

Over the past two monthly newsletters, we've looked at *Life Together Discipling*—intentional, Christ-focused relationships through which we help each other become more like

Jesus. Kyle humbly shared how a brother's loving candor spurred great and needed growth in his marriage. Last month, Kevin freely shared how encouragement, accountability, and prayer have helped him keep following Jesus.

This month, Whitson Buck brings our three-part series to a close, reminding us to look outward: *How does the love that Jesus is forming in us help others come to know him and become Jesus followers themselves?*

IN THIS ISSUE

Minister's Minutes
PAGE 01

Campus Corner
PAGE 04

Next Gen Ministry
PAGE 06

Announcement & Events
PAGE 08

Church Calendar
PAGE 09

**Life Together
Discipling, Part 3**
submitted by
Whitson Buck

"I read in a book that a man called Christ went about doing good. It is very disconcerting to me that I am so easily satisfied with just going about." - Toyohiko Kagawa

The final words of Jesus in the gospel according to Matthew end with the commissioning of the 11 disciples. The phrase "go and make disciples of all nations" has become a rallying cry for generations of missionaries, preachers, and evangelists in the valiant effort to make Christ known. But what does it mean to

make disciples? After all, Jesus is the way to eternal life -- so how do you get others to join the walk?

Simply, it is by loving others. And this call is for all Christians.

By loving others in a world that is numb to suffering, by paying attention to those easily forgotten and who cannot possibly repay us, by insisting to do right in corrupt and evil political systems, the grace of God allows us, of all people, to live out His will in the world.

Jesus knows that His precepts are strange and novel to the world, but gives them to us

*“³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.
³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” ”*

JOHN 13:34-35
NIV BIBLE

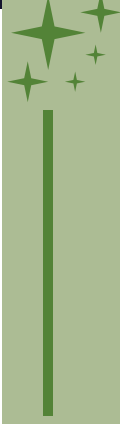


Life Together Discipling, Part 3 Cont.

anyway because of the saving grace that relationship with Him brings. He warns His disciples the world will hate them — the way of peace and humility is repulsive to those who seek violence and power. And yet, the call to make disciples still rests on God's chosen. This is a sacred duty and honor. This is why He encourages us, that He will be with us, and not to give up hope. Because no matter how dark things may seem, He IS with us, and desires that others

might know this too.

Making disciples is not a measuring stick of spirituality -- it is a blessing that we are given the authority by Jesus to live freely in harmony with Him, and love our friends, neighbors, and community. In the past year, I was given the opportunity in an Eklektos group to learn what brotherly devotion, vulnerable relationship and discipleship means, and I have come away from that time more set on making disciples by following the example of love God first showed us.



“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

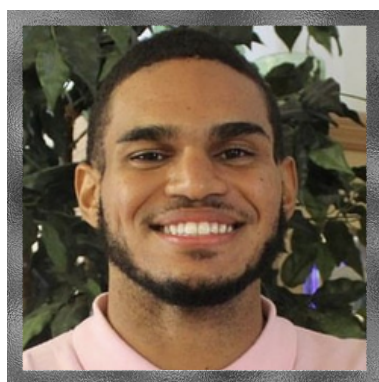
JOHN 15:5
NIV BIBLE



CAMPUS CORNER

Ty Briggs

Campus Ministry Leader



God has a beautiful way of bringing people together in fellowship. Sometimes it happens through new friendships; other times, through old friends gathering around a table, remembering what God has done in years past and dreaming about what He might do in the years to come. This September, we have been blessed to experience both.

Our Alumni Celebration, lovingly coordinated by Lorena Ford and graciously hosted by the Engels, was filled

with laughter, storytelling, and memories of college days gone by. Yet beneath the nostalgia was a deeper reminder: what God began in the lives of college students as far back as 33 years ago continues to bear fruit today. The friendships formed, lessons learned, and faith cultivated during those years have shaped lives, families, and generations in ways none of us could have imagined.

Meanwhile, God continues to open new doors on our campuses. One of our greatest joys this month has been seeing new Bible studies begin and watching students grow in their confidence to share their faith and study the Scriptures

“^{8b} whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. ⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

GALATIANS 6:8B-9
NIV BIBLE



Campus Corner Cont.

with classmates, friends, and neighbors. At Pellissippi State, we met many new students during the Student Engagement Fair, and we are praying that these simple encounters will become the beginnings of something far greater than we can presently see. After all, we seldom know what God might accomplish through a conversation between classes or a simple invitation

As summer gives way to autumn, I am reminded of Jesus' words about the fig tree in Luke 21:29–31:

“Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and

know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.” (NIV)

Jesus invites His disciples to recognize the signs of the changing seasons and to remain attentive to what God is doing. Though He speaks here of the coming of God's kingdom, His illustration also reminds us that change is woven into the rhythm of life. Seasons come and go, but the God who sustains them remains faithful.

Our campus ministry is entering a new season of its own as I prepare to move on from Knoxville this fall. While transitions inevitably bring

“Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings!”

ACTS 5:29
NIV BIBLE





Campus Corner Cont.

uncertainty, they also invite us to remember that this ministry has never depended upon any one person. The same God who has faithfully worked through generations of students and disciples continues to work among us today. Through prayer, faith, and a willingness to follow wherever He leads, we look forward with hope to the fruit He will bring in the seasons ahead.

Please continue praying for our students, our Soul Talks at UTK, and our Halftime gatherings at Pellissippi. And if you would like to get involved, please reach out. There is always room for another voice in what God is doing through this ministry.

