



LIGHT of the KINGDOM

I am at my favorite place on earth. Most who know me know that it does not involve the city, OU, or the Thunder. Although I appreciate all those things, they aren't my favorite place on earth.

I am outside a cabin in Davis, Oklahoma sitting by a campfire that I made. I love it as I push wood in as it starts getting dark. I don't know if it is because I am alone in the woods or what, but I've realized a few things about fire and the kingdom of God.

One is that I had to prepare it while it was still light. I walked around picking up wood of all shapes and sizes that I knew would be best for a fire. It was their specific job to burn and cause light and heat. I carried and dragged them to my pit.

We are called to be the Kingdom; the Church. We have the job of submitting to the work of the Savior to bring His light to our world. And just as I got my wood during the day, it's better to start being a part of the Kingdom when it is "day" in your life. Darkness comes. It always does and it's not impossible to do it in darkness, but it is slower and much harder.

Once I had enough wood for tonight and tomorrow, I started building. That brings me to my second thing. It takes all different kinds of wood to build a fire. When I was younger, I never could make a good fire. I was too eager to make it BIG. I would go get all the big logs I could find. But as you probably guessed, it wouldn't light. This time I got small twigs and tinder to get my fire going. The big stuff would come in its time but not without the starter fuel.

In the church, it takes all kinds. We are not all alike and thank God for that. What if we were clones of each other, the only thing that would be successful would be the weirdness of our cult. But God made us different and for different purposes. Some of us are good at getting things started, but tire out quick. Others of us don't start much but we have the power and patience to keep it going. Different people for different purposes.

And third is that when it was dark, I lit it. Slowly the fire spread through the tinder and held the flame just long enough to ignite the bigger pieces. After a few minutes, it was burning bright. I looked around, mostly because it is creepy in the woods by yourself after dark. But I could see for about a hundred yards in every direction. Those scary shadows were revealed in the firelight. Just trees. I felt better being able to see clearly in the dark. And I was warming up.

That's the Kingdom. Different people with different gifts being used by God to illuminate the dark world around them. That's church. That's us.

Well, my fire is shrinking so I better get back at it. I hate being alone in the dark.

From My Heart,

Billy



Newcastle Christian Student Ministry

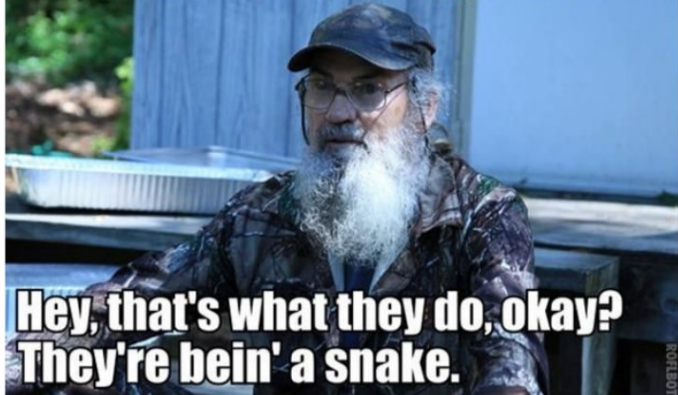


If you play a sport, sing, play in band, are king of your chess club, or if you are involved in anything, GET ME YOUR SCHEDULE!! I would love to see you compete or perform.



DECEMBER 2020

I've been snake-bit 27 times, to be exact.



Hey, that's what they do, okay? They're bein' a snake.

Sometimes we try and make people behave the way we want them to. Sometimes we say in order to be a Christian you have to look just like me. But the thing that unites us is the Gospel of Jesus. Maybe instead of us fixing people, we just simply introduce them to Jesus and let him do the work of shaping their life, and we should remember he is doing the same shaping with us.

In Christ,
Caleb Page



What are we teaching?

WED NIGHTS: Wednesdays nights check out a new teaching video every wednesday on our youtube channel NCC Student Impact Youth Ministry

SUN NIGHTS: We are having sunday nights again! 6-8pm you have got to be here!!

SUNDAY NIGHT 6-8PM



no Sponsor meeting in December



December Newsletter

Our mission is to help children come to **KNOW** Jesus Christ, **GROW** to be like Him, and **GO** serve Him.



Children's Church at Home & Wednesday Night lessons are being added to our church website each week and can be shared with everyone.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

3yo ~ 5th grade meets in the KFC Room, Door will open at 10:15 am for check in. Church will start at 10:30 am until further notice.

KFC Volunteer Schedule

COKEBURY KIDS: GOSPELS

Week 2 3yo-2nd grade/3rd-5th grade

1st Sunday: Cheri & Emily/Canceled

2nd Sunday: Courtney, Open/Canceled

3rd Sunday: A Special Day/Canceled

4th Sunday: Courtney, Open/Canceled

News & Upcoming Events



Merry Christmas!

Most of us would agree that the Christmas season can be quite chaotic. It is easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle and lose sight of why we celebrate. That is why it is important for you to be intentional in pointing your kids to Jesus during this Christmas season. Dedicate time to worship God as a family and explore the meaning of Christmas. There are many helpful resources for drawing your family's attention to Jesus during Christmas, but no resource is as valuable as God's Word. Consider using this short devotion to lead your family in a time of worship.

Open your Bible to Luke 2. Read Luke 2:1-20 aloud or designate a child to read aloud. Consider letting children take turns reading the Bible story.

