



Next Generation Fellowship

Christ following, Jesus patterned

Where you are accepted, respected and loved...no matter where you are on your spiritual journey.

October 2013

FUN & HELPFUL ACTIVITIES THIS WEEKEND

CROP WALK 2013 - CROP Walks benefit world and local hunger organizations, and Mindy Stieg has organized a team for the Next Generation Fellowship. **Anyone** can join the team to walk and/or donate. Here are the details:

WHEN: Sunday, October 13, 2013
12:30 pm Reistration/Sign In
1:30 pm 5.2 mile walk

WHERE: Eden Theological Seminary
475 East Lockwood
Webster Groves, MO 63119

How can YOU can participate?

Click [HERE to SIGN UP](#) or [HERE to DONATE](#)

NOTE: Credit card donations can be made online or Mindy (Team Captain) can collect check and cash donations. Online donations will be accepted until the site is updated for the 2014 walk next year

SERVE ST. LOUIS – From their website: [SERVE ST. LOUIS](#) is a movement of churches and Christ-followers throughout the region uniting in a single weekend of practical acts of service, making the metro area a better place to live, and bringing honor to the name of Jesus.

(Thanks, Mindy Stieg for this information!)

MILEY CYRUS AND THE POWER OF AUTHENTICITY

One wonderful truth about our journey is that lessons come from unexpected places; the controversy flowing from Miley Cyrus' performance at the MTV Music Video Awards reminds me of a lesson I was taught by a different group of teenage girls. We are all familiar with the phrase "accepted, respected and loved" which is at the heart of our Fellowship's activities. Several years ago a group of 16 to 18 year old girls taught me the power of unconditional acceptance.

with confusing messages regarding what is required to be accepted, respected and loved as are high school girls. Miley Cyrus is only the latest in a parade of false role models provided to teenagers and others.

I had the pleasure of watching my oldest daughter and a group of about ten of her friends go through the ages 14 to 22 with grace, freedom and much laughter. These girls treated each other with unconditional acceptance, respect and affection. The un-judging manner in which they treated each other freed them nearly completely from the pressures to conform to the artificial pop culture hyper-sexualized image imposed on them. These girls were each unique; some were pure scholars, some athletes, some student leaders, some musicians and others a delightful mixture of quirky talents and interests.



Instead of shame or mere conformity, they honored each others' uniqueness; they fully respected each other. They accepted with joy the unusual and quirky. They gave each other room and support to discover their own talents and interests. Like the support these teenage girls gave to each other on their journey through adolescence, I am grateful to the Fellowship for the unconditional support I receive on my spiritual journey.

At one of our recent Gatherings a presenter discussed how he had previously felt compelled to conform to others expectations for church attendance; the freedom this presenter felt to openly discuss his search for an authentic worship is a tribute to the Fellowship's non-judgmental open heartedness. Freedom to honestly seek an authentic spirituality flows from being accepted

respected and loved. Instead of being trapped in the perverse world of Miley Cyrus or other artificial or confining images the Fellowship through a commitment to unconditional acceptance, respect and love opens the door to an authentic and satisfying spiritual journey. We join together as authentic and "honest seekers for Truth" ([Science and Health](#), Eddy, page xii, line 26). As we accept each other, as we respect each other, and as we love each other, we help each other on this authentic spiritual journey. With all compassion for Miley Cyrus, this authentic spiritual journey has a lot more going for it than "twerking." Just as my daughter and her friends taught me a number of years ago about being authentic in dealing with others, I am grateful to the Fellowship for the unconditional acceptance, respect and love I receive for my spiritual adventure.

(Submitted by Lee Barron)

PASS THE BLESSINGS BASKET!

As part of our sharing the blessings, we have donated the following:

- ✚ \$89.00 Monitor subscription to Women in Transition
- ✚ \$89.00 Monitor subscription to Brentwood high School.
- ✚ \$35.00 gas to homeless person

THE WELL ...AND BLESS THE BRANDS!

As many of you know, our dear friend and church member Bob Brand passed away last month. We were blessed to have Bob and LaVerne come into our Fellowship at the very beginning. Bob's great love and generous nature continues to bless our church and the Fellowship as he requested that any donations made in his name go to The Well.

Currently, a total of \$19,643 has been contributed to The Well, and \$6365 has been contributed in Bob's name. Thank you SO MUCH to everyone for their support of this project. Let's take it all the way!

The various tradesmen have finally been able to get their permits from city hall so construction should be starting this month.



MUSIC AT THE GATHERING

As you may know, each week our non-denominational event, The Gathering, features a Bible-based message, led-prayer, and a variety of other elements which may include drama, dance, small group discussion, or a video clip, and three worship and praise songs.

In the May newsletter, we shared links to a few of our favorite songs, and we thought you might enjoy a few more...