Next Gen Ministry Update

by Rich & Kim Brown, Coordinators



We are filled with gratitude for everyone who has served in the Children’s Ministry over the last 2 years. It has been a gift from God to see us grow from 1 classroom with just 4 kids to 2 classrooms with almost 15 kids every Sunday; not to mention the dozens of visitors who have also joined in on the fun over the last 2 years!

“²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.”

JOHN 10:27-28
NIV BIBLE

*Next Gen
Ministry Update
Cont.*

“Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.””

Matthew 19:14 NIV

As we look into 2027 - we are looking for 12 disciples total to fill the needs of our Sunday Bible Classes. That's a team of 3 that rotates every 3 months. Starting in January we will have just 1 classroom which will serve ages 6 months - 9 years old.

If you don't think you're gifted as a teacher, that's ok! We still need you if you have the heart to serve. In each rotation there is a Lead Teacher, an

Infant/Toddler helper, and a Sign-In & Out Lead. So even if you don't feel you can lead a lesson or craft, there is still a place for you!

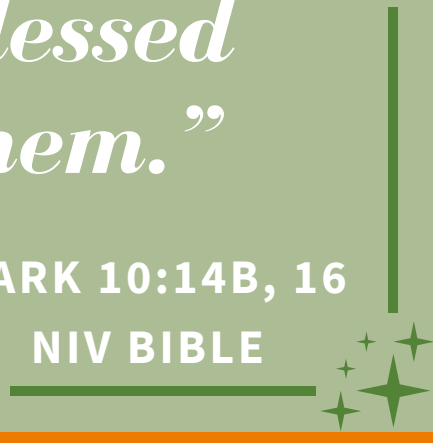
We are also looking for those interested in helping to coordinate for a 3 month rotation. This includes standing in the back hallway during service, making sure the classrooms run smoothly, welcoming visitors and getting their children registered, and supporting the teachers as necessary.

If you are interested in serving in 2027 - please text Kim Brown @ [6178202070](tel:6178202070) or email us- nextgen@knoxvillechurch.org.



*“ “^{14b}Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”
¹⁶And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.”*

MARK 10:14B, 16
NIV BIBLE





ANNOUNCEMENTS

Built On Prayer: October - December Prayer Focus

Acts 1:14 “... they all joined together constantly in prayer... (NIV). The early Church often joined together in prayer. Let’s imitate them and choose a prayer partner to close out the year in dependence upon God. Partner up and set a weekly time to pray together.

Winter Clothing Needed

Winter is coming and there’s a need for new or gently used warm clothes for men, women and children. If you have any to donate, please bring them in on Sundays. Nikka will ensure they reach those in need.

EVENTS

Special Contribution Sun, Oct 4

Sun, Oct 4 we will collect our annual Special Missions Contribution. This offering supports mission efforts both locally and internationally. International aid specifically supports [sister churches in South America](#). Please give via the church app. Questions? Feel free to reach out to any [Board member](#).

Women’s Daytime Bible Study Thurs, Oct 8 & 22

Join the Women’s Daytime Bible Study at Penny Pilgrim’s home, Oct. 8 & 22 at 11am. Friends and family are welcome to attend! See Kristin Downs for more information.

“¹⁶ Rejoice
always,
¹⁷ pray
continually;
¹⁸ give
thanks in
all circum-
stances;
for this is
God’s will
for you in
Christ
Jesus.”

1 THESS. 5:16-18
NIV BIBLE



[Spotify Playlist](#)



[YouTube Playlist](#)





EVENTS cont.

HOPE Event: Adopt a Road Cleanup, Oct 10, 10am-12pm

Join us for our biannual Adopt A Road cleanup on 4th Ave. Saturday October 10, 10am-12pm. Please sign up on [HOPE Knoxville Volunteer Hub](#) for more details, and so we can request adequate supplies.

Parenting Class Mon, Oct 12, 8:30pm-9:30pm

The free virtual parenting class, [Biblical Parenting, Finding the Answers in God's Word](#) continues next month. Next class is Monday, October 12, 8:30pm – 9:30pm. See the Browns for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

(Re)Constructing Your Faith, Nov 6 - 8

November 6 -8 (Friday a ‘meet-n-greet’, Saturday morning and early afternoon sessions, and Sunday worship). The weekend is designed to help us (re)ground our convictions in an

age of relativity and ambiguity. Led by ICOC Teacher Committee Member, Joey Harris. Please [RSVP for Saturday by October 25](#) so that seating and lunch needs can be planned accordingly.

Monthly Calendar

- Oct 4 - Sunday Worship & Special Contribution at Bridgewater
- Oct 7 - All-Church Mid-week at Bridgewater
- Oct 8 - Women’s Day-time Bible Study 11a-1pm
- Oct 10 - HOPE Service Project - 10a-12pm
- Oct 11 - Sunday Worship at Bridgewater
- Oct 12 - Parenting Class (Virtual) 8:30pm-9:30pm
- Oct 14 - Family Group Midweek
- Oct 18 - Sunday Worship at Bridgewater
- Oct 21 - Family Group Midweek
- Oct 22 - Women’s Day-time Bible Study 11a-1pm
- Oct 25 - Sunday Worship at Bridgewater
- Oct 28 - Family Group Midweek

August Attendance
Members: Guests: Children:
Livestream: Total

Aug 2:	63M;	11G;	13C;	4L;	91T
Aug 9:	66M;	8G;	7C;	6L;	87T
Aug 16:	79M;	6G;	17C;	8L;	110T
Aug 23:	80M;	9G;	12C;	8L;	109T
Aug 30:	HC				
YTD avg:	93 T				

August
Weekly Contribution

Aug weekly avg	\$7,415
YTD weekly avg.	\$6,357
Weekly budget	\$5,308