

FEBRUARY 2012

“IS THERE MORE TO LIFE?”

ALPHA is your opportunity to ask! Ask God anything in a relaxed setting through talks and small group discussions!

BEGINNING WEDNESDAY NIGHT, FEB. 29 AT 6:15PM

Supper and Childcare provided

Sign up in the lobby - Contact the church office for more info

THE ALPHA COURSE

explore the meaning of life



ash wednesday service

FEBRUARY 22 AT 7PM

just show up...

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE OF THE MONTH

MEDITATION

Last month's spiritual disciple focused on our prayer life, our conversation with God. If you are anything like me, oftentimes my prayer life can sound more like a one-way conversation, where I do most of the talking and God listens to the concerns, requests, and petitions of my heart. This month we want to shift our focus to meditation; where we intentionally listen to what God is saying to us. Many times God will speak to us through God's Word as we meditate on the message and meaning of a given passage. The practice of meditation is important in that it teaches us to listen to and be transformed by God's heart. Meditation purifies us as it renews our hearts and minds when we let God's Word penetrate into our very being.

-LORI BROWN, PASTOR OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION

**"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."
– Romans 12:2**

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS / CHALLENGE FOR THE MONTH

- ▶ Set aside 5 to 15 minutes a day. Start with 5 minutes and increase the time during the month. Begin by asking God to speak to you through His Word and anticipate that He will!
- ▶ Pick a chapter in the Bible and read it slowly. Read it out loud. Read it with a vulnerable heart and be open to the message for your life that day.
- ▶ Notice the ideas and thoughts that come to mind or words that stand out while reading the Bible. Reflect on what it means throughout the day and allow it to sink into your heart.
- ▶ Imagine yourself as the different people in the story. What new insights do you gain from their perspective?
- ▶ Memorize verses and/or phrases throughout the month that stand out to you.

OTHER THINGS TO REMEMBER

- ▶ It's not always easy to incorporate new disciplines into your life.
- ▶ Look at your calendar and pick a time for each day that will work with your life.
- ▶ If you miss a day or two, just acknowledge it and begin again.
- ▶ Partner with someone and help keep each other accountable.
- ▶ It's not about perfection, it's about practice.
- ▶ If you get stuck on something or if you don't understand something, ask for help.
- ▶ Record your progress – start a spiritual journal.
- ▶ Have fun!

HELPFUL HINTS

Use the concordance in your Bible to find a particular topic or skim through the section headings in your Bible for a topic or story of interest. Not sure where to start? Ask for help.

If you have any questions, want other suggestions, or would like to share your meditation experience, contact us at (302) 378-7692 or Lori@ConnectionCC.org.

For more information on the practice of Spiritual disciplines refer to "Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth," by Robert Foster

FINANCE TEAM UPDATE

KEY FINANCIAL RESULTS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2011

	July-December 2011 Actual	July-December 2011 Budget	Fiscal YTD Variance
Total Income	\$ 323,587	\$ 330,360	\$ (6,773)
Staff Expense	\$ 128,006	\$ 128,485	\$ (479)
Building Expense	160,055	168,681	(8,626)
Office & Ministry Exp.	46,640	55,699	(9,059)
Other Expense	200	(22,505)	22,705
Total Expense	\$ 334,901	\$ 330,360	\$ 4,541
Net Income	\$ (11,314)	\$ 0	\$ (11,314)

() Represents a negative amount

- ★ The total income and building expense line is under budget due to the delay in the Building 252 (Sunday School) project.
- ★ The other expense line budget shows a large negative amount due to timing of the budget by month. This negative amount will be reduced over the course of the fiscal year.

Make it Easy on Yourself Through Electronic Funds Transfer

Connection Community Church has the capability of receiving your offering through an electronic funds transfer. This means you can make regular contributions to your church without writing a check. You can have your tithe deducted mid-month, at month's end, or both. It's very easy....just complete the form found in the rack next to the Guest Services counter and put it in the offering bag.

Please see Mike Rottina (Director of Finance) with any questions or call him at 302-378-1686 to have this easy way of contributing implemented for your giving.



FREED UP financial living

TUESDAY EVENINGS,
JAN. 31 – MARCH 6, 2012, 7– 8:30PM

REGISTRATION FEE \$15/PERSON WHICH
INCLUDES A PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

LEARN WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS about finances and how to combat cultural myths such as, "Debt is expected and unavoidable," "Things bring happiness," and "A little money will solve all your problems."

DEVELOP a Spending Plan.

CHOOSE between three different record-keeping systems to help you stick to your plan.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, you will discover how being financially faithful can help you become financially free!

PRE-WORK MATERIALS need to be completed prior to attending the course. All materials are confidential and will not be shared with others.

