



## CHURCH WORKDAY



One way people love to serve the church body, is to take care of the place where the church meets. Our workday on October 19 was a huge success. Just like our own homes there are always projects that need to get done, but we never seem to have enough time to get them done. It is rewarding to work hard and see the progress immediately. During our workday we changed air filters, cleaned out the front beds, did a lot of tree and hedge trimming, replaced door stops and fixed some doors. It is always enjoyable to work along side your brothers and sisters in Christ, and seeing the results after hard work makes it even better. Thank you to everyone that gave up a saturday morning to beautify the campus!

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# THANKSGIVING DINNER

Our Thanksgiving dinner (and Operation Christmas Child box making) continues to be one of the best nights for our church family to gather together. We had a great meal prepared by Janet Kilgo, Lynne Polofka and Dan Longman. It is always awesome to taste the great food made by so many from our church and to fellowship with each other over a meal. Then as we made the shift to packing boxes for OCC. Our goal was 125 and we topped that with a total of 150 boxes. It is awesome to see our children packing boxes that will be sent around the world with the message of Jesus Christ inside them. If you want to track the progress of a box you can use these bar codes. Thanks again to everyone that donated items, packed boxes and paid for postage.

## ELDER UPDATE

Thus far our Elders have met twice with High Pointe Elders, one by ourselves, a Fri/Sat retreat that included 12 hrs of meeting, and last night (11/19) from 7:00-12:00. That is not for any pats on the back, but so you know that they are wrestling for you to see you, the body of Christ, built up. Thus far our meetings have consisted of:

- Bible Study and Prayer
- Read Ephesians aloud together.
- Read & Review *Trellis and the Vine*.
- What is Milwood about/church direction?
- Lifegroups Plan
- Renovation
- Member Care and Prayer
- Service Reviews
- Membership Roll
- Preaching Schedule & more.

On Tuesday, November 19 the Elders met with the Renovation team. The team is Steve Moore, Larry Lindsey, Jim Kilgo and Alison Davenport. We nailed down a schedule for renovation in 2014 that will brought to the church in December.

*The Trellis and the Vine* has proved to be a great addition to our discussion about church ministry and making disciples. If you are interested to see what is helping the Elders think about church structure and ministry have a look. Here is a part of the book that is close to the thesis:

*"The word 'disciple' means, above all else, 'learner' or 'pupil'. And this is how we become disciples and grow as disciples: by hearing and learning the word of Christ, the gospel, and having its truth applied to our hearts by the Holy Spirit. The essence of 'vine work' is the prayerful, Spirit-backed speaking of the message of the Bible by one person to another (or to more than one). Various structures, activities, events and programs can provide a context in which this prayerful speaking can take place, but without the speaking it is all trellis and no vine."*

Payne, Tony; Marshall, Colin (2012-04-02). *The Trellis and the Vine* (Kindle Locations 1934-1938). Matthias Media. Kindle Edition.

Continue to pray fervently for our Elders. Pray that we as Elders, though not in prison, will follow in Paul's ministry having become ministers "according to the stewardship that is from God that was given to [them] for you, to make the word of God fully known" (Col 2:25)

## HYDE PARK SERVE DAY



Milwood was blessed on Oct 29 when 18 students from Hyde Park Middle School spent the day working around the grounds. Every year the Hyde Park Schools have a day of service for all of their students. We were overwhelmed with how hard and joyfully the students worked around our campus. They cleaned out flower beds, spread a trailer full of mulch, trimmed and removed branches, and helped clean out the shed. Special thanks to Steve Moore for his help in keeping those middle schoolers busy.



### ADMIN INTRO

Angela Hill joined us in October as our new administrative assistant! Come by the office to meet her in person or email her at [angela@milwoodbaptist.com](mailto:angela@milwoodbaptist.com)

### Verse of the Month:

ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER WITH THESE WORDS

10 He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) 11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Ephesians 4:10-16

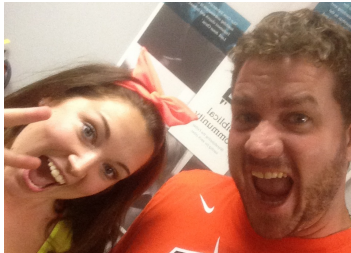
## FALL FEST

Every year it seems like we can't fit anymore people in our parking lot, but we are wrong. The parking lot was packed with neighbors, friends and families having fun, enjoying free food and music and being loved on by our church. We had a ton of great volunteers running carnival games, passing out bags, preparing and serving food, and setting and cleaning up. We were blessed to have David and Miranda Wall entertaining the crowd with some great live music. Brittany, Izzy and Katie led Minute to Win It games for prizes as well. Many people shared their love of the Fall Fest and how it this event helps bring the Milwood community together. Thank you to everyone that served and loved our neighbors at this year's Fall Fest.

