What is NEXUS About?
By definition, the word "NEXUS" means, a connection point, linking two or more people or ideas together. To our students, NEXUS is the intersecting point where youth are ministered to and where they are connected with God's purpose, His plan, and His calling. Students can find a place to grow in successes, overcome trials, and rejoice in His blessings. NEXUS challenges students to grow in their personal relationship with God through discipleship, worship, collective and independent study of the Bible, and clear messages from God's Word.

Members of NEXUS are not only joined with an experience with God, but also one with others students. We strive to create an environment that is inviting to all, whether you have a deep understanding of the Bible, or just beginning your spiritual journey. We strive to make NEXUS a place for students to grow in their relationships with their families, and fellow students. This is a place where students can be real, and develop relationships that will last for a lifetime.

What Age Does NEXUS Serve?
NEXUS is designated for students who are in the seventh grade and through their senior year of high school. Recent high school graduates will be promoted to HyphenNLC on the annually scheduled Promotion Sunday.

NEXUS Leadership:
NEXUS is overseen by the Student Pastors Shane and Wendy Clark. NEXUS staff consists of volunteers that are approved by the Student Pastors and Pastor Gaddy. All staff members are required to be active supporting members of NLC. All staff have submitted to both criminal and child maltreatment background checks. Parents are also presented with opportunities to serve in supporting roles as well.

Student leadership is the driving force behind our leadership structure. We strive to provide many opportunities for students to be used as Student Leaders within NEXUS. Full opportunities are outlined further within this Handbook.

Contact information for Student Pastors:

Shane Clark, cell: 501-960-8851  Email: sclark@newlifecabot.com
(Shane may also be reached at the church office as well).
Wendy Clark, cell: 501-960-4436  Email: w.lynn.clark@gmail.com

Address: 31 Timber Lane, Cabot, AR 72023
(Both Shane and Wendy maintain social media accounts, but it is preferred to use the methods listed above for direct contact).

Should you or your student ever have a question or concern, please do not hesitate to contact either Pastor Shane or Wendy regarding any issue.
Expectations
In order for us to function successfully as a Christian group, we must agree to certain norms of behavior:

1. **We will seek to bring honor and glory to God in all we do.** (I Cor. 10:31)
   - Come with an attitude of worship.
2. **We will seek to love the Lord!** (Matt. 22:36-38)
   - Come with a willingness to obey God.
3. **We will seek to love each other!** (Matt. 22:38-40)
   - By not touching other people’s things.
   - By leaving the places we go, better than we found it.
   - By obeying the leaders God has placed over us.
   - By addressing problems with an attitude of love.

4. **We will avoid physical contact while with the group, guarding our testimony at all times.** (I. Thes. 4:4-8)
   - No smooching or any other inappropriate physical conduct.
   - No “alone time” with the opposite sex.

5. **We will guard our speech.** (Eph. 4:29-32)
   - No gossip.
   - No name calling.
   - No foul language.
   - No hateful dialect.
   - No cyber bullying or foul social media content.

6. **We will allow others to learn and listen to God by not being a distraction during lessons and worship!** (I. Cor. 10:32-33)

Youth Trips (in addition to the above)
- Lights out and quiet time must be respected. Drivers, especially, are entitled to the most sleep possible.
- Observe the laws of the land.
- Do not leave the camp, condo, hotel, church or group without direct permission from the Student Pastor or person in charge.
- No one is allowed to go anywhere alone, including public restrooms and rest areas.
- During free time on trips, students must be in groups of three or more.
- Students are required to remain with NSM at all times.***(Students wishing to accompany another group at an event will only be allowed to do so after Student Pastor has physically spoken to the other group’s youth pastor/youth worker. Student pastor must also have permission from the student’s parents. This privilege will be determined by youth pastor on a case-by-case basis and can be denied without explanation.)***

Transportation Agreements
**The Parents:**
- Will discuss all driving and traveling expectations with their child.
- Shall inform student pastor if someone other than themselves is to drive their child home.
- Shall be on time for departures and pick-ups.

**All Passengers:**
- Will be cognizant of how their actions, noise level, etc. can affect the driver’s concentration, and will act accordingly.
- Will keep vehicles clean.
- Will be on time for scheduled departures.
- Will follow group policies during all stops.

Additionally, all vehicles transporting students will not exceed the legal allotment of allowed passenger count. *(i.e. all NLC vans shall only transport up to 15 passengers per van, and other passenger vehicles will only hold the equivalent of 1 passenger per seat belt.)*

**All Youth:**
- Shall go directly to church and home when driving, unless parents have given permission to do otherwise.
- Shall never take other youth in their care without parental permission-from driver and passenger.
- Shall never leave an event early without parental permission and prior arrangement/notification of youth pastor.
- Shall ride the van back to the church, if that is how you got to the event.

Fundraisers Expectations:
All students who plan to attend any youth trips throughout the year must participate in all fundraisers. If the student does not attend or participate in the required fundraisers, they will not receive any group discounts or be eligible for scholarships. Guests, new members and un-avoidable absences will be evaluated by the Student Pastor and Pastor Gaddy on a case by case basis.