- [When the Spirit of the Lord \(David Danced\)](#) by Travis J. Gandy
- [Your Grace is Enough](#) by Matt Maher
- [I Refuse](#) by Josh Wilson

(Submitted by Mike Griswold)

FALL FOCUS ON RELATIONSHIPS

The Fellowship's final *Celebrating and Strengthening Relationships* activity will be Friday, October 25th from 7-9 p.m. in the Sunday School. This month we explore questions based on Rob Bell's book *Sex God: Exploring the Endless Connections Between Sexuality and Spirituality*. Discussion questions are [posted on the Fellowship website](#). Please feel to come even if you are unable to read the book.

The series got off to a great start in August when we talked about Lisa Whelchel's book *Friendship for Grown-Ups: What I Missed and Learned Along the Way.* Topics discussed included qualities of an ideal friendship such as mutuality of support and emotional intimacy, and also what makes a safe friend. Then in September, we looked at Bible passages about sexuality including Song of Solomon, I Corithinans 7, and Ephesians 5 and added historical and cultural context to help sort through the mixed messages. In our conversations, we just began to scratch the surface of important issues such as how to be non-judgmental and supportive of those with differing sexual ethics while still being true to our own values.

The relationship series has been designed to foster an exchange of ideas that will make a



difference in strengthening and expanding interpersonal relationships and also to nurture a deeper expression of community through shepherding intimate conversations. Discussions are for adults of any denomination willing to engage in open, nonjudgmental, and confidential discussions in an atmosphere where all are truly accepted, respected, and loved. We hope you will be able to join us for the final evening.

(Submitted by Maria Griswold)

SONGS FOR THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

Our Music Director, Mike Griswold, is producing a CD of songs he has written for the Fellowship. He sends a big thank you to all who supported the fundraising campaign. If you missed out on the campaign, CDs and digital downloads will be available for order after Thanksgiving. For up-to-date information, go to [Songs for the Spiritual Journey's Facebook page](#)



Mike and Lola Hennicke share a laugh at a CD Project Recording Session in August.

Sing to God a brand-new song.
He's made a world of wonders!
He rolled up his sleeves,
He set things right.

~ Psalm 98:1
The Message

Danielle Shroyer to Visit and Share

Since we started over four years ago, Next Generation Fellowship has been actively reading and, at conferences, dialoguing with some of the leading thinkers of Emergence Christianity. In these conversations, we have found ourselves listening to prophetic voices who were challenging the status quo in their own denominational traditions much as we were...and who were re-examining and, in some cases, discarding traditional interpretations of doctrines that Mary Baker wrote were arresting a fuller expression of Christ's Christianity...like the Doctrine of Atonement. Wow; we should be so bold.



One of these voices is Danielle Shroyer, author of *The Boundary Breaking God: An Unfolding Story of Hope and Promise*. Danielle has been on the national council of Emergent Village and has written the study guide to Phyllis Tickle's seminal work *The Great Emergence*. In Dallas she has been pastoring an Emergence congregation that includes a variety of denominational traditions and is comprised of twenty and thirty something young adults. She will be presenting at our Fellowship on October 18 and 19.

On Friday evening, October 18, at 7:30 pm she will offer a heartfelt account of what she has found in her journey of re-examining Bible stories and Christian beliefs. The inspirational talk will be about the hope she finds in this process of looking beneath the surface of that which is most familiar and comfortable to the inertia of religious life.

On Saturday morning, October 19, at 9:30 am Danielle will conduct a workshop on how this type of searching and exploring works to form a church community boldly exploring new territories and relationships, embracing all ages, and building bridges in the community.

This past weekend the Next Generation Fellowship hosted two workshops discussing Danielle's book. They were attended by enthusiastic Covenant Partners who found her voice speaking in harmony with their own...and who are excited to think of many of you joining them to these two events coming up quickly. If you have any questions, please contact gracejourneys@icloud.com. [Although not necessary, an RSVP to the above email would be appreciated.]

(Submitted by Dick Davenport)

ELECTION NEWS

Last month the membership of Brentwood Christian Science Church came together for elections. **Maria Griswold** was elected to the Leadership Team. The Leadership Team now has seven members:

Jerri Davenport, Dick Davenport, Dan Carnesciali, Karen Carnesciali, Maria Griswold, Blair Lindsay, and Maryl Walters.

To provide leadership for branch church functions, four members were elected to the new Church Ministry Team:

Kris Impastato, Jean Jenkins, Mindy Stieg, and Marti Jo Bicknese

Both the Leadership Team and Church Ministry Team members are eager to hear your ideas and suggestions.