COURSE BROCHURES AND SIGN-UP FORMS are available at the information table (complete the sign-up form and enclose it along with your registration fee in the envelope provided for your convenience and drop it in the offering bag). Pick up your workbook and pre-work sheet the following Sunday at Guest Services.

All questions can be directed to Mike Rottina at 302-378-1686 or by e-mail at seagull15@gmail.com.

THANK YOU...

Dear Connection Family;

We wanted to thank you for the prayers, the phone calls and cards during this time of loss for our family. It is very comforting to know that you are loved when tragedy touches you.

God's peace to all,

Bob and Beth Wessell

Dear Connection:

I want to thank Connection Community Church for letting me go on Chrysalis. It was life changing. I also want to thank Mac for sponsoring me to go. It wouldn't have been possible for me to go without him. Words can't describe how thankful I am that I was able to go.

Thanks again,

Nick Pierce

P.S. FLY WITH CHRIST!

Thank you very much for helping me give my grandchildren a wonderful Christmas. It's people like you in the community that make children smile at Christmas once again.

Thank you and God Bless,

Shelly

Dear Pastors;

During this past Christmas season your church donated items for our adopt a family program for our school. Positive Outcomes Charter School would like to thank you and your church for the joy that you brought to our two families. Both of our families are going through tough times right now and your church's actions certainly helped them.

Without the generous and hard work of people like your church and you, many families and children would not have the opportunity to experience the true warmth of the Christmas season. Your donations brought our adopted parents to tears and joy to the hearts of the children.

For the Staff, Students and Faculty of Positive Outcomes Charter School I would like to thank you for everything that you do for the local community.

Best Wishes and Warmest Regards,

Edward J. Emmett Jr., Director

CONGRATULATIONS...

Congratulations to Fiona Eve Brandenburg, daughter of Kyle and Rachel Brandenburg, on her baptism January 8.

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLASS

Register Now!

Sign Language classes are being offered by Deafinitions & Interpreting, LLC located in the Newark/Stanton area. Classes are held on Saturday morning from 9am-12pm for 6 weeks beginning February 25 at Christiana Hospital, Conference Room 1001. The total cost is \$140 (Course \$75/materials/book/cd \$65). Registration forms are available at Guest Services or for additional information and registration, please contact Joe at 302-563-7714 or email deafinitionsterp@gmail.com.

DONATIONS FOR HAITI

Megan Faulkner, formerly from CCC and now a youth pastor in Ocean Grove, NJ will be traveling with a small group of adults on a mission trip to Haiti. Following the disaster in Haiti, Dayspring Ministries was able to rebuild the Light and Peace School in Haiti, however, due to the inability of surrounding schools to rebuild, they are servicing many more students. Megan is asking for our help with two needs:

- ▶ Crayola classic color markers (8-pack size)
- ▶ Three-lined elementary handwriting paper

We are hoping to collect at least 100 of each. Please leave your donations in the special boxes provided in the church lobby and annex lobby by February 12.

CONNECTION RECYCLES!

We have newly labeled recycling containers in the lobby, but we need your help. Please be mindful of what you are throwing away, and contribute to our recycling efforts.

U.M. MOTORCYCLE ENTHUSIAST

Like to ride motorcycles? Anyone interested in starting a chapter of U.M.M.E. at CCC contact Dave Dowty at 302-653-2195 (cell) or email him at hawghead1954@msn.com or sign up at Guest Services.



INCLEMENT WEATHER

It's that time of the year when traveling on the roads can be dangerous and we may have to close the church. All church closings and delays will be posted on our website and the answering machine, so be sure to check before you come if you're not sure.



SHOE DRIVE: Jan. 8 – Feb. 26

Did you know that 300-400 million shoes are thrown away in landfills each year? CCC will be hosting a shoe drive this January and February so that we can share God's love in a practical way to those who are in need of shoes around the world. It's easy, fun and worthwhile! Get the whole family involved and clean out your closets. Then, bring us your gently used (or new) shoes to be donated to Shoes 2 Share. Shoes 2 Share is a grassroots effort to provide on-going footwear relief directly to children and their families in need within programs associated with orphanages, shelters, rehabilitation and feeding programs, etc. Its mission is to passionately emulate the love of Christ and advance God's Kingdom among the nations of the world by sharing the Good News with the gift of shoes. Drop your shoes in the bright red barrels on Sunday mornings through February 26. Email Michelle Falla with any questions, mfalla1@verizon.net.

UNITED METHODIST MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKENDS IN DE & PA

Encounter Weekend exists to help couples learn how to recapture their love and affection that first brought them together - and to build on that foundation to make their good marriages even better.

UPCOMING DATES

Feb. 10-12, 2012 Rehoboth Beach, DE

Mar. 9-11, 2012 York, PA

For more information visit www.encounter.org or contact Georgie and Clay Holland clay@agapefarm.com and/or georgie@agapefarm.com.

