



River City Church

LIFTING JESUS UP IN THE INNER CITY

Average Attendance	Adults	Teens	Kids	Total
SUNDAY WORSHIP	26	7	14	47
SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS	26	7	14	47
MID-WEEK GATHERINGS	14	5	8	27

Operating Contribution for January:

• \$2,101

Benevolence:

SHARE AND CARE DONATION: \$120

- We provided Uber rides to help with transportation needs. (\$67)
- We paid part of an electric bill for one of our ladies who lives across the street from our building. (\$70)
- We paid part of one of our ladies rent. (\$100)
- We paid the electric bill for one of our young moms. (\$160)
- We provided food, baby supplies, and paid the electric bill for one of our young single moms. (\$391)

A STORY OF CHRONIC POVERTY

People who are chronically poor experience deprivation over many years, often over their entire lives, and many times pass poverty on to their children. This is the experience for many of our RCC people. I want to share the story of one of our young moms with whom we have had a relationship with for over 12 years. When we first met her, she was in elementary school. She was living with her father, stepmother, and four siblings. Her mother wasn't present, her father struggled with alcoholism, and her stepmother had serious mental health challenges. Her home smelled like a sewer, covered with roaches and filth. Her and her sibling's clothes were often dirty and smelled bad, and their hair wasn't cared for. She longed for a mother and a stable, loving environment.

Over the years, she and her siblings were able to spend much time involved in church, church youth activities, and in the homes of our RCC families. She was able to see and experience Jesus, his love, loving relationships, and a different way of living. She was baptized into Christ as a teen with us at camp one Summer. Even though she was able to see and experience something different, she hasn't been able to break the cycle of chronic poverty. It's extremely difficult to break this cycle, especially when you have very few resources, lack advocacy on your behalf, and do not get an adequate education.

She is now 23 with three kids, struggling to meet her and her children's daily needs. She isn't able to work because she doesn't have childcare; she can't get childcare because there isn't a free daycare within walking distance, and she doesn't have her driver's license or a car. She deals with feelings of hopelessness and despair and has a longing for a way out of her situation. We know that, through Christ, her situation isn't a lost cause or hopeless. We see hope and a future for her and her three children, and we will continue to walk alongside her, helping meet her physical and spiritual needs. She continues to be involved with our RCC family, and rides the church van to our Sunday gathering with her three children. We ask that you join us in prayer for her and so many others who fight every day just to make it through the day. We are thankful for your prayers and financial support to help meet the needs of our people in chronic poverty.

~Kyndra Thomas

Happenings in January

- On Tuesdays, we now have the children and adults share a meal before having class. This seems to be a good change for everyone.
- During our week of snow, we had to cancel our midweek classes due to the road conditions. Keith and Laura invited some of our RCC people who live close to them over for sledding. This was a great time!
- There was a small memorial service for one of our dear members, Mrs. Vicki Tucker. Several of our RCC family attended. Due to the time of the service, we had shortened classes that Sunday.
- Keith and Laura had a birthday dinner for one of our teen boys at their house.
- A group from Downtown Church of Christ worshipped with us and served the meal at RCM afterward.
- We had many benevolent requests this month. Keith spent a good amount of time working with people on this.
- Keith has started talking with a few men who have shared an interest in knowing more about the staff role we are looking to fill.
- Don and Dianne enjoyed their time in the Philippines.

Prayer Request

- For our church family to grow in their relationship with Christ and each other
- For us to find a Family and Involvement Minister that will fit our church family
- For the Lord of the harvest to send more workers (volunteers) to RCC
- For the remainder of Cristina's financial support for 2024 to be raised
- For Keith's adjustments to managing time, energy, and resources wisely for the greater Kingdom good in our new staff situation

Youth Highlights from Cristina



Teen Class

- I started the year at the National Children's and Youth Ministries Conference in Daytona Beach. This is my second year going. This time helps me start the year focused, recharged, and motivated.
- I took four upper elementary-age girls to Highway Church of Christ in Judsonia for the W.O.W. Kids Rally. This was a fun time of learning about Christ and spending time with other kids their age.
- Katelyn Lape and I took four teen girls to the Mid-South Girls Conference in Memphis. This is always a great way for our girls to grow closer together and gain spiritual momentum for the new year.
- We started a new teaching quarter. Our youth are studying through the book of Acts on Sundays. Our memory work focus for the new year is the Word of God. Many of our youth learned this month's verse (Psalm 119:105).
- Our Midweek classes have changed a bit. Our teens meet at my house on Thursday evenings for a Bible study and dinner. We have split our kids into two groups, and they rotate coming on Tuesdays for class and dinner. We are prayerfully working to add more adult help so all kids can come back together on Tuesdays.



W.O.W Rally



Mid-South Girls Conference



Tuesday Meal



Sunday Fellowship



Sunday Worship



Elementary Class



Keith praying with a lady

An RCC Kingdom Ripple

As some of you know, Michael Hammonds is one of our former youth who graduated from Harding University and is now in law school. In January, he spoke at Camp Wyldewood's 75th Birthday Celebration.

Michael is a testament to the importance of Christian Youth Camp. He grew up going to Camp Wyldewood through sponsorships from our supporters. As a college kid, he was a summer counselor for many summers and continues to be a part of the community at Wyldewood. We are so grateful for his heart for serving the Lord and for everyone who supports our youth participating in camp.



Want to know more about the work of River City Church?
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