GETTING TRACTION IN OUR CHRISTIAN WALK ... A NINE WEEK SERIES THIS FALL

Week 1:

Scott Jenkins introduced us to the idea that this 9-week series could be considered a spiritual cross fit training program that is designed to help us get much greater traction in our spiritual journey, broaden and deepen our spiritual foundation and expand our experience of God's love and presence in our lives. Won't you join us in accepting the following Challenge: Take 1 new idea into your daily spiritual practice each week for the 9 weeks of this Traction Series. Practice it the week following the

Gathering, and then add a new one the next week. At the end of 9 weeks, we will all be more spiritually fit, more alive to the Christ nature within and without us, and have a fresh new perspective on 9 new ideas for our spiritual life practice. And we can come together at a special meeting for sharing our experiences during the spiritual fitness training, share in fellowship, and enjoy some treats. Week 2: Dan Carnesciali encouraged us to be gratitude activists. Practicing gratitude means recognizing the good that is already yours. Let gratitude flow deep from the heart. If it won't flow from the heart, sure, let it flow from the head. Gratitude is result of oneness with Adorable One. To experience it, commune with the One Adorable. Without sacredness, you miss the sacredness of THIS moment. That is why gratitude is essential to your Christian walk. Are you ready to be a gratitude activist?

Week 3: Jerri Davenport's message on Sunday October 6th was on heartfelt worship. The second song asked the Holy Spirit to rain down on us. As a follow-up we closed our eyes and imagined ourselves sitting on a porch in a rainstorm. Transcending the dry, warm church to feel the cool, fresh sounds and smells of a rainstorm set the tone for our exploration of individual worship experiences. Attendees shared qualities they seek in individual worship. Two essential elements of worship were also explored: witnessing the sacred in all experiences and embracing transcendence that allows the Holy Spirit to saturate the heart. Small groups shared with each other how to engender heartfelt worship in every aspect of our church's activities. The final offering was a heartfelt worship dance performed by Natalie Davenport.

It's been a wonderful start to the series, and you won't want to miss these upcoming topics:

- Nourishing your soul with the written word
- God Moments in Prayer
- Giving back to God
- Food, Fasting, and Ferraris
- Take me to the river: Baptism
- "Take, eat" (partaking in Jesus' life)

FELLOWSHIP AND FUN AT THE FESTIVAL OF NATIONS

The Brentwood Christian Science Church and representatives from several other branch churches in the St. Louis area, again participated in the annual Festival of Nations "Religions of the World" tent, staffing a table for Saturday and Sunday, August 24-25.

Sponsored by the Interfaith Partnership of Greater St. Louis, we joined a number of other faith traditions who also were staffing a table under the tent, including:

American Baptist Fellowship	Baha'i
Community of Christ	Hinduism
Islam	Judaism
Living Insights Center	
Roman Catholics	Zen Buddhists
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints	

We are so thankful for the unselfish

service of our own church member volunteers who greeted the visitors to the tent. Many of our workers left brief (but wonderful) notes in our notebook about interactions they had at the Festival. At least 16 copies of Science and Health and many periodical were given away at the Festival. Certainly, countless folks were touched in some way by the expression of Christ's presence we were witnessing together—from the smiles and laughs exchanged, hungry hearts fed, the misconceptions corrected, to the prayers shared and the compassionate support offered.

This is a note from the Interfaith Partnership following the Festival:

"Watching our friends convene "under the tent" was a powerful illustration of how Interfaith Partnership creates spaces for people of different faiths to gather together and understand each other. Thank you for the many ways you helped our mission at the Festival of Nations."

You may enjoy reading volunteers' comments:

We set up the booth first thing Saturday morning and were pleased that the CS table had a better location and that the entire Religions of the World tent was situated closer to the people this year. Our first groups of inquirers were Girl Scouts, working on a religion badge. They had to find unique and interesting facts about four religions. It was fun to find a unique fact

for each of them, all centered on Mary Baker Eddy as a woman founding an American religion in the 1800's!

- These heart-to-heart, face-to-face connections are such powerful, wonderful opportunities that really bless our community --- AND renew my appreciation for the amazing diversity of thinkers, as well as this very practical healing Science.
- I especially enjoyed chatting with others serving in their religion's booths.
- We had a lively and lengthy conversation with 3 African American college kids who asked very good and deep questions—about heaven and hell, traditional Christianity's 'biases', and the CS Monitor's coverage of Africa.
 - I gave away a Spanish Bible and English Science and Health to one young couple; another S&H to a young Hispanic woman, receptive when I said we read from the Old and New Testament, with S&H every day. Gave another to a young couple— he had a college roommate who was CS.
 - A homeless woman walked up to the booth and asked if our church took prayer requests. How happy I was to be able to say, "Yes!" She asked us to pray that there will be a place in St. Louis for homeless women. I was touched that she didn't want prayers specifically for herself but for all women in need. Another lady requested prayers for herself for both a health situation and some family issues. She had visited the downtown reading room before and gratefully took a Science and Health.
- A young man was visiting all the tables sincerely asking questions. He came up and said, "Teach me!" He was delighted to get a S&H.
- There were only a few people walking through the area during the last hours of the Festival, but that gave us more time to talk to them. They were open to God. They asked questions to identify our perspective and then compare it to theirs. They tried to open themselves up. It was beautiful.
- We had the opportunity to talk to other table volunteers. Even though they had certain religious policies/customs/rules that are different from CS, we were talking about God. The same God, that unites us in Love.

(Submitted by MartiJo Bicknese)



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED!