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Spring/Summer Newsletter 2017

God is on the move

... and we are moving right alongside! I'm always amazed at how God takes some of the most simple and ordinary aspects of our lives and ... *WOW* ... brings about real life and relationship!

One area we have focused on is *Hospitality*. The atmosphere and interactions at MCF this year have been very positive, warm and inviting. Many of our first time visitors felt very welcomed and came back again and again. This has affirmed our goal to focus on *People not Programs*.



A highlight of Hospitality this semester centered around food (surprise!!) The *MSU Japanese Food Club* started meeting at MCF under the invitation and participation of Servant Team member Nathan Hensley ('18). Listen to this: 35 students came to the first JFC at MCF! What a great start to a wonderful OutReach to students – both international and from the US.

I'm also excited to share with you that our *Servant Team* is gaining more momentum. Tyler Casey ('19) and Nathan Hensley ('18) joined the team this Spring with some great energy. We have been praying for more male participation within the Servant Team, and God has moved within these two. As they worked alongside Breanna Clark ('18) and Lizzie Cribbs ('18), MCF was able to do some really unique events on campus.

One event that Tyler Casey ('19) and fellow Music Ed student Maria Brown ('18) put on has not been done on campus in years ... maybe even ever! *Bucket Drumming!!!* I felt like we were walking down the streets of Chicago hearing 8 or so students sitting around playing buckets like drums! We handed out over 100 cups of ice cream and had 25 students join our drumming circle. Several faculty and staff, who have been at MSU for over 20 years, said they had never heard or seen something like this. What a great OutReach event.

Also, here's a shout out to Lizzie Cribbs ('18) for revamping our Adoption program, now called *Connection Partners*. She did a great job encouraging our students to be intentional about meeting for sharing and accountability.

One final comment: I had a professor years ago say, "*You see what you know to look for.*" We have seen God's movement this past school year because we are knowing God in deeper ways. Breanna Clark ('18) was instrumental in leading our fellowship in times of *Bible Reading and Prayer Times*. Within these simple ordinary ways that we interact with, listen for and hear from God, MCF has heard and seen *God on the move!*

Peace,
Mike Kerrick
Campus Minister



Student Perspective

By Emily Hardie ('15, '17)

Another school year has passed at Murray State, where thousands of students walked across the stage, were given a diploma and told to go make something of their lives. Talk about stressful- going out into the world, moving away, starting new jobs and careers!

Just over a couple years ago, I was a student who was dealing with a lot of those same stresses. I was in the final semester of my senior year at a school in Wisconsin and looking to the future. I was extremely stressed about what path to travel down: what job I would get, where I would go, and what my future would look like. But that semester some notable things happened. I came to know Christ as my personal Savior, and I accepted a graduate assistantship at Murray State University, a place previously unknown to me.



When I came to Murray, I had no idea what was in store, but God provided in my time of uncertainty. After accepting my Graduate Assistant position as an Athletic Trainer, based on only a Skype interview, I drove over 500 miles down to Murray with printed Mapquest directions, a cell phone that didn't work, a car full of stuff and nowhere to live. But God put the pieces of my life into place and used MCF as some of the glue to accomplish that task. The first Sunday I was here I found a church and met a man named Mike Kerrick. It wasn't long before he introduced me to the place called Murray Christian Fellowship. I first went to MCF in October, now nearing 2 years ago. It didn't take long before I was involved with a women's Bible study and attended various events as my work schedule would allow. Coming in as a new believer who had almost no knowledge of what it meant to be a Christian, MCF was like a water source to my thirsty spirit. During a Wednesday night Synergy the following month, I felt a calling to be baptized and asked Mike about it. Four days later on the Sunday night before Thanksgiving, I was baptized at MCF.

Murray Christian Fellowship has been instrumental in my faith journey from beginning to end during my time in Murray. From being baptized early on, to taking me on my first mission trip last summer, to providing me a place to live for the past year (the Whitnah House), to providing a source of encouragement in my time of struggle this past fall when a member of my family passed away, and to taking me on a winter retreat where I was able to grow closer to Christ in my walk. And those are only a few of the highlights!

Most recently, at a Wednesday night service this spring, MCF provided a platform for me to share my testimony. Despite high anxiety, I was able to share my unique story of how God has changed my life with the MCF students, as well as some athletes I had invited.

Looking back, it is amazing to see what God has done in my life here in Murray; how I have gone from being discipled to now being prepared to go out in the world and disciple others. I have met lifelong friends through MCF and learned more than I could've imagined.

Now, two years and a master's degree later, I am no longer one of those students filled with anxiety when looking out at the world and the uncertainty in front of me. Sure, I am once again faced with another fork in the road and the questions of where I will go and what job I will obtain, but this time I am much more at peace, because I know that as long as I trust God to be my guide, I will follow the right path.



