

CHRIST'S COMMUNITY CHURCH/ Urban Community Ministries COMMUNITY CONNECTION



Winter
2018

38126 Collaboration Opportunities

Catholic Charities

God has tasked Donna and I with laboring in 38126. This zip code has past notoriety for having an infant mortality rate of a third world country and more recently one of the poorest zip codes in the nation with almost 61% of those in this zip code living in poverty. Four days a week day, along with tutoring, providing a safe, loving on them, and sometimes clothing them, we also ensure they receive an afterschool snack and a meal, sometimes hot. When we began to notice that children were missing school because they didn't have anything clean to wear, we bought laundry bags, taught them how to wash their clothes and told them they could bring their clothes over to our place as soon as someone is here, so they can wash and dry their clothes for themselves.

On November 8, 2018, Donna and I had a meeting with former Mayor Dick Hackett of Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities was looking for a place in the city with the greatest need to begin a new work. Once they had established that it was 38126, they began their search for partner with in our zip code. They are so committed to working in this area that they have put it on a bumper sticker: #38126... my Memphis too. This type of branding and bumper sticker was something that had been previously discussed at one of our UCM board meetings. Friday, November 9, Donna and I went to Catholic Charities to meet with the staff. They wanted to partner with us but there was a pressing event with which they needed our assistance. They (with the Food Bank) had scheduled a pre-Thanksgiving food drop for Friday, November 16, 2018. CCC/UCM helped with gathering over 180 families that were serviced that day. Catholic Charities had volunteers from International Paper to help with the over 225 families that received commodities based upon family size that day.

Beginning November 26, Catholic Charities is planning to use our site as a distribution point for food and clothing for persons vetted by MIFA. Individuals will go to MIFA and obtain a voucher based upon need. Only individuals with vouchers will be sent by them to our site. Initially smaller families will come to CCC/UCM, while those with larger families will go to Catholic Charities on the corner of Cleveland and Jefferson for their voucher fulfillment. These food distributions will take place at our site from 9 a.m.- noon, Mon-Thurs. Eventually, they would like clothing and baby items (food/diapers/etc.) to be given out from our site, as well. We will see how things develop. We are just vessels and anything with which He has blessed us is His to be used for HIS SERVICE and HIS GLORY.

South Memphis Ministries Network

Advance Memphis, Pastor Walker, and Father Colenzo Hubbard got together and thought it would be good to for a collaboration of community ministry leaders in 38126. From their initial meeting the South Memphis Ministries Network was born. Advance Memphis, Emmanuel Center, Christ's Community Church/Urban Community Ministries, Streets Ministries and other area ministries are getting together to pray, support each other, and see how we can better network and see what is available to serve our community. Meetings are monthly rotating between the varying ministry sites.

Ministry Highlights

- We have continued our Summer Safe Haven and After School programs.
- We fed approximately 150 people during our Community Thanksgiving meal, November 17, 2018.
- We shipped off 50 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes.
- Pastor Lemar has been on two mission trips this year, one to Jamaica and the other to Southeast Asia.
- Donna is beginning her internship semester towards finishing up her clinical mental counseling degree.
- The Memphis Ministry Outreach Pastor of First Evangelical church, Andrew Beach, has had several groups of their members come down to be a part of our worship service this year.
- We have recently had 7 souls profess faith in Christ.
- One of our church leaders, whom God has delivered from years of addiction, has become a homeowner!
- Another one of our church members, a recent business owner and abuse overcomer, and has been able to refurbish her place with new state of the art equipment.

Thank You!

We are so very grateful, for your continued prayer and support of us! This January will mark 20 years since God called us on this journey to plant a church in the Lamar Terrace Housing Project. There have been times when it has been hard, but we have felt your prayers upholding us and enabling us to stay in the fight. Our children have been exposed to things that have left scars, but God is faithful and never waste a hurt. I wait with hopeful expectation for the wonderful fruit that will be yielded, if not here – in heaven. There is a plaque in my office I received for doing prison ministry some time ago. It is a quote from Erma Bombeck. It says, “When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would have not a single bit of talent left and could say, I USED EVERYTHING YOU GAVE ME.” I often tell people, God gave us two very precious gifts, His One of a Kind Son, Jesus Christ, and our lives. Our gift back to God is what we do with them. If you don’t know Christ as Lord, you are actually missing out on knowing the One who created you, and you could also be missing out on knowing and walking in the purpose for which He created you. This holiday season surrender your will to the King of the Universe so that He can become King of your heart and Lord of your life. Celebrate His birth, with your new birth, as a citizen of heaven. May God Bless YOU!

Prayer Requests

- Please pray for a father in his early 50s who has custody of his two young children (boy and girl). Pray that God will bless them with a home for the holidays, that God would allow the father to remain drug-free, and that he would find and keep stable employment.
- Please pray for two very large families in our church and after school program who are having to find other housing during this busy holiday season. Pray that they will find housing, that the children will continue to go to church, and that the mothers will come to put their complete trust in the Savior.
- Pray for another mother of two, whose mother is battling cancer, as she seeks employment during this holiday time.
- We are still in need of the following:
 - Afterschool tutors
 - A youthful mission-minded youth/outreach/education pastor with a heart for God’s people in this community
 - Faithful spirit-led families to join in the work in this area
 - Spirit-filled musicians to lead and share in worship
- During our Fall Outreach, we surveyed the attendees about what they perceived as needs they would like to see addressed. It was interesting that a majority of respondents marked legal and mental health services as high needs for this area. Pray that we will have wisdom on how we can partner with those to fill these and other needs as we attempt to better serve those to whom we minister.

Ministry in Pictures



Community Thanksgiving Dinner



Teaching Boys how to Shine Shoes



South Memphis Ministries Network



Fall Community Outreach



Teaching Boys to Tie Ties

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