

Gateway NEWSLETTER

July 2025

A Note From Richard -

Though the calendar may turn over at the end of December, in church world, we are nearing the end of our year and preparing to begin a new season as summer transitions into the school year. Before we turn the page and look forward to the next set of events, I want to take a moment to reflect on all the work the Lord has done this summer. Last spring, Eric Welch introduced me to the idea of this Unearthed series. Over the past two months, we've been uncovering the truth of our identity in Christ and exploring the lifestyle that flows from being a son or daughter of God. As we wrapped up last week, I want to remind you of two key points. First, remember that you were made for these days, and these days have been made for you. Second, it is only through deep work over time in community that we can ensure our identity in Christ isn't covered up or forgotten.

Along with the series, the testimonies shared during our Summer Circle discussions have been uplifting and encouraging each week. As different groups have shared what the Lord has revealed to them, their understanding has deepened, and more importantly, their connections with one another have strengthened.

We've had an incredible camp season this year. Camp Pollock hosted over 250 campers, with more than 10% of those students accepting Christ as their Savior. I left the senior high camp Thursday night during the response time, and by the time I was almost to Kinder, I received a call saying the service had just ended. Students were confessing to one another, praising, and testifying to what the Lord had done. Eight of the 25 students who made decisions for Christ were from Jr. High Camp. We had an amazing staff, and Gateway was well represented, as always. This year at Primary Camp, we took 12 students from our church, and I don't think there was a single moment of silence on the way home as the campers shared their stories. We also had wonderful volunteers at Camp Meeting, leading children's ministry and serving in various other areas. At our annual business meeting, LeeAnna Guillory was voted in as a member of the Christian Education team, and we should keep her in our prayers as she leads.

Lastly, I want to express my deep gratitude to all our volunteers who make our Sundays run smoothly. Our children's leaders have led a large group series throughout the summer during Sunday services. Our assimilation team has organized a rotating greeter schedule, and we've got some exciting new plans in place for this ministry. There are so many tasks related to property management and other needs that require the dedication and skills of our entire ministry team. To everyone who volunteers in any capacity, I want to say thank you! As a small token of appreciation, we invite all our volunteers to stop by the bridal room this Sunday for a gift as our way of saying thanks.

AWANAS RETURNS

As we have done in previous years, AWANA will begin after Labor Day, which this year falls on September 3rd. We will have two special nights to discuss the changes for this year: the leader meeting on August 20th and a time for prayer and preparation on August 27th. As September approaches, please help spread the word about this ministry by sharing it with friends and neighbors who have preschool and elementary-aged children!

BACK TO SCHOOL

Last Sunday, we kicked off our Back to School supply drive, and the response was AMAZING! Every single tag was taken before anyone even left the church. Now, let's make sure we keep the momentum going—please return all tags and supplies to the church by August 3rd. During our special Back to School service, we'll be praying over the students who will receive these donations, and we'll also lift up ALL of our students in prayer as they begin this new school year. If you have a child heading back to school in August, we'd love for you to join us on August 3rd! At the end of the service, you'll have the opportunity to take a card with a student's name to pray for them throughout the year. Let's come together, celebrate, and cover our students in prayer for a fantastic school year ahead!



We are excited to announce a new structure to our Wednesday night youth programming. Gateway has been blessed with several young adults who feel led to lead our teenagers. While Gateway will continue to have

one youth group, our student ministry will begin a Jr. High and Sr. High meeting environment starting September 3rd. Our Jr. High students will meet upstairs in The Garage, while the Sr. High students will meet in the Fireside Room. Our vision is to group both ministries by focusing on curriculum and discussions relevant to their age and understanding. Steve Cape will be our Youth Director and will oversee volunteers leading both groups. If you have a teenager or grandchild in 6th to 12th grade, this will be a great time to connect with our youth group because it is all new for everyone. Please be praying for this change and the impact both groups will make in their schools.

August

3.....Back to School Service
8.....Youth 1/2 Niter
20.....AWANA Meeting
27.....AWANA
Preparation & Prayer

September

3.....AWANA Begins
3.....REV Youth Begins
7.....Gateway Family
Luncheon

October

11.....Garage Sale
15.....OCC Packing Party
22.....AWANA Baseball Night

November

1.....Car Show
16.....Thanksgiving Meal
21-23.LCGYF Youth
Convention

December

6.....Santa Pic
14.....Caroling
17.....AWANA/Youth
Christmas Party
24.....Christmas Eve Service