

**CHRIST'S COMMUNITY CHURCH/
Urban Community Ministries**

COMMUNITY CONNECTION



**Fall
2016**

PASTOR/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

This past year has been one of my toughest years in ministry. When I look at the alarming statistics that over 1500 pastors leave the ministry each month, it is overwhelming to say the least that burnout plays a major role in pastors leaving the ministry. Satan's greatest weapons are always aimed on those of us who put forth effort to accomplish God's plan and purpose for the ministry to which He assigned us.

I consider myself very fortunate because I have friends like you who keep the CCC family and me in your prayers, and you remain faithful to providing the financial support we so greatly need. I am also truly blessed and experience joy in ways that many Christians have not had the opportunity to because of a lack of endurance, patience, and perseverance with people who really need God's mercy and grace the most.

Allow me to tell you a story of one of the mothers we have had an opportunity to serve, and see how the hand of God moved on her behalf. It is so amazing. Carol is a mother of 4 who had been having a hard time because of bad decisions on her part, but for some reason Carol blamed God for her consequences and her misfortunes. When I began witnessing to her about the love of Christ, she said she didn't want to hear anything about God. I told her I understood because I knew exactly what her problem was- it was her. So I kept praying for the right opportunity to step in. God opened the door wide and clear.

I asked her what did she want God to do for her. She said that she wanted God to do something for her children. I said no, this has got to be something for you personally. She said she wanted a big screen TV like a 42" TV for her bedroom. (Now we know that God is not a genie in a bottle that we can command when we want something, but God will use situations to get our attention.) So that day we prayed for God to show her a sign that she was important to Him and interested in her life. We prayed, Lord if it is your will allow Carol to get a TV.

Well guess what, that very week someone came and gave her a 42" TV. God blessed her with the TV she wanted. I had no idea God was going to move so soon, but this may have been the final thing that God used to get her attention. Carol had been watching how we ministered to her children for over a year. She had seen how CCC/UCM loved them, watched out for them at school, and in the neighborhood.

She is a very proud person who does not ask for anything. But witnessing the love CCC/UCM poured over her children, and then coming to know that there was a very personal God who cared about her wants to even supply her with a TV caused her to become open to receive Jesus Christ into her life. Praise the Lord! She is now employed and excited about her relationship with Christ. Her demeanor has changed.

There are many unfortunate things that happen in our ministry from day to day and from week to week, but life-changing experiences make it all worthwhile.



Top to Bottom: 1) Summer Safe Haven (SSH) garden work, 2) Molly Adams speak to SSH about etiquette, 3) SSH Youth enjoying Lynn Huffman's art class, 4) Pastor Walker at LaRose Elementary's Donuts with Dads, and 5) Pastor Walker's BTW FCA Huddle.

The Year in Pictures

Praise Reports:

- God has sent a mature minister of the Gospel and his family to help lighten the load. He and his family truly have a heart for the lost. We are praying that God will supply financial resources so that he and his talented family may be compensated for their labor of love.
- It has been a year since Pastor Walker's triple bypass surgery and he has recovered well. Thank you to all who have prayed and are continuing to pray for him.
- God has sent us a guitarist. We are now waiting on God to send the rest of the musicians.

Prayer Requests:

1. Please pray that a mother, to which have been ministering for the past year, will be able to keep her housing so that we can continue to minister to the family's needs.
2. That God will send to our church body faithful, mature, dedicated servants (regardless of race, socio-economic status, education, or skill) who have a heart to see our city transformed by the love of Christ, and who will come alongside to volunteer/mentor teens, moms, men, and families in the church and community.
3. That we are able to hire an outreach/educational specialist to increase our influence in the schools and families.
4. That God would provide tutors for our afterschool program.
5. That God would send keyboardists, other musicians, AV, and website people for our worship service and community outreach.
6. That God would continue to provide the wisdom & resources we need to maintain:
 - After School/Tutoring
 - Summer Safe Haven
 - Back-to-School Rally
 - Operation Christmas Child
 - Community Thanksgiving Meal
 - Community Christmas Baskets
 - Thrift Store

Please continue to pray for the Walker Family.

If you'd like to reach Lemar or Donna, please contact us @ (901) 577-0707 or via email @ administrator@christchurchmemphis.com. We'd love to hear from you or have you visit.

YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

For the purposes of this piece the three highlighted boys are called, Dominic, Nicholas, and William.

