



# MIDDLETOWN NOW!

*CALLING DISCIPLES TO BE THE KINGDOM NOW!*

May-June 2010

## Life Changing!



*The Weber Family  
Amanda, Avery, Ethan & Kyle*

*By Amanda Weber*

“Are you willing to be open to God’s will for your life?” Yes, but... That used to be my answer to that question. About a year ago, though, everything changed.

When I truly accepted Christ into my heart three years

ago, I knew my life would be different. I wasn’t sure what God had planned for me, but I was excited to begin the journey. Two years later, He revealed at least a part of the plan to me. I began reading and studying the book *The Hole in our Gospel*, written by Rich Stearns, the president of World Vision. This was just the beginning. My eyes were truly being opened to a whole world that I’ve been ignoring. About the same time, MCC began offering informational meetings about an upcoming mission trip to Honduras. I had always thought this trip sounded interesting, but I really didn’t know what it was all about. After the first meeting, I knew I had to go. I really felt it was God’s calling for me.

Life changing! Those are the only words that can truly describe the experience of being a part of a mission team. The experience of seeing true poverty, through Christ’s eyes, was humbling. Spending time with missionaries who have given everything to serve the Lord was



*Team Honduras, 2009*

inspiring. And the fellowship with my team-mates was rewarding. When I came home, the first thoughts I had were that I couldn’t wait to go back, and my family needed to be a part of it. A couple of months later, I began to lead my small group, Friends in Faith, on a study of this book. I couldn’t wait to share all the details that had inspired me to do something to change the status quo in our world. Amazingly, some of my good friends and fellow small group members were also feeling God’s call in their lives.

Amy and Rodney Westlake were already in Querétaro, Mexico. God led them to Pan de Vida orphanage, and they knew MCC needed to be a part of this mission. Bonnie and Kevin Bartee began reading this book, and

*See Missions, page 6*



*A very young and “wet-behind-the-ears” David Emery (far right, 1st row) at his first assignment as pastor at First Christian Church, Waynesboro, TN.*

## A Long Tall Boy From Texas

*There’s a long tall boy from Texas we know we’re going to miss*

*No other feller like him has ere been in our midst.*

*We cried so when he left us. It like-to broke our heart.*

*He’s going to greener pastures to make a brand new start.*

*He’s the very best little preacher a feller ever knew.*

*His eyes are bright as diamonds, they sparkle like the dew.*

*They talk about his down-home style and singing hymns of glee.*

*The long tall boy from Texas fits the church of Tennessee*

Written by Mary Eva Kimbel  
FCC member, Waynesboro, TN

*For more, see David’s Article on page 2*

## What One Church Can Do

Clara Nell Phillips is 90 years old and a member of the congregation I served while attending divinity school. She called me recently when she learned about my health issues. After we hung up the phone, I told my wife that Clara Nell Phillips is one of the most important people in my development as a minister.

Clara Nell was the Chairman of the Board when the small congregation of Waynesboro, Tennessee called me to be their minister. Their ministry, for many years, was to train and develop young ministers to serve as future leaders of the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ. They endured months of bad preaching, fed me Sunday suppers, packed my car with food for the 100 mile return trip to home, and taught me, generally, that the church at its best is about caring for people. When I would preach sermons about all the new things I was learning at divinity school, they would tell me, "keep it simple, Preacher." They taught me how to communicate the gospel in the everyday language that makes it relevant to people's lives. Incidentally, Jeff Howell followed me as the minister at the same congregation and was nurtured and developed by them too. There are congregations, all over the US, that are blessed by strong pastoral leadership because of the commitment of this small congregation in rural Tennessee to grow and develop young ministers.

Hence, mentoring young ministers has a special place in my heart. It's been some of the most meaningful work I've done as a pastor. After twenty-plus years of ministry, I'm able to share what can only be gained through *gravitas*, or life experiences like walking with people through tragedy and suffering, personal experiences of hardships and difficulties, and leadership successes and failures. Besides, working with young people has been a great source of renewal for me in ministry. Their excitement and energy feeds mine!