# #NEONHALFNIGHTER

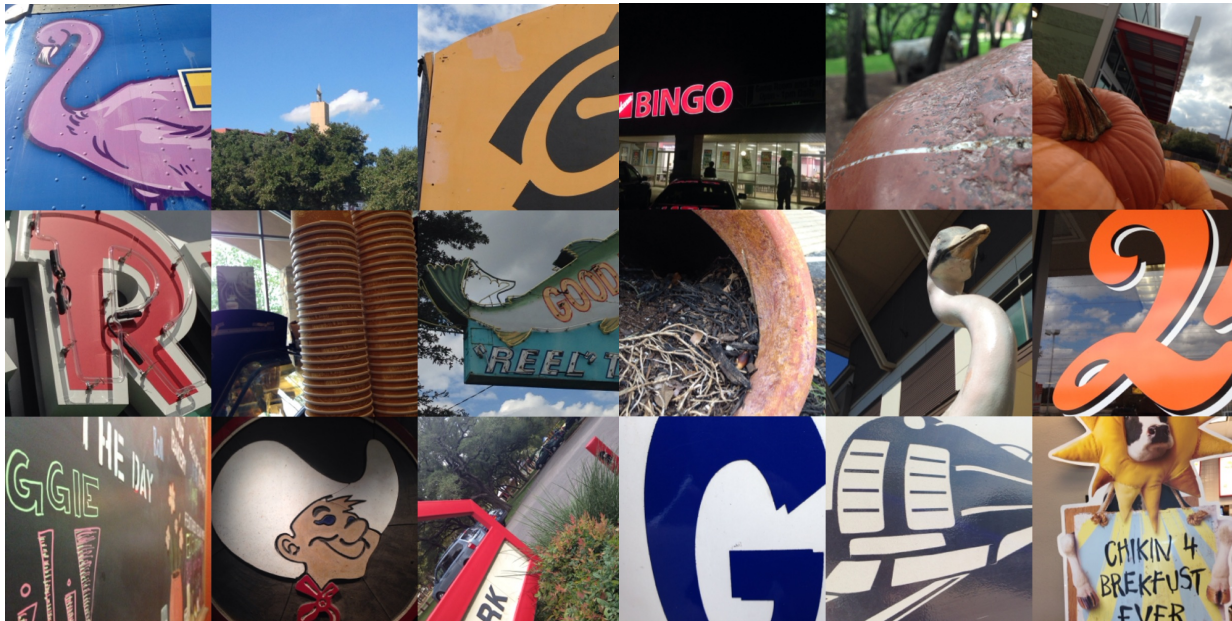
## NEON HALF NIGHTER

Our tag line for the Half Nighter was - we call it a Half Nighter, because it will be too much fun for a whole night - and it was just that. We had 20 students and volunteers that enjoyed a whole weeks worth of fun in just 6 hours. We started the night by breaking up the students into teams for an Instagram Scavenger hunt - think digital polaroid scavenger hunt - around north Austin. The teams had to use Instagram to find where pics were taken and replicate the picture with their team and tag it with a creative caption. Our students amazed us with their creativity and originality. Team Swag ended up the winner by finding 18 of 22 pictures. The final spot to find was our destination for dinner - Phil's Icehouse. Everyone enjoyed a burger then we headed over to Main Event for some bowling. I failed to mention that this wasn't just a half nighter, it was a NEON half nighter. The black lights at Main Event made those decked out in their neon standout even more. After bowling we headed back to the church for a devotional and a surprise.



In our devotional we talked about the fact the Christians have so much to celebrate and that we should lead the way in celebrating and enjoying life, because we have our hope in Jesus. We have been brought back from death into life in JESUS. Those truths mean we have lots to celebrate and we did. Our surprise was a black light and neon party on the 3rd floor. We had a blast remembering the freedom and new life we have in Jesus. Big thanks to Tammy Davenport, Catherine Turpish, Richie Saldana and Larry Lindsey for driving the teams around town and Brittany and Izzy for making the night an absolute blast.