Congratulations to our 2017 Graduates!
Jeremy Whitman, Josh Owen, Kristi Mills, Emily Hardie



Our Louisville Mission Trip: May 15-19, 2017

By Tyler Casey ('19)



The week of May 15th, MCF went to Louisville, KY. I have participated in a similar mission trip in Louisville before, so I knew of the hard work that was ahead of us. However, I wasn't expecting just how physically demanding it would be. Most of the days left all four of us exhausted, sore, and sweaty. The neighborhoods were not the nicest neighborhoods. Knowing that our hard work was transforming these houses for Christian missionaries and volunteers to live in and outreach to their neighbors made the work very worthwhile.

The best part about the trip was definitely the connections we made with each other and people outside of MCF. At the end of every day, we sat down and read from the Bible we each led one of the discussions. These conversations went on for hours some nights! I definitely feel a whole lot closer to Mike, Nathan, and Braden.

During the day, we worked alongside different groups such as high school dropouts learning construction and trade skills, and a high school youth group from Southeast Christian Church. I personally worked with a guy named Vinnie who was the same age I am. We were having a great conversation about our family, our lives, and the like when he asked me if I was a Christian. I told him I was and asked him what he believed. He wasn't sure and said something along the lines of spirituality and he was trying to figure it out. I told him to ask me if he had any questions about Jesus and he said he would.

All in all, our week in Louisville was surprisingly sincere and worthwhile. I learned a lot about construction, demolition, and other people!



Interns! Goodbye; Hello

By Christen Johnson (MSU) ('16)

Serving as the women's ministry intern for the past year has been such a blessing. I thank any of you who gave financially to help support me. Those donations went a very long way and I am so thankful for your generosity and cheerful giving. That money allowed me to stay in Murray and serve the Lord to the best of my ability. The many late night tears and early morning conversations were times of affirmation that a women's minister is what MCF really needs at this time. I was able to connect closer to students on Murray State's campus that I otherwise wouldn't have been able to do. I grew closer to freshmen and solidified relationships with some of the older students.

I pray that you continue to support the ministry both prayerfully and financially as they continue to search for a full-time women's minister. This past year has proven the importance of what a women's minister can do and we need to stay in conversation with God about how He will bring it into fruition.

By Brianna Scott (KCU) ('17)

My name is Brianna Scott and I will be serving as the women's discipleship intern for MCF this year! I believe that campus ministry is where God is calling me, and I am preparing for this calling by double majoring in Biblical Studies and Ministry at Kentucky Christian University! As I come into this time of my internship, I am humbled and energized by the amazing community of people that supports and makes up MCF, and I am excited to get to know each and every one of you. If you are reading this and we haven't already met, please contact me- I want to meet you! Beyond the community that has already been a blessing for me, I am excited to have the opportunity to build relationships with students here, current and future students of MCF alike! I believe that this will be an amazing year, and God can AND WILL do great things on this campus!

MCFamily News!

Marriages

Sean James ('15) to Amber Phillips ('15) on 4/22/17

Babies

Hazel Renee Southard 9/18/16 (Hailey Buth Southard ('13) and Ethan Southard ('13))

Henry Connor Frank 6/15/17 (Windy Mohead Frank ('03) and Seth Frank ('03))

Joel Levi Edlin 6/22/17 (Marci Fluhr Edlin ('10) and Tim Edlin ('10))

Alumni Condolences

Our hearts are heavy for Tiffany (Payne) Burton for the loss of her husband, John "Benjie" Burton, on 1/17/17.

Please email Amanda Pennington at fellowship@gmail.com if you have a life update you would like to share.

We like to know what you're up to!

Also, if you want to be part of the **Alumni Relations Committee**, please contact Amanda Pennington or Devan Caton (devancaton@outlook.com).

All Alumni are encouraged to be a part of the Facebook Group: "Murray Christian Fellowship Alumni" as a great way to keep in touch and to hear about upcoming events!

What's the word about

... the MCF Endowment: Great News! The MCF Endowment is growing. We received just a little over \$500 in useable interest this past year. We have rolled that back into the fund. Our plan is to issue our first disbursement in 2018 at our 50th Anniversary celebration during MSU Homecoming.

Please contact us if you are interested in contributing to this great long range vision for MCF!!

... the MCF Houses: We are continuing to maintain and improve MCF's property and facilities (see picture of our front sign at the beginning of this newsletter). One big project looming more closely than ever is the cracked foundation of the MCF campus house. We'll require lots of volunteer labor for gutting and cleaning, plus funding for all necessary repairs. This is the perfect opportunity for everyone to join in on the longstanding support program: Give Assist and Pray (G.A.P.) !

... 50th Anniversary in 2018!

We hope you will begin to clear your calendars for next year's Homecoming! MCF will be celebrating 50 years of ministry to MSU. I'm thinking a float in the parade, party on the lawn, good times shared by all!!!

We've gone paperless and need your email address!!!

If you have an email address, we would like to start sending electronic newsletters and updates to you! Please send us a quick email at fellowship@gmail.com to make sure we have your contact information correct, and then you should be hearing from us soon!



Taking LARGE donations for ...

THE BASEMENT!!

We need to repair the cracks in the foundation and water-damaged interior walls and flooring.

Please seriously consider giving to this project; we can't do it without your help. Thank you!!!