Our congregation is becoming a place where young ministers are developed, too. We have several people in our congregation who've made the decision to enter the ministry or who are in various stages of ordination or commissioning in ministry. For the past two years, we've nurtured Adam Kilchenman as a seminary intern (Lou. Presbyterian Theo. Seminary) who is soon to become our full-time youth minister. Melvin LeCompte, young in spirit, is also serving as an intern on our staff from the Baptist Seminary of Kentucky (Lexington). Our work with young people in ministry is a significant gift that we have to offer the larger church in the world today. How exciting it is to witness their growth and development as pastoral leaders!

Now a special opportunity has presented itself to us. We have been selected as the collaborative partner with the Academy of Preachers. Middletown Christian Church was chosen because of our vision and our commitment to the development of young people for ministry. It also syncs up well with who we are as a Kingdom Now congregation. All of the Academy's operations will be moved to Middletown Christian Church soon. We'll be providing office space, administrative support and volunteer resources for the growth and development of the Academy.

The Academy of Preachers is a fresh initiative of the Lily Endowment. It's designed to identify, network, support and inspire young people who aspire to be gospel preachers. It is rooted in the conviction that gospel preaching is a socially significant vocation and is worthy of the intelligence, talent, and the energy of our most promising young people. The Academy is the only organization whose sole function is to encourage and empower young people desiring to follow God's call into preaching.

In conjunction with Academy founder Dwight Moody, we have submitted a grant proposal to the Lily Foundation for funding to extend the project from 18 to 36 months. Sometime in July, our church will receive the funds to operate the Academy. We've established a team of volunteers that will become our support team at Middletown Christian Church. Those team members include Scott Holt, Rachel Reynolds, Gary Guthrie, Doug Logan, Dan Greenwell, Jim Smith, Linda Smith, and Bob White.

When I told Clara Nell Phillips about what we were doing with the Academy, she could not have been more pleased. I told her that my commitment to the development of young preachers is my way of thanking her and First Christian Church of Waynesboro, Tennessee. She was feeling badly that the congregation is down to a handful of people and that its influence in the community has been lessened over the years. However, I reminded her that First Christian Church of Waynesboro has touched lives all over the country. May the same be said for us. Now with our involvement with the Academy, this becomes possible for us, and expands on a small Tennessee church's witness exponentially.



David Emery, Senior Minister  
Middletown Christian Church



For more information about the Academy, visit <http://academyofpreachers.net/home>

# Adam Kilchenman Answers God's Call to Youth Ministry



*Adam Kilchenman will begin his official duties as Youth Minister on June 1, 2010.*

"Middletown Christian Church is full of great youth! The gifts, abilities, and leadership potential of our youth is amazing," proclaims Adam Kilchenman. "I am so looking forward to what's to come—the sky is the limit!"

It's with the same excitement and expectation that we welcome Adam Kilchenman to our Middletown staff as the full-time Youth Minister beginning in June. The interview team enthusiastically believes Adam has the gifts and abilities to lead our youth program into a new era of ministry.

## Seminary Intern

As a student at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Adam has served as one of the seminary interns on staff at Middletown Christian the past two years. His initial focus was young adult ministries, where Adam successfully started two new small groups and has been instrumental in the development of our Chalice worship service. Adam is on track to graduate in May with a Masters of Divinity degree from LPTS and will seek ordination through the Christian Church in Kentucky.

## Growing Passion

Adam grew up in Louisville, KY attending Evangel Christian Academy. While sharing in the leadership roles of his home church youth group, Adam's passion for creative ministries was stoked.

He continued to pursue that passion as a small group and activities leader with the Baptist Campus Ministries at Cumberland College where he was a Religion and Philosophy major. Serving on Kentucky Baptist Convention's summer missions, Adam met his future wife, Lacey. Since that time Adam and Lacey have led numerous workshops and taught creative ministries including drama, dance, sign art, human video, mime, and puppetry for the past five years across the state of Kentucky.