Permission Forms/Medical Release, Etc.
Before any overnight trip, all students under 18 must have a signed permission form and medical release on file or submitted to the Student Pastor. All students will receive an itinerary outlining specific details, packing list, etc. before any trips.

*Additional rules may be added at any time at the discretion of the Pastor/Student Pastor.*
### Student Leadership Roles:

Students of NEXUS are constantly reminded that this is THEIR youth group. In that regard, we strive to seek their involvement in the day-to-day operations of NEXUS. Every student is at a different level of their spiritual journey and we strive our best to provide ample opportunities for students to serve at all levels. Below you will find three different levels of ministry opportunities within NEXUS that students can participate in and the corresponding requirements. Lastly, it is up to the STUDENT to approach the Youth Pastor regarding their desire to be involved in a Student Leadership Role.

#### LEVEL 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duties/Tasks Examples:</th>
<th>Eligibility Requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Set Up/Clean Up</td>
<td>Active member of NEXUS. Striving for faithful attendance to all regularly services, and NEXUS events; meets attendance expectations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serving Refreshments on Sunday Mornings</td>
<td>Actively seeking a meaningful relationship with God, i.e. seeking the Holy Ghost, Baptism, passionate worship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assisting in preparation of events</td>
<td>Good rapport among fellow students and Student Pastor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraisers</td>
<td>A positive attitude towards NEXUS, NLC, its members and staff.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### LEVEL 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duties/Tasks Examples:</th>
<th>Eligibility Requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Service Duties</td>
<td>Faithful attendance to all NLC services and NEXUS Events; meets and exceeds attendance expectations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crowdbreakers</td>
<td>Baptized in Jesus Name and Filled with the Holy Ghost.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sound</td>
<td>Actively and openly participate in worship services, prayer time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audio/Video</td>
<td>Promotes unity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Connection Building</td>
<td>Good rapport among fellow students and Student Pastor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assist in brainstorming and planning Events</td>
<td>A positive attitude towards NEXUS, NLC, its members and staff.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEXUS Choir</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### LEVEL 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duties/Tasks Examples:</th>
<th>Eligibility Requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Praise Team</td>
<td>All requirements of Level 1 and 2 ministries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musicians</td>
<td>Must participate in service roles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worship Leaders</td>
<td>Must promote unity within the group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesson Assistance</td>
<td>Exemplifies what NLC believes and upholds standards in and out of church (and on social media) as presented by Pastor Gaddy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in Skits and other NEXUS presentations.</td>
<td>Is skillfully prepared to perform the duties and tasks as assigned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other presentation ministries.</td>
<td>Is responsible and able to maintain schedules.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Must have approval of Student Pastors and Pastoral Staff of NLC to participate.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Scheduling of Positions:

NLC and NEXUS use Planning Center Online for all scheduling of positions and duties. Should you desire training to operate PCO, please contact Sis. Wendy to arrange training.
NEXUS Music Department and Student Teaching:

**MUSIC DEPARTMENT:**
Students who wish to be a part of the NEXUS Music Department must comply additionally with the following:

- Completion of the NLC Music Guidelines and Commitment Forms. (Presented separately to inquiring students.)
- Be faithful and on time to all scheduled practices.
- Learn lyrics to songs and practice songs at home.
- Practice their individual instruments and songs as assigned.
- Promote an atmosphere of worship both on and off the platform.
- Meet and exceed requirements of all Level 3 Ministries Requirements.

Students are selected to participate in the NEXUS Music Department by meeting all necessary requirements, and then by participation in the individually scheduled NEXUS Music Auditions (Held each fall.) Students will be broken into two groups; Praise Band, and Youth Choir. Students will be chosen to participate in either area based on their individual skill levels and their individual representation of NEXUS and NLC in all areas of their lives.

Students will meet annually to complete the NLC Music Guidelines and Commitment Forms. Renewed and completed forms must be on file for each year before students will be scheduled. During this meeting additional requirements will be communicated.

**STUDENT TEACHING:**
Student teaching is one of the highlights of this ministry. Students are asked to participate in these roles by invitation of the Student Pastor based on their consistent Level 3 involvement in NLC and NEXUS.

**Attendance Policy:**
It is our desire that all students are present in all NEXUS sponsored events and services to get the most out of their time in NEXUS. NEXUS maintains attendance requirements that must be met to permit students to attend youth trips and/or the receipt of any financial scholarships.

The Nexus calendar year runs concurrent with the public school year. It begins in the fall when school begins ends on the annually set promotion Sunday the next fall (August to August).

**Requirements:**
1. Students must be present a minimum of 50% of all regularly scheduled NEXUS services and NLC services in a calendar school year to be eligible to attend upcoming overnight trips and/or the receipt of sponsorships/scholarships. This percentage is calculated from our attendance database at various times of the year and reviewed by the Nexus Staff and Pastoral Staff to determine eligibility for upcoming trips.