"Dominic" is a 5th grader at the local elementary school. Dominic came to us very angry not knowing about being loved or how to love. His grades were suffering because of his lack of love and trust. After showing love to him and helping him with homework along with helping him learn to cope with his home life, and just being there for him to talk to, we have seen a great change in him with his school assignments and in the way he acts toward the other young boys in our program.

He was struggling with getting into the habit of doing his homework in the evenings and also with how he should act/participate in class. Along with one of his teachers, Pastor Walker and the UCM team began a 3-week intervention with him. This included us interacting with him in the school, and sitting in his class to observe his classroom etiquette. By sitting in his class, with his teacher's permission, we found that he realized that someone cared about him, not only his physical being but his learning abilities also. Within the first week, there was a change in his behavior at the after school program. He would come in and begin to do his homework before doing anything else.

After the third week UCM, received information from his teachers that his entire attitude had changed about his schoolwork and toward his classmates. His teacher reported that he had risen to have a leadership role in how he interacted with the other students. For the first 9 weeks Dominic was issued the Citizenship Award for his entire 5th grade class. This award is given to those meeting the national qualifications exemplifying superior honor and discipline within the classroom environment. *(By CCC/UCM staffer, Terry Peterson.)*

"Nicholas" is a rambunctious little boy who didn't like school. He would never tell you this, but we believe that this was due to the fact that other children picked on him because of his inability to read, and he is ethnically different. He would tell people that he could read and do his math, and he would enthusiastically try, until he would begin to realize that he was making too many mistakes. This would lead to frustration, intense anger, and a barrage of expletives often directed at those who were trying to love on him the most. He would get remorseful to the point of tears when he got home and have his mother call

us so he could apologize.

Nicholas' first six-weeks report card period had an "F". Getting him into a routine where he would first of all tell us when he had homework, and then sit down and do it could be challenging, but we were up to the challenge. He was given dedicated help to ensure he would be at grade level before Christmas break. We are pleased to tell you that with structure and prayer, the "F" has gone to an "A" for the second-six weeks period. He can still be a handful, and we are working on helping him change some of his colorful language, but he now knows that God has a plan and purpose for his life, and that work is required to ensure you are ready for those plans.

"William" is a peculiar young child. As the Bible says that Christians are to be peculiar people, we truly believe that that Scripture has William in mind. William is constantly bringing other neighborhood boys to church. He will bring them up to the altar to receive prayer so they can behave better. At one time when we were trying to separate the children during Sunday service so they could go in another room where the service was projected and the children could color or be freer to move, he adamantly let the ushers know that he did not want to go with the children his age. He wanted to stay in the service to hear Pastor Walker, and hear Pastor Walker he does. He intently listens and has a tender heart for God. He rarely misses a mid-week Bible study. One day he approached Pastor Walker with the following request, "Pastor Walker, I would like to know if one day you would like me to help you preach?" This earnest request put us in the mind of Elisha when he asked his master Elijah for a double-portion. Who knows what God has in store for this little boy, but we covet your prayers for him, his family, and us as we plant God's Word in his fertile heart.

All three of the boys mentioned above have experienced psychological, physical, and emotional traumas that many of us have been blessed to avoid. We want all of the children to know that God does not waste a hurt or experience. Things that look bleak now, God can turn around for good because ultimately He wants to get the glory out of our lives. Please pray that God continues to use us to help mold lives and point souls to Christ. Without Him we can do nothing!

Past Year Ministry Highlights

Over the past year, CCC/UCM has done the following in our efforts to build up God's kingdom:

Prayer Walk - God has been dealing with us, as a local body, to better utilize one of our greatest weapons - prayer. May 21, 2016, we had our first community Prayer Walk. This is the first time members of the congregation collectively walked with a purpose in the neighborhood since our ceremonial walk from Booker T Washington auditorium to our current home the last Sunday we had service there. As we endeavor to do more and more in this area for the Lord, we have to be people of prayer and the Word who are equipped to handle anything we may face. Symbolically we marked our territory for the Lord, and those who could not walk - prayed in their cars as they followed or at the church. In 2017, we plan to do this every three months, March 18, June 3, and September 16, and have Prayer Shut-ins at the church January 13, March 10, May 12, July 14, September 8, and November 10. We welcome you to be here with us.

Jamaica Mission - Pastor Walker and two young ladies were afforded an opportunity to go on a mission trip to share the Gospel in Jamaica this past summer, June 2 - June 9. Because it was one of the girl's birthday the day they left, Pastor Walker got with the crew of the departing flight and arranged for her to be serenaded by the members of the flight. The trip was an effort to expose teens across the state to sharing their faith in another country. Though it was available to all of CCC, there was only one mother and her daughter who were willing to work towards getting funding for the trip. Pray that we are able to help others see the value in sharing the Good News in Memphis and abroad.