## Full-time Youth

In many ways Adam's calling to full-time youth ministry has come full circle in his life. Along life's twist and turns, the passion that was sparked in his life at the age of sixteen as a youth leader was affirmed in

college, embraced in his marriage, and confirmed through his intern experiences at MCC. Adam shared, "I felt like I have learned more serving as an intern at MCC 15 hours a week, than all I have in college or seminary."

Over the past four months Adam has served as the Youth Intern. He has helped plan and lead youth activities, establish relationships, and met regularly with Dave Seely and our adult youth leaders. "I recognize all the wonderful things that have made this program great over the years, but I see some things I want to improve," he says, "things that haven't been done; things that can be bigger and better."

## Foundational Values

Adam plans to build the youth program on the same values he has discovered as a member of Middletown. Foundational values like extending a radical welcome and building community through an atmosphere of unity, growing deeper together spiritually by applying the Bible to our everyday lives, and defining our discipleship through acts of service and generosity toward others beyond the walls of the church.

## Youth Ministry Team

Along with Molly Baughman and Janet Sims, Adam will be working to establish a Youth Ministry Team that will help revision and recast youth ministry at Middletown for the next generation. "We will be creating some new opportunities to build relationships this summer and create an air of excitement about the things to come."



*Jeff Howell, Executive Minister  
Middletown Christian Church*

## YOUTH-PARENT SURVEY

You can join in this process of evaluation and exploration by completing a Youth-Parent Survey online at [www.middletownchristian.org/askyouth](http://www.middletownchristian.org/askyouth). Hard copies are available at Connection Point. Please submit your responses by May 9. A "Reveal Session" will be held the evening of Sunday, May 16. Details to come.

## Just Walk Across the Room

Just walk across the room. That's how simple it is. Walk across the room extend your hand and say, "Hello, my name is..." The Valley has seen a great deal of growth and there are many new faces worshipping with us each Sunday and many new faces showing up for things like work days, special events like our Easter Egg Hunt, Bible study, and more. Our new folks are very excited about being a part of The Valley but they don't know everyone yet. We also have some folks who were a part of The Valley since our beginning who are greatly committed to the success of our ministry but are seeing so many new people become a part of our campus that they can't keep up with everyone. If you don't know someone, if you don't know if he or she is a regular attendee or a visitor, walk across the room and say hello.

That phrase comes from a book I read a few years ago by Willow Creek Community Church Sr. Pastor Bill Hybels. Every one of us needs to take this as a personal mission statement when it comes to welcoming new people to the kingdom and also welcoming visitors to our church, when you see someone you don't know, just walk across the room, introduce yourself and let the conversation begin. Don't be embarrassed if you can't remember a name the next time you see someone (they may not be able to remember your name either), with a smile on your face just say, "I forgot your name would you tell me again." This is the key to the radical welcome that so many tell me they feel when they visit our campus. Being a warm and welcoming congregation is not something that happens by accident, each of us must be intentional in making sure that visitors become friends.

People come to our church every Sunday with stories; quite often the stories of our visitors don't include a relationship with Jesus. They may know of God but



they do not understand what it means to have a relationship with God. That relationship begins when someone walks across the room and says "Hello, I'm glad you're here." It really is that simple. It begins as we build relationships with each other then expands as we share our relationship with Jesus Christ.

I recently met a young man who visited our church for the first time, and the first time he had been in a church in a long, long time. He told me his previous church frowned on his tattoos and pierced ear, it made him feel unwanted. So he left not only that church but church period. When I asked him if he had had a good experience during worship he said, "I didn't know that church could be enjoyable. This was really cool. Some people actually wanted to know my name." He had a big smile on his face the entire time we talked. This is becoming a very familiar story for people who visit The Valley. They leave feeling better about themselves and about Jesus' love for them. All this happens because people are walking across the room to make someone feel welcome.

As I look across the congregation each Sunday I see more and more faces and every one of them has a story to tell, every one of them is developing a story of their experience with The Valley. The story I want them to be able to tell is, "Yeah, it was really good. People walked across the room and really wanted to meet me and get to know me. This is a place that really cares about making new people feel welcome and comfortable." That's a story that comes as each of us decides to walk across the room, extend a hand and say, "Hello, my name is... I'm really glad you're here, what's your name?"