2. Students who consecutively miss 5 weeks of NEXUS class/services are automatically removed from the active attendance roster and are not eligible to attend overnight trips.
Exceptions:
1. Students who are part of a blended family or split home are afforded leniencies to the Attendance Policy. It is the student’s/parent’s/or guardian’s responsibility to articulate the students arrangements directly to the Student Pastors in writing via email. Any arrangements not communicated to Student Pastor could cause a member to be removed from the active attendance roll or be disqualified from attendance of youth trips.

2. New members and guests are evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the NEXUS Staff and Pastoral Staff.

Communication, Open Door Policy, Parent Involvement:

Communication: Details regarding upcoming events are posted in the following media around NLC: church bulletin, E-news, class announcements, handouts and through social media. The best method of keeping up with NEXUS Events is through the church website: www.newlifecabot.com AND actively monitoring your personal email. Student Pastors send monthly notifications of upcoming events through email to the student and parent/guardian. If you are not receiving these emails, please check your spam/junk folder and add the sender to your address book.

NLC does offer the option for the receipt of group texting through its new database. If you would prefer to receive updates via text message, please add your cellular information to the acknowledgement form. NOTE: Text messages are limited to 140 characters and will usually remind the recipient to check their emails for full details.

NEXUS may be found on Instagram and Twitter. Search: NexusNLC on both to follow.

It is the Parent’s/Guardian’s responsibility to keep the Student Pastors aware of contact information for you and your student. Should you move, get a new email address, change phone numbers or cell providers, please advise so we may keep our database as current as possible – and so no one is left out of important details.

Open Door Policy: Should any issues arise, or if you have questions or concerns- please feel free to approach Shane and/or Wendy at any time. To parents, we want to work WITH you and never against you in the growth of your students.

Parent Involvement: There will always be opportunities for parents to become involved in NEXUS. If you would like to help with things such as fundraisers, and driving to NEXUS sponsored events; please let Pastor Shane or Wendy know as we must ensure all church policies in regards volunteers are maintained.

Acknowledgement:
Please complete the attached Acknowledgement Form and return to the Student Pastor.
Handbook Acknowledgement

I, ________________________(Parent/Guardian) hereby acknowledge receipt of the Nexus Student Ministries Student/Parent Handbook and understand the contents, expectations, and operating procedures of NEXUS.

**PLEASE CHECK ONE:**

☐ I wish to receive periodic text messages about NEXUS and its events. Please use the following cellular numbers:

Cell Number (s)(include area code): ___________________________ Provider: ____________
Name(s) associated with this number: ___________________________

Current Contact Information: (Complete if changed since 8/1/2017) ___________________________

☐ I do not wish to receive periodic text messages about NEXUS and its events.

**EMAIL COMMUNICATION:**
Please list preferred email addresses for receipt of NEXUS communications:

**PLEASE CHECK ONE:**

☐ I wish to authorize Nexus Student Ministries, New Life Church of Cabot, its staff and participants to use my child’s digital image or likeness in any promotional items (social media posts, printed materials, and other digital reproductions).

☐ I do not wish to authorize Nexus Student Ministries, New Life Church of Cabot, its staff or participants to use my child’s digital image or likeness in any promotional items (social media posts, printed materials, and other digital reproductions).

Signed on behalf of the following students: (Please list your Student/Students names below)

Parent Signature: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

*(Effective for the 2018-2019 calendar school year.)*
Blanket Medical Release  
(For use during on-campus, local, non-youth trip events*)

I, ___________________________(Parent/Guardian) of ________________________________
(Student Name**) agree and consent to the following:

In cases of the need for emergent care, I consent to the examination or treatment of my child by a
physician duly licensed to practice medicine in the United States of America or any health care
professional duly licensed to provide health care for medical care and services deemed necessary
by the doctor, its agents, servants, and employees.

I give permission to the doctor or health care professional to provide any and all medical care they
demean, in their professional opinion, to be necessary. I agree to pay for any and all medical
expenses incurred as a result of the use of this consent. I understand that I will be contact as soon
as possible regarding any details involving my child as soon as my child’s safety is maintained.

I acknowledge by signing this document that I have waived any liability of New Life Church of Cabot
Arkansas its agents, ministries, members or representatives of any claim resulting from my child’s
involvement in activities facilitated by this organization.

I further authorize the administration of OTC (over the counter) medications to my student as
requested by student and in accordance with the dosage recommendations on medication label
should the need arise. (Examples of OTC medications are: ibuprofen, acetaminophen,
antihistamines or digestive aids.)

In case of such an emergency, please contact:

Printed Name: _______________________________ Relationship to Student: _______________________________

Emergency Number(s): _____________________________________________________________

Parent Signature: _______________________________ Date: _______________________________

(Effective for the 2018-2019 calendar school year.)

* Separate forms will need to be completed for all overnight trips. This form covers day-to-day
events of NEXUS.
** Please submit one form per student.