

EG First Ministry in Action

QUARTERLY MINISTRY REPORT, JANUARY - MARCH 2016

APRIL 13, 2016

Building Relationships in The WAVE Ministry

Michelle Corl, Children's Director

This past quarter was filled with many incredible wins including baptisms, deep spiritual discussions, the adding of new team members, and the evidence of God's presence.

In The WAVE Ministry we believe that every PHASE that a child goes through is filled with unique opportunities for growth. We define a PHASE as a timeframe in a child's life when you can leverage distinctive opportunities to influence their future. Because we know that those phases are fleeting, we must use every opportunity to combine the **LIGHT** of the Church and the

LOVE of the Family to influence the children in our care towards the light of Christ.



On April 1st we took the next step towards fulfilling our church vision of Reaching the Next Generation for Christ. To kick off our first WAVE Ministry Lock In we invited parents to attend our very first **Family eXperience (FX)**. During that time parents were given a "cue" into what their children do on a typical Sunday and they were introduced to that

month's *Life App* (Character traits of God that are reflected in our lives because we are made in His Image). Parents were able to take home a widget that allows them and their children to remember how to apply this month's Life App



to their lives. We will continue to host more FX's throughout the year because we believe that it's important for families to learn and have fun

together.

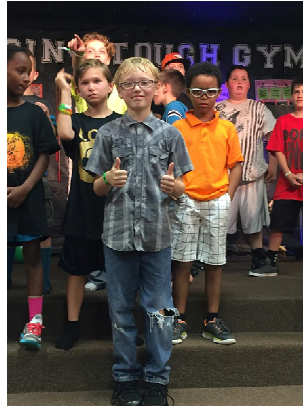
That same night our 3rd - 6th graders and an elite group of AWESOME volunteers stayed for our very first Lock In! We hosted over 40 children - some of whom don't attend our church. We played some crazy (and some messy) games, ate pizza, went deeper into the lessons about this month's Life App (Perseverance - refusing to give up when life get's hard), slept on the not-so-comfortable floor, and over all had a blast! Given the overwhelmingly positive feedback from kids and parents we are looking forward to doing it again in the future (...once the adults have fully recovered).

EG First Ministry Reports for January - March 2016

Currently we have several children whose hearts are very tender towards the Gospel. Please be in prayer that they will come to an authentic faith in Christ and be open and receptive when God calls them. In addition, please be in prayer that God raises up men to be a part of our ministry so they can be another voice speaking into these children's lives. Pray that God stirs the hearts of members of our older generation who will use their wisdom to disciple children and young families towards Christ. Pray that God places the right person to lead in the following classes: Toddlers and 3 year olds every other month during our 9:15 service; Toddlers, 3 year olds, and our 4-5/6 year olds every other month during our 10:30 service; 1st grade Plug In Leader during our



9:15 service; and Small Group Leaders during Energize at 10:30.



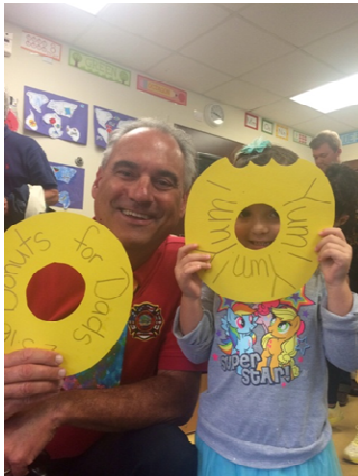
The God we serve is mighty and perfect. He sees us, He knows us, and He saves us. Praise Him for how He has already moved mightily through the lives of those involved in The WAVE Ministry!



EG First Ministry Reports for January - March 2016

The Children “Raise their Hands and Hearts to Jesus” on Valentines Day Jenny Rider, Co-Director

As the first quarter began, First Friends was geared up for a full schedule filled with fun activities. Our first food filled activity was “Donuts for Dad’s”. The children brought their dad or someone special with them to school that morning where they shared how their day gets started and those “oh so wonderful” warm Krispy Kreme Donuts! We want to recognize Krispy Kreme for their generosity that helped make this a special day!



Our next activity was the long awaited Valentine’s Day! The children were very creative with their Valentine boxes this year. It’s always exciting to watch their faces as they come through the doors in the morning. They were very proud to say the least! The theme for Valentines was, “We Raise Our Hands and Hearts to Jesus”.



First Friends hosted their annual open house the week of March 7th. It was a weeklong event instead of just one day, where the public could drop in while school was in session and tour the schools facility, and drop in classrooms while school activities were going on. We had a great response and we would like to thank those who might have shared a good



word about our school. We are at about 65% registration for the next school year at this time.

We ended the fourth quarter with the long awaited “Spring Fling”! It’s an Easter egg



hunt and the return of... oh yes, Cox Farm. We had chicks, bunnies, a goat and a sheep who desperately wanted to escape the playground! It’s always a good time when Della returns. I myself think the animals conspire and have a plan before they reach our playground! We

wrapped up the first quarter with teachers and students all time favorite- SPRING BREAK!