***Being a warm and welcoming congregation is not something that happens by accident, each of us must be intentional in making sure that visitors become friends.***

Ed Huckleberry, Campus Minister,  
The Valley  
[www.thevalleyonline.org](http://www.thevalleyonline.org)



# The Impact The Valley's Made on the Adlington Family



Rebecca & A.J. Adlington

This week, our family celebrates its first year of ministry at The Valley.

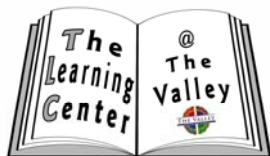
We began our journey as a newly-married, blended family that was wandering around looking for a church home where we could share our gifts and love for God. Driving down Dixie Highway, we saw this great big sign that said "Welcome to Tommy Cook!" Well, I only know of one Tommy Cook (who is an *amazing* music leader), so we decided that this was the place to be on Sunday morning.

The Valley stepped in and filled a void for us. We'd been looking for a church home just like this. The Valley reached out to us as family and has offered us

worship, love, support and a sense of desire to learn and be more like Christ. Every event that is focused on community outreach gives us a little glimmer of the work that God is doing in our family and community. And we know that every Sunday worship will lead us to being filled with the Holy Spirit even more than the week before. We are proud to step up and give God the glory in what he has done in each of our lives. And we look forward to every opportunity of service that he gives to us through The Valley.

*A.J., Rebecca and Jareial Adlington have been members at The Valley since May 2009*

## TLC @ The Valley Concludes Its First Year



"Where minds are opened with a little TLC"

The Learning Center @ The Valley (TLC @ The Valley) began as a concept well over a year ago, and now we are at the end of our first year of operation. We work for a God who can put a glimmer

of an idea in one of his children's head and then give them the knowledge, strength and love to see that idea become a reality. It has been such an awesome wonder to see on a week-in week-out basis the growth in each one of the students who are a part of TLC's program.

I am so thankful that God sent me to The Valley and I can hardly believe that the end of our first year of operation is upon us. We have watched each child gain the confidence of reading at a higher grade level, mastering spelling tests, learning their multiplication tables, and even understanding fractions.

It has also been thrilling to watch a child, who during their first week of TLC, would not even look you in the eye. Now that same child interacts with all the volunteers and holds his own during playtime (something not easily done). The children have even learned manners during their time with TLC, i.e., how to treat others, how to properly talk on the phone or greet an adult, and how to set the dinner table. All the aspects of learning that are key to a child's self-

confidence have been stressed to our seventeen TLC graduates.

Our first year has been a resounding success and it's only due to the wonderful caring 49+ volunteers that TLC utilizes each week.

*Jo-Ann Harris, Program Director, TLC @ The Valley*

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### You're Invited to a Graduation Ceremony

**On Thursday, May 6, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.**

**At The Valley**

Join us and show your support for our first graduates of TLC @ The Valley and our many volunteers who have given so freely of themselves

*You Will Be Blessed!*



## Missions ...



God also opened their eyes to the plight of the poor in developing countries. When the Westlakes were home visiting at Christmas, our three families came together in a time of fellowship and realized that our Lord had us all on the same path. We wanted to stop *talking* about doing something, and actually get out there and do it.

Amazingly, God's plan brought more people with us to Mission Mexico, and we were blessed with a team of ten adults and seven kids. My dream of making my family a part of my experience came true. My experiences at Pan de Vida and Loma de Luz were different, but both rewarding in ways beyond words. If I could go back to the mission field tomorrow, I would do it. In fact, thoughts of long term missions are constantly in my mind. He has laid upon our hearts the desire to bring clean water to those suffering without. My family plans to continue our journey, and see what God has in store for us.

Finding your way to the mission field is a process. My process began one year ago. When will yours begin?

To learn more about MCC's missions opportunities, visit [www.middletonchristian.org/missions](http://www.middletonchristian.org/missions).