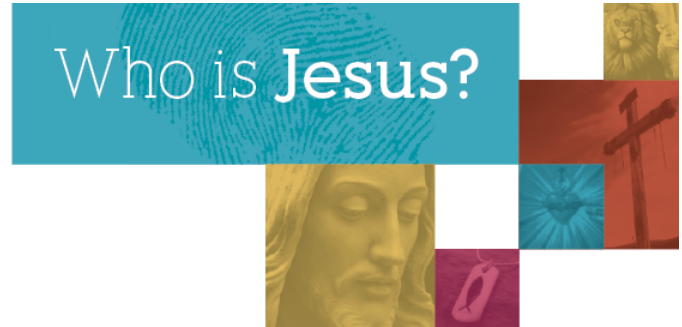
Could you find these places?



## WHO IS JESUS?

By: Pastor Nathan Loudin

During the month of November we spent four weeks answering the question "Who is Jesus?". I thoroughly enjoyed the preaching and especially the opportunity to do some evangelism training with the Lifegroups in October. I was encouraged to see evidence of past training and evangelism experience there. While I have not heard of anyone come directly to Christ through the "Who is Jesus?" series I have heard of several who have use that opportunity to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Aside from the cards taken on Sunday mornings I was able to speak with or hear of at least eight individuals who had the opportunity to share the clear and full gospel. That was the goal all along, create an opportunity to motivate and mobilize the church to share the gospel! I pray that we continue to have the gospel on the forefront of our minds and hearts, applying to ourselves daily.



## EVANGELISM SURVEY RESULTS

Along with our evangelism training I asked those who participated to fill out a survey on evangelism. Everyone who attended the training happily participated :) . I wanted to share with you a few of the results and let you know that they have not floated off the radar. They are helpful to see where we are as a church (thought they are merely a way of discerning).

We received surveys from a total of 40 people. One of the first questions asked was "what is the gospel?". We categorized the answers to the question marking when certain parts of the gospel were present in an answer. The results are listed in the chart on the right:

What is the Gospel	
God as Creator	6
Sinfulness of Man	26
God's Love	4
Jesus Born of a Virgin	6
Jesus Sinless Life	11
Jesus Death on the Cross	22
Jesus Death as Atoning/Cleansing	30
Resurrection	27
Prophecy/Foretelling of Christ	37
Salvation by Grace Through Faith	13
Work of Holy Spirit	11

## EVANGELISM SURVEY RESULTS

### Continued

Now, surveys are funny things. You can get different results from the same survey by the same people on different days. I'm sure that many people would see their own answer and think, "Doh', I meant to add....". But based on the above results would you say we understand or know the gospel well? I think most of know the gospel better than the results show. But the question becomes, "why aren't we able to immediately articulate it when called upon?" These are questions for the church leadership to consider and for you to consider. "When I think of the gospel do I think of a single piece, When it comes to gospel, there are even a few categories that are not on the list above, such as the new life we have in Christ, following Christ as a disciple, and eternity with God when Jesus returns (all part of the gospel). such as the cross?" "Or do I understand whole story of God beginning with the creator?"

Randy Moore has led his second group through evangelism material called The Gospel Primer it is a great tool for building knowledge and skills to share the gospel. A lot of great things have come out of that. Perhaps your Lifegroup would consider it.

The most common answer to the question "What keeps you from sharing the gospel?" was "it makes relationships uncomfortable" (26 times). This means that either we are not sure how to share the gospel in an un-awkard way or we simply prefer comfortable conversations rather than gospel conversations. There are other aspects to that as well, such as family, work policies, etc. But most of us, when asked, said we most often don't share the gospel for that reason. Twenty one people responded that they had led someone to Christ before and twenty five have seen someone else do that. When asked, the 40 surveyed said they knew a total of about 225 lost people personally and by name (not declaring if they are family or not).

Take this opportunity to think about your own understanding of the gospel. Do you have a clear understanding of the gospel? Here is the gospel in a few sentences. What would you have missed?

*The gospel is: That the one and only God, who is holy, made is in his image to know him. But we sinned and cut ourselves off from him. In his great love, God became a man in Jesus, lived a perfect life, and died on the cross, thus fulfilling the law himself and taking on himself the punishment for the sins of all those who would ever turn and trust him. He rose again from the dead, showing that God accepted Jesus' sacrifice and that God's wrath against us has been exhausted. God now calls us to repent of our sins and trust in Jesus alone for our forgiveness. If we repent of our sins and trust in Christ, we are born again into a new life, an eternal life with God.*

For His Glory,  
Pastor Nathan