We ask that you continue to lift First Friends up in prayer as the end of the school year approaches and as we continue to register students for the next school year. God continually reminds us of our true mission through our school, as we minister to some of families in spiritual and financial need.



EG First Ministry Reports for January - March 2016

Day Trips Foster Relationships

Tim Harden, Music and Senior Adults Pastor

This past quarter has been an active one for the Adult Fellowship Ministry! In addition to the monthly fellowship potluck luncheons, there have been three day trips to various venues of interest.



In early February a group traveled to the Discovery Center at the Wycliffe Bible Translator Headquarters in Orlando, Florida. The group enjoyed a guided tour and learned the history of Bible translation and the

current challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for getting God's Word to people groups who do not have the scriptures in their "heart language." Afterward everyone enjoyed a meal together at the Wycliffe Headquarters Cafeteria.

In early March a bus load of travelers journeyed to Plant City, Florida for the annual Florida Strawberry Festival. The group enjoyed a full day of concerts, shows, art and craft displays, and exhibits of various kinds. Of course, the day was not complete without enjoying a bowl of strawberry shortcake and stopping to purchase a flat of strawberries from a local stand! The day



was topped off with a visit to Buddy Freddys Buffet. It was a great day for all!

Several weeks later a group of 16 attended the Gaither Vocal Band Concert at Bob Carr Auditorium in Orlando. The three hour concert featured songs old and new by the Gaither Vocal Band. During the break everyone was able to meet the guest artists in the lobby. It was truly an inspirational, worshipful evening as we identified with songs of Praise and Testimony to our Lord.



In addition to enjoying and learning from the particular venue visited on each trip, these trips provide an opportunity to connect and deepen relationships with other folk from our church family. It also provides an opportunity to invite those outside our church family to experience the joy of Christian fellowship and perhaps begin a path to a relationship with Christ.

These trips are open to anyone...even you! Don't hesitate to join us in a future trip opportunity!

EG First Ministry Reports for January - March 2016

Students Get Fired Up for Jesus during Spring Break D-Now Style

Matt Jackson, Student Pastor

Spring Break Disciple Now Recharges Students and Leaders

Over the past several years our student ministry typically heads to Ecuador for a mission trip. This year's mission trip was moved to the summer to make it available to more people, opening our spring break up to something new. So we decided to try a Spring Break Disciple Now Ski Retreat.

The location was Black Mountain, North Carolina. We brought along



Rise Worship as the retreat band led by our own Nick O'Brien. Cris O'Brien and Pastor Matt were the speakers, and Rise also provided themselves as the small group discipleship leaders for our students. The students and student ministry leaders went through David Platt's study "Follow Me", which reveals a biblical picture of what it

means to truly be a Christian. It explored the gravity of what we must forsake in this world, as well as the indescribable joy and deep satisfaction to be found when we live for Christ. The call to follow Jesus is not



simply an invitation to pray a prayer; it's a summons to lose your life...and to find new life in Him. Our students were challenged for 3 intense days of discipleship, messages, and worship. It was a week of

strengthening of faith, recharging, and radical recommitment, while some even made new commitments to truly follow Christ. On the adventurous side of things, our students were able



to ski at Cataloochee Mountain in the Maggie Valley area along with doing a high ropes adventures course in Asheville, North Carolina. There

were lots of laughs, team building, and hilarious falls; and can you believe no one got injured? Praise the Lord! While some of our kids have given up skiing for the rest of their life, the majority can't wait til the next adventure. Overall, we deem our first D-Now Ski Retreat a huge success and want to give a big shout out to all our leaders who took the week off to make it happen! Thanks again!

Compassion Sunday Is Coming

On May 15 our church will be celebrating Compassion Sunday! Compassion Sunday is a nationwide event involving thousands of sponsors and churches across the country. It's your opportunity to share your heart for children in poverty with the members of our church family. And as a direct result, God can use Eau Gallie First to help kids find sponsors and begin a new life filled with hope. Last year our church helped find sponsors for 57 children for Compassion in addition to the children who have already been sponsored by families in our church. Several of our pastors and staff have sponsored Compassion children for years and have even traveled with Compassion to see the work of the ministry first hand. There's not many ministries that we can say we throw our full

EG First Ministry Reports for January - March 2016

Student Ministry Cont...

Matt Jackson, Student Pastor

weight of support behind in partnership, but Compassion it definitely one of them.



Compassion utilizes and equips the local church in the areas of sponsored

children to be able to do ministry without the "recognition" of Compassion. Pastor Matt and Pastor Ralph were both able to meet their sponsored children back in 2014 and 2015 and continue to build relationships with these precious children to this day. God is doing great things through this ministry that our church partners with and we can't wait to celebrate this day with you!