### Honduras Informational Meeting

Tuesday, May 4 @ 6 p.m.  
MCC Conference Room (#225)

Can't make the meeting but want more information about this trip (planned for the fall of 2010)? Contact Rodger McAlister, 245-7282 or [colrodger@att.net](mailto:colrodger@att.net) or visit [www.crstone.org](http://www.crstone.org).



## MCC YARD SALE MAY 28-29

Proceeds Benefit  
Honduras Mission

There are several ways YOU can help!

- ◆ Find 100 items in your home to donate to the MCC Yard Sale and bring them to the MC Cafe **beginning at 4 p.m., Sun., May 23 (not before, please!)**. If you need to schedule pick-up of your large items, contact Adam.
- ◆ Got a truck? Volunteer to pick-up items and bring them to church.
- ◆ Work the sale: Setup, Hospitality, Clean-up or Tear Down (several shifts available)
- ◆ Sign up on a Team Ministry Card (located in the pew racks)

For more information, contact Adam Kilchenman at [akilchenman@middletonchristian.org](mailto:akilchenman@middletonchristian.org) or 245-9793.

## Appalachia Mission Trip June 27-30

**Answer  
God's call  
to serve!**

Want to experience the joy of mission work a little closer to home? Plan ahead and spend some time this summer serving others, and learn about new mission opportunities in Eastern Kentucky! Space is limited to 16, and trip cost is \$200. Contact Marla Cautilli for more information, [marla@hhministries.com](mailto:marla@hhministries.com).



## Valley Station/PRP Work Day - Saturday, June 12



**Valley Station Area  
Repair Affair  
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Seeking volunteers in the following areas:

- Project Team Leaders
- Worker
- Hospitality

### ADOPT STONESTREET ROAD

8:00 A.M. - NOON

Help cleanup Stonestreet Rd. Volunteer to be a:

- Team Leader
- Team Member



Over 100 volunteers are needed for these two projects! Choose your project and bring your friends, family, or small group to serve!

Children over 5 are encouraged to participate, as long as they are supervised by an adult. Childcare for children 5 and under will be provided at The Valley Campus.

Sign up at Connection Point or online at [www.middletonchristian.org/firstserve!](http://www.middletonchristian.org/firstserve!)

For additional information contact Lisa Cates at 544-0532 or [liscates@aol.com](mailto:liscates@aol.com).

# KingdomConnect

New to MCC? Join us to explore what it means to be a Kingdom Now church and engage in the work of the Kingdom!

Join us for an upcoming session:

**MIDDLETOWN CAMPUS:**

**Sunday, May 16 @ 6 pm**

**VALLEY CAMPUS:**

**Sunday, May 16 @ 9:15 am**

Meet our ministry staff and learn more about our congregation's Kingdom Now vision and values.

Find a small group, engage in ministry, and bring your questions. It's the way to get connected!

RSVP at *Connection Point* - Childcare is available

## Welcome New Members!

Middletown Campus		The Valley Campus
Brent Alcorn	Kathy Monie	Will Cox
Shanen Alcorn	Mark Monie	Eric Cronk
Brittany Amos	Shawn Monie	Leslie Cronk
Jason Bowman	Erica Olson	Becky Florence
Jessica Bowman	Tim Olson	Michele Florence
Scott Burress	Erin Regenhold	Christopher Freel
Chris Chappel	Kevin Regenhold	Jonathon Freel
Laura Daugherty	Leslie Ritchie	Teresa Freel
Ellie Determann	Chad Ryan	Charise Gray
Angela Gaither	Tom Smith	Gerald Jackey
Bill Hornung	Jim Starr	Paula Lamonda
Brenda Hornung	Holly Sweet	Tim Lamonda
Dave Long	Adrienne Todd	Austin Montgomery
Ben Martin	Brian Todd	Gary Montgomery
Carrie Martin		Layla Sisco
Angela Monie		Michael Welch