Morning Chapel Camping Experience - Morning Chapel MBC each year takes their boys on a camping trip in T O Fuller Park. For the past few years they have graciously invited boys from CCC. The first weekend in June, eight of the CCC boys and Terry Peterson (after school program assistant and worship leader)

joined the men of Morning Chapel as they sought to help connect the young city boys with nature and the Creator of the nature.

Summer Safe Haven - 06/06 - 07/28 We had over 65 children (some of which are transitioning from homelessness) enrolled in UCM's Summer Safe Haven camp. This summer we planted four square foot gardens, with help from friends at First Evangelical Church, and had field trips to Bass Pro Shop, the Brooks Museum, Mud Island River Museum/Park, and Slavehaven. We also had a VBS conducted for us by Houston, TX's Champion Forest Baptist Church. We as believers should not want others to be ignorant educationally or biblically so we labor in an effort to help our children catch up in these areas. Pastor Walker often tells the children, "To have a brain and not use it, is like not having a brain at all." We do not want our children to be societal statistics or to be ignorant of the devil's assaults against them.

Back2School Rally - July 30 was the date for our annual Back2School Rally. We served over 200 people with food for the body (grilled hot dogs and trimmings) and food for the soul. The outdoor event allowed us to highlight some of the talent from our Summer Safe Haven camp. We gave away school supplies, and rewarded camp attendees with prizes for participation, attendance, and conduct.

After School Program - Beginning 9/6 and throughout this school year, UCM has an after school program Monday through Thursday from 3 - 6 p.m. geared toward helping the children in the community be all that God wants them to be. Our program assistant, Terry Peterson, is in the school 2 - 3 days a week connecting with teachers and letting the children know that we care for and are here for them. Snacks and dinner are served daily. We get the children's progress reports and report cards and strive to teach them that God

can open doors and an education can ensure you are prepared to walk through them when they are opened.

Soul-winning Training Sessions - 10/29 & 11/5 - CCC's newest minister, Darius Coleman, has a zeal for souls. Shortly after becoming apart of our fellowship, he and his father, Min. Donald Coleman, facilitated two sessions on the Qualifications of a Soul Winner. These energetic and highly informative sessions covered topics such as salvation, having a clean life, repentance, to why is Jesus so important? A few more sessions are planned in 2017 for role-playing and additional questions.

Community Thanksgiving Meals - Our first year in this building the members wanted to do a Thanksgiving dinner for the community. Pastor Walker is a firm believer in holidays being a time to make memories with your family so he suggested having a pre-Thanksgiving meal the Saturday prior to Thanksgiving. We have committed to doing this every since. Last year, 11/21/15, we fed over 150 people. This year, 11/19/16, we fed about 100 people but more importantly 5 prayed to received Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. We know that there are those in the community who are watching to see if our talk aligns with our walk. Please pray that we endure!

Operation Christmas Child - On 11/21 CCC delivered 130 shoeboxes to a downtown Memphis drop-off location. Throughout the year, donations for this yearly event are taken in the weekly offering. We are using this as a tool to help our church learn how to give to others and to help us all realize that we need to be more grateful for where we live and what we have. We are blessed!

Mother's Day Out "Reach" - The more we reach out in this area, the more we see a need to target the mothers and teen mothers we encounter. Please pray for our wisdom in this regard.



Meeting a spiritual need on our Prayer Walk

Ministry Offerings

Sunday Mornings

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:45 a.m.

Wednesday Night

Prayer/ Bible Study/
Mid-week Service 6 p.m.

Mon-Thurs.

After School Program
3 - 6 p.m.

Thursday

Free Haircuts w/ TN School
of Applied Technology
4:45- 6:45 p.m.

Donna Walker and some of the Meet Memphis volunteers



Want more information; check us out at www.christschurchmemphis.com.

Lemar Walker is the Pastor of Christ's Community Church and Executive Director of Urban Community Ministries. The goal of these ministries is to be salt and light, hands and feet in our city and the world, providing the Gospel to strengthen, empower and equip.

CHRIST'S COMMUNITY CHURCH
WWW.CHRISTSCHURCHMEMPHIS.COM &
Urban Community Ministries
 (901) 577-0707
 715 ST PAUL AVENUE
 MEMPHIS, TN 38126