CHURCH WORKDAY MARCH 17, 8AM-?

We will be cleaning, and performing general repairs to the inside and outside (weather permitting) of the building.

Sign up in the lobby or see Joy Wiseman with any questions.



Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

-ROMANS 8: 35-39

My father lost his battle with cancer on July 29, 2000. He is the reason I got involved in Relay for Life in 2008. I thought this would be a good way for our family to remember Dad, and open the door for us to talk to our children about their grandfather and about cancer. I honestly didn't know what to expect and was COMPLETELY blown away by the event. My kids didn't understand the significance of the opening lap for survivors & caregivers. I found myself breaking down as I tried to explain it to them in a way that they could understand. These people have fought cancer and they won! THAT is something to celebrate!! Later, once it got dark, came the luminary lap. We lit a candle in remembrance of Dad, and watched the track light up as others lit their candles to remember those they've lost and to honor those who are still fighting.

I continue to be overwhelmed by the number of people in our community who are touched by cancer and who are doing something to fight back. This will be our 5th year ... and on June 8th and 9th, we will again walk the track at Silver Lake Park in Middletown. We will walk ... A LOT! :) We will remember Dad along with other family members and friends whose lives have been cut short by this terrible disease. We will celebrate with friends who have fought and continue to fight to survive it. And we will do whatever we can to raise awareness and fight back!

- Joy Wiseman

You don't have to look very far to see someone who has been touched by cancer. PRAISE GOD not even cancer can separate us from Christ's love. Will you join us as we walk for a cure?

Come to our next meeting on Tuesday, February 21 from 6:30-8pm in room A5.

Contact Monica Kreck kreck1712@aol.com or Jackie McMonigle jax3378@yahoo.com for more information.

GRIEF SHARE[®]

For those experiencing the loss of a loved one, Griefshare meets at 7pm every Thursday evening at Connection Community Church (Annex room 4). Griefshare is a 13-week biblically based video series that ministers to those on a grief journey. There is also time devoted to supporting one another through sharing and listening. For further information, please contact Laurie Turtoro at 302-449-1359.



iServe is a ministry to help you get connected through Serving. Pick up a brochure at Guest Services to see the many serving opportunities available or contact Pastor Lori at Lori@ConnectionCC.org.

PRAISE TEAM

Do you sing? Play the drums? Play the keyboard? How about the guitar? Then come on out to practice on Thursday nights at 7pm and check out being a part of the Praise Team! There is room for you! For more information, contact Kari Jones (Kari@ConnectionCC.org) or any member of the team.

CONNECTION^{TECH}

There are a lot of pieces that need to come together for our services at Connection. Join the team that, if all goes well, goes unnoticed every week. From computer operators to audio techs, this is a role that does not require a high level of geekery- just a love of ministry and attention to detail. For more information on joining the team, contact Barry Wiseman at Barry@ConnectionCC.org



Kids' Connection is open to fourth and fifth graders. We meet the first and third Sunday of every month from 12:30 until 2pm. We start the afternoon off with a Bible Study, then we have lunch and play games. This year our focus will be Community Service. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Barb Sheppard at 302-252-5483.



**A MUSIC AND ARTS MINISTRY
FOR CHILDREN IN GRADES 1 THROUGH 5.**

We meet every Tuesday from 5:30-6:15pm. For more information, contact Stefanie Griffin at sjayelord@yahoo.com.



Are you a crafter or would you simply like to try your hand at it? Join us on the 4th Friday of each month between 6:30 and 10pm as we come together to make homemade cards that will be used by the Care Team for notes of encouragement, sympathy, and congratulations. Enjoy fun and fellowship while you share your creative gift with others. Sign up at Guest Services or contact Monica Samans for more information at mamasaurus@samans.com.

CONNECTION CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

This month, the K-5 grade children will be challenged to show the highest degree of honor- "letting someone know you see how valuable they really are." They will be exploring God's pattern of honoring people in unexpected ways and learning to:

- ▶ Honor those who are overlooked
- ▶ Honor others more than themselves
- ▶ Honor those who are over them
- ▶ Honor God in front of others

David will be their mentor as they explore his life in 1 and 2 Samuel. "Love each other deeply. Honor others more than yourselves," will be their memory verse from Romans 12:10 (NIV).

Preschoolers this month will learn how God speaks to each of us and the importance of listening to God by hearing stories from the books of 1 Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings.

We are honored to partner with you in sharing God's love with our children. We're off to a great start this year and look forward to connecting even more children to our wonderful Lord and Savior. Have a blessed month!

-Kathy Reed, Jerome Garrett, and Amy Novosel

NURSERY CREW LEADERS

- 8:30 Suzann Shorb
- 9:45 Sharon Brackin
- 11:00 in prayer...