## Our Team

David Emery  
Senior Minister

Dolly Mills  
Serve Minister

Jeff Howell  
Executive Minister

George Claiborne  
Director of Resource Ministry

Ed Huckleberry  
Valley Campus Minister

Laura Mauzy  
Director of Children's Ministry

Dave Seely  
Youth Minister

Carrie Johnson  
Weekday Preschool &  
Kindergarten Director

Seung (Paul) Tche  
Grow Minister

Middletown Christian Church ♦ (502) 245-9793

[www.middletownchristian.org](http://www.middletownchristian.org)



## Electronic Giving ... An Easy Way to Give

If you're interested in continuing to financially support the ministries of MCC even when you're not able to be in church, consider signing up to tithe electronically. Contact the church office (245-9793 or [mcc500@middletownchristian.org](mailto:mcc500@middletownchristian.org)) and we'll send you a packet of information with a form to fill out and return to us in a self-addressed, stamped envelope. It's that simple!

## Generosity Matters ...

Because of the generosity of our church family, God's vision is becoming a reality. Thank you for your continued support of God's work here at Middletown Christian Church and The Valley.

### General Fund Update

#### Middletown Campus

January—April 2010

**Actual**

January	\$	138,442
February		148,177
March		134,724
April		
4/3, 4		46,623
4/10, 11		28,859
4/17, 18		<u>34,668</u>
Tithes & Offerings	\$	531,493

**Budgeted**

Over (Under) \$ 572,026  
\$ (40,533)

#### Valley Campus

January	\$	6,696
February		8,037
March		5,409
April		
4/3, 4		2,475
4/10, 11		1,316
4/17, 18		<u>3,171</u>
Tithes & Offerings	\$	27,104

**Budgeted**

Over (Under) \$ 27,677  
\$ (573)

*Information as of this printing, 4/21/10.*

**Leave a lasting legacy; remember your church in your estate planning.**

# Living Out Discipleship - Serving Others & Building Relationships



By Katie Beachy

Oakwood, VA in '04... Sunset Gap, TN in '05... Alderson, WV in '06... Harlan, KY in '07... Sunset Gap, TN in '08... Greeneville, TN in '09...

These are the homes of countless people in need who have been helped by MCC youth. Even though we may not visit these places ever again, we've left our mark and built lasting relationships with the folks there.

Beginning in 2004, the MCC youth have traveled to small towns in Appalachia where we live and work for a week. Each experience is different; from making your own food, sleeping on a church floor, and having the nastiest bathrooms, to having home cooked meals every night, staying in an old high school, and having mountain top views in your own back yard. But we know that it's not the meals or entertainment that counts; it's the feeling of helping someone in need.

"Discipleship" is always in action wherever we travel. Whether we're working on a roof, building a porch, painting a house, or laying down carpet, we are engaging in discipleship with each other, the people of Appalachia and the Lord. Ask any of the youth who have made one of these trips— they'll tell you that it's one of the best trips that they've ever taken. The



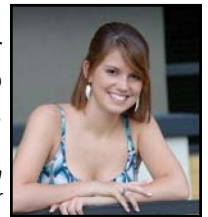
bonding and relationship building that occurs during these trips doesn't just end after the trip; they last a lifetime. But the one relationship that really matters the most is the one with the Lord that deepens as you thank him for this life-changing opportunity to serve others in need.

Taking a week off during summer break and traveling to a place where you have no connection to the outside world is one of the greatest adventures you'll ever take. You become one with the Lord at nightly worship and at the work site.

Agreeing to go on a mission trip shouldn't be hard; you should just say "yes" and be happy and excited to go meet the people who will change your life forever. When we go on these trips, we don't just change our own lives but the lives of the people we serve.

So, this summer, if you're looking for something to do, be a disciple and do Kingdom Work down in Greeneville, TN. You'll never forget this experience or regret going on this trip.

*Katie Beachy, MCC Mission Trip Road Warrior*



**Are You Ready to Serve?**

**Youth Mission Trip**  
Greeneville, TN  
July 25-30 - \$50 each

**Youth (6-12 grade) and Chaperones Needed!**

For more information or to sign up, contact Adam Kilchenman, 245-9793 or [akilchenman@middletownchristian.org](mailto:akilchenman@middletownchristian.org)



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Louisville, KY 40243

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