We are currently working on a Compassion Board to be able to visualize the partnerships between

our families and the children sponsored through Compassion. If you sponsor a child, please pick up a Compassion template located in the church office, the front welcome desk, or at the preschool welcome desk and fill it out and turn back in promptly. We will be displaying these in the east hall beginning in May and beyond.

Make sure you include a picture of your Compassion child and a picture of you / your family along with the required information. We think this will be a fantastic visual to show what and where God is at work through Compassion!



Over 2,515 Clients Provided with Food

Barb Harpold, Team Leader

OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD!!! He is ABLE to supply EVERY NEED. The Food Pantry Ministry received donations of food during the months of January, February and March valued at \$792.32. During the same period, we received monetary donations of \$6,965. Thank you, Church Family for helping us meet the needs of those less fortunate in our community! During the first quarter, we served 771 clients, gave out 916 bags and fed 2,515 people. Each bag that is given out has enough food for two days.

The team put in approximately 417 hours during the first quarter. Once again, I can't brag enough about our team. Our sixteen team members are dedicated to this ministry and are always available when needed. We love serving God by following his command to help the less fortunate and the bonus is that we have a great time of fellowship while doing it. As always, our thanks to Perry Salter and Jordan Jinright for setting up for us each work day. Also, a BIG shout out to Publix and Panera Bread who make it possible for us to give an extra treat of bread or pastries along with the bag of food to each client. And, of course, none of this would be possible without our Church Family.

The Clothes Closet is back in operation on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 AM until 12:00 PM, along with the Food Pantry. They also fill a very big need in the community.

Proverbs 22:9 - Be generous and share your food with the poor. You will be blessed for it. GNB

EG First Ministry Reports for January - March 2016

Reaching Out to Those at Home

Janice Thornton, Team Leader

The Homebound Team made 189 visits this quarter. We are continuing to visit several of the nursing homes and hospitals in the area. I think it is important that we visit each of the nursing homes in the area where we have members. They are always so happy to see us. Sometimes we are the only ones they have visiting them.

I want to welcome two new members to our team: Thanks to June and Dorman Fowler for stepping forward and joining our team. I would also like to tell Nancy Fannin how good it is to see her back after her surgery. Welcome back, Nancy!!

Threads of Love

Lori Ingraham, Team Leader

We had a very good start for the beginning of this year with good fellowship and busy hands.

Our group delivered:

- 73 surgical pillows to Holmes Regional Hospital and the Cancer Center
- 5 bibs to the Cancer Center
- 6 bibs to Joe's Place
- 81 crocheted baby caps for the newborns at Holmes Birthing Center
- 57 crocheted caps and turbans for the Chemo patients at the Cancer Center.

We are also busy putting together beautiful quilts.

This quarter we welcomed Jane Wilbourne and Kathy VanNostran to our group.

A big thank you to Zim Spaulding for donating a roll of batting to be used for quilting. Also, we want to thank all the anonymous donations made of fabric, thread and yarn.

We had two of our sewing machines serviced by Allen at Quilts and Lace. We thank him for his generous discount.

Come join us the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 9:00 AM. Sharon Barna and/or Lorraine Phifer lead us in a devotional and we always have a pot of coffee.

EG First Ministry Reports for January - March 2016

Women on Mission for God

Nancy Hunt, Coordinator

In January Tommy Lee Mobley led us in a study explaining the "Send America" program of the North American Mission Board. They are concentrating on starting new churches in strategic cities throughout the U.S. and Canada. We focused on Rev. Coates who is starting a new work in Miami, Florida. He and his family are longtime residents of the area and are reaching many unchurched people.

In February, Lynne Phillips came and shared with us about the Discovery Group at our church who is ministering to the Arch Creek Run community. They meet with the residents several times a week distributing free baked products and snacks, having a Coffee Hour and a weekly Bible Study.

In March our group partnered with the Discovery Group and visited the Arch Creek Community where we had the joy of meeting some of the residents and sharing Bible stories and testimonies as well as prayer time for our missionaries who had birthdays on that day. We certainly came away blessed.

Ministering to Needs with Compassion

Ed Davis, Team Leader

General Benevolence

\$181.32 Beginning Balane

\$9,592.00 Received

\$8,771.74 Disbursed

\$1,001.26 Ending Balance

Total of 71 clients including 6 church members:

\$5,384.32 FPL Payments, 53 clients, including 4 members

\$1,412.90 Water bills, 10 clients

\$1,947.92 Miscellaneous, 8 clients, including 4 members

It's a privilege to serve the Lord through His church ministering to the needs of many people. If you haven't had your power or water turned off recently, or had to face eviction from your residence because you just didn't have the money to pay, try to imagine how most recipients of the church's help feel. Most are sincerely grateful and relieved; some to the point of tears of joy. We served 71 clients over 22 days this quarter. Amazingly, we had 4 days when no clients came in. Please continued to pray that our team might have compassion and discernment as we work in this ministry.



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