YOUTH CONNECTION

- ▶ \$2- the amount of money that approximately 2.6 billion people worldwide are able to spend to provide for their families on a daily basis.
- ▶ 925 million- the number of people worldwide going to bed hungry every night.
- ▶ 8 to 12 seconds- how often there is a child somewhere who dies from hunger-related causes.
- ▶ \$30- the amount of money that can help feed and care for one child for a month!

Youth Connection is ready to help fight worldwide hunger! The senior high youth will be joining World Vision for the 30 Hour Famine on February 24 and 25. Together they will fast for 30 hours, pray for the children and families affected by hunger, and learn more about hunger and how it affects so many children worldwide.

Before the event, the youth will raise funds to help World Vision in their efforts to combat hunger. The youth will also take part in a "Night Walk" as a way to bring to life the things they watched in a documentary entitled "Invisible Children." They will also be participating in a local community service opportunity during the famine event. Please keep our youth in prayer for this event!

Youth interested in participating in the Famine event can pick up information at upcoming Youth Connection events.

YOUTH SCHEDULE

SR. HIGH YOUTH CONNECTION
meets weekly from 6:30-8:00pm

JR. HIGH YOUTH CONNECTION
meets the 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month
12:30-2 pm (lunch provided)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Youth Connection Fusion Service Feb 3rd 6-10pm (Kent Christian Center)

Youth Connection Super Bowl Party Feb 5th Noon-2pm (Connection)

Youth Connection trip to 33 Miles Concert Feb 11th (Evening time TBA)

Youth Connection Guest Speaker Shawn Smith Noon-2pm

Youth Connection 30 HR Famine Feb 24th-25th

FEBRUARY 2012 CALENDAR

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: MON. - FRI. 9AM-1PM
302.378.7692 // CONNECTIONCC.ORG // CONNECT@CONNECTIONCC.ORG

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 *Staff Mtg. 9am *AA 7pm *Segway 7pm	2 *Staff Mtg. 9am *Praise Team 7pm *Grief Share 7pm *Alanon Adult Children 7:30pm	2 *Prayer 7pm *Youth Connection Fusion Service 6pm	4 *Men's Bible 8am *AA 9am
5 *Worship: 8:30, 9:45, 11:00am *Youth Super Bowl Party Noon-2pm *Kid's Connection 12:30pm	6 *AA Noon *Men's Group 7pm	7 *God Squad 5:30pm *Song Writing Group 7pm *Freed-Up 7pm *Trustee Mtg. 7pm *Alanon 8pm	8 *Peninsula Conf. Mtg. 9:45am *AA 7pm *Worship Design Mtg. 7pm *Segway 7pm	9 *Praise Team 7pm *Grief Share 7pm *Alanon Adult Children 7:30pm	10 *Prayer 7pm	11 *Lead Team 7am *Men's Bible 8am *AA 9am
Marriage Encounter Weekend						
12 *Worship: 8:30, 9:45, 11:00am *MS YG 12:30pm *Chrysalis Mtg. 2pm *HS Youth 6:30pm <i>Deadline for Haiti Donations</i>	13 *AA Noon *Women's Conf. Mtg. 7pm *Men's Group 7pm	14 *Emmanuel Dining 9am *God Squad 5:30pm *Freed-Up 7pm *Alanon 8pm	15 *AA 7pm *Segway (Snow Day) 7pm NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16 *Praise Team 7pm *Grief Share 7pm *Baptism Class 7pm *Alanon Adult Children 7:30pm	17 *Daybreak Mtg. 9am *Prayer 7pm	18 *Men's Bible 8am *AA 9am
19 *Worship: 8:30, 9:45, 11:00am *Kid's Connection 12:30pm *Chrysalis Mtg. 2pm *HS Youth 6:30pm	20 *AA Noon *Bldg. Committee Mtg. 6pm *Men's Group 7pm	21 *God Squad 5:30pm *Relay For Life 6pm *Chrysalis 7pm *Nominations 7pm *Song Writing Group 7pm *Freed-Up 7pm *Alanon 8pm	22 *Ash Wednesday Service 7pm *AA 7pm	23 *Staff Mtg. 9am *Praise Team 7pm *Grief Share 7pm *Alanon Adult Children 7:30pm	24 *Card Ministry 6:30pm *Prayer 7pm *Sr. High 30hr. Famine 7pm	25 *Sr. High 30hr. Famine, Cont. *Lead Team 7am *Men's Bible 8am *AA 9am
Youth 30 Hour Famine						
26 *Worship: 8:30, 9:45, 11:00am *MS YG 12:30pm *Chrysalis Mtg. 2pm *HS Youth 6:30pm	27 *AA Noon *SPRT 7pm *Men's Group 7p	28 *God Squad 5:30pm *Freed-Up 7pm *Alanon 8pm	29 *Alpha Begins 6:15pm *AA 7pm			