- Ask: "Why do we celebrate Christmas?" Explain that we celebrate Christmas to honor the birth of Jesus.
- Ask: "What makes Jesus' birth different from any other baby's birth?" Remind family members that the Son of God was in heaven with God but came to earth as a human baby. Pick up a wrapped Christmas gift. Challenge family members to think of what it would be like to try and put the entire world in a gift box. Explain that Jesus is the mighty, all-powerful God who created everything but He came to earth as the most tiny and helpless of all human forms.
- Ask the big picture question: "Why was Jesus born?" Say the answer together as a family, "Jesus was born to rescue us (from sin)." Explain that we need a Savior. As sinners, we deserve to spend forever apart from God because of our sin. Jesus kept all of God's laws perfectly while He was on earth. Jesus did not deserve to die, but He took God's punishment we deserved and died on the cross in our place.
- Ask: "What makes Jesus' birth good news?" Explain that because Jesus came to earth, we can be saved from sin. Jesus rose from the dead, and one day, He is coming back to make everything new and right.

Lead your family in a time of prayer.

A Christmas Devotion by Karen Jones

Sunday School and Wednesday Nights

CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE



Courtney Loveless
Children's Ministry/Preschool Director

Wednesday Night

Every Wednesday night, Billy brings a video presentation of a lesson, with a downloadable worksheet (accessible through the website). Currently in a great study of the book Philippians.



Newcastle CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Newsletter - December 2020

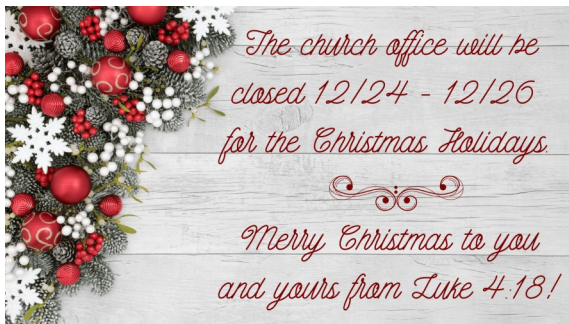
Prayer Requests

**Call or email the church office,
387-4100, ncc@nccok.com.**

Prayer Requests will be taken during the week, shared on Sunday mornings, and then added to the prayer list. Since we won't be meeting on Wednesday nights until further notice, you can still and always call or email the church with your prayer requests and updates during the week. These will be added to the list and emailed out a couple times a week. And also, we'll continue to send out urgent prayer needs as we find out about them.



This is the time of year that people sometimes have a difficult time providing a holiday meal for their families. We are gearing up to put together Christmas Food Baskets to help these people. We expect the cost of each basket to be about \$35. You can designate any amount of money, or pay for a specific number of baskets (multiples of \$35), just indicate it on your check or designate it with your online giving. (With mobile device giving please designate "Benevolence".) Thank you for your generosity!! Pickup will be during Pantry time on December 11 (or delivered, if not picked up).



**FoodPantry**

December 11
9:00-10:30 AM

Church Office Closed

**for New Year's
Thurs. Dec. 31st
and Fri. Jan. 1st**

*Happy
New Year*



**Food,
Fun,
Games for
everyone!**

Offering

For the time-being, the offering plate will not be passed during service. There is a giving box in the foyer for your checks or cash (in an envelope please). Giving is also available through the church website, or by mobile device on the GivePlus app. (Directions are on the website). (Reminder: If you give on the website to the Other category, please type in the text box the purpose for it.) If using your mobile device, the "Other" giving category is *not available* through the mobile app. If you have a payment or donation to make to other than the listed categories, please use an alternate method, such as the website, or by check or cash (in an envelope with the purpose written on the outside.) If you have any questions about this, call the church office. Thank you!





Newcastle CHRISTIAN CHURCH

2200 North Main Street Newcastle, OK 73065

December Nursery Workers

6th—Amanda Nix
13th—Michelle Collier
20th—Kristi Harris
27th—Emily Littlejohn

Church Office:

Phone: 387-4100

Fax: 387-2399

Website: nccok.com

Email: ncc@nccok.com

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Staff

Billy Collier, Minister

billy@nccok.com

Caleb Page, Youth Minister

caleb@nccok.com

Cheryl Millican, Ellen Storey, Secretaries

ncc@nccok.com

Courtney Loveless-Children's director/
Preschool Director

blessedmeb@yahoo.com

Elders

Rick DeWeese

Deacons

Travis Cotten—Garland Hawkins

Sunday

Sunday School
Worship Service
Youth Group

not at present
10:30 a.m.
6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study (access on website)

Important Dates in December

(Note the Preschool and Home School dates on the calendar)

2—Red Hats Christmas Party

4-6—Youth Group Winter Camp

11—Pantry & Christmas Baskets 9-10:30 am

18—Outside the Music Box Recital 6 pm

19—Outside the Music Box Christmas musical 8am-9pm

20—KFC PJ's and Pancakes at 10:30am

24—Christmas Eve candlelight service at 6:00pm

24-25 Office Closed MERRY CHRISTMAS!

31-New Years Eve Game Night 8:00pm here at the church

31-Jan. 1—Office Closed HAPPY NEW YEAR!

December 2020 - Communion & Offering Thoughts

	1st Sunday	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday	4th Sunday
COMMUNION				
THOUGHT	Caleb Page	Garland Hawkins	Mike Aston	Rick DeWeese
PRAYER TIME	Ed Harris	Gary Pitzer	David Rodgers	Caleb Page



The calendar is being sent by separate email so that it is easier to read in landscape mode. It's also easier to print it out and put it up on your fridge for handy reference.