

# Atlee Community Church

## December 2007

### Trying To Find God

The other day while having lunch with a fellow pastor and friend, he told me about a girl in her twenties he had met recently who was telling him that she was *trying to find God*. She was an unbeliever who had struggled with life and was trying to put the pieces back together. She told him of visiting a church, sitting through the service and at the end responding to an invitation to *find God*. She went forward and the lady she talked with took one look at her and said, "Well the first thing you have to do is get rid of all this *stuff*." The "*stuff*" she was referring to was several face piercings and numerous tattoos. Needless to say, she *did not find God* that day.

I attended a conference recently designed to help organizations launch a ministry called Celebrate Recovery. The founder, a key speaker, shared a portion of his story and what stuck with me the most was the piece that actually led to the birth of this ministry. He spoke of attending a program designed to help individuals with addictions and how at these meetings he was unable to talk about Jesus. He then found a church and got involved with a group of people where he was free to talk about Jesus but not his addictions because they were uncomfortable with it. He, like the girl, had been trying to find God and put his life back together.

As I am writing this, the national news just ran a report about a church group protesting across the street from a funeral for a serviceman. This church's view was that God is killing our service members as punishment for the sins of our nation. Is this a true representation of God? If it is, then I want nothing to do with Him or the church. I must admit that it is events or representations like these that make me embarrassed to be associated with the church.

Please read the following verse carefully:

*And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like.*

Romans 1:21 NLT

I asked this question recently on a Sunday morning – where are they getting these foolish ideas about what God is like? When you hear stories like these above, is it any wonder that people have such distorted views of God? Is it any wonder that they want nothing to do with church? Or that they run the other way far from God?

**The only thing that bothers me more than when people who claim to be followers of Christ give others the wrong idea of what God is like, is knowing that people are dying and going to hell because so called followers do not understand the grace of God! And nothing should bother you more either!**

Read these verses very carefully:

*When he (Jesus) saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.*

Matthew 9:36 NIV

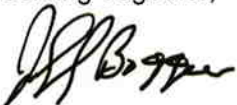
*"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."*

Matthew 5:14-16 NIV

There are millions of people wandering around *harassed* and *helpless* trying to *find God*. As followers of Christ may we be people who look on others with compassion. May we continue to be a light in a dark place – a light that reflects the true image of God – a light that clearly points people to the God of grace!

By the way, both of the above mentioned people have become growing followers of Jesus Christ thanks to people who really know and understand the grace of God.

Serving Together,



Jeff Boggess, Senior Pastor

## Membership Matters

Everyone who becomes a member of Atlee Community Church must attend our Membership Class. Our next class will be held January 13th at 6:00 PM. If you are interested in participating in the next course, or have questions about it, please sign up at the Information Center on Sunday morning or call the church office at 730-3676.

## Baptism

Baptism is a statement and celebration. It is our chance to publicly declare that we are Christ followers. It is a time to celebrate the fact that through our personal acceptance and faith in Christ we have been forgiven of our sins and promised a place in heaven for all eternity. Baptism not only says my sins have been forgiven and I have a place in heaven, it celebrates the fact that God is changing us and reshaping our lives each day. Are you ready to take the next step in your faith journey by participating in baptism?

For further information or to register for our next baptism, call the church office or sign up at the Information Center.

## Leadership Essentials

Friday, January 11, 2008

A leader is defined as anyone with influence. By definition everyone is a leader, we all have influence. Leadership Essentials is designed to equip you to lead with excellence. Make plans now to attend this motivational event. Our focus will be Building Relationships. Childcare is provided, but you will need to call the church office to make reservations.



***"A Christmas Concert"***  
***Presented by***  
***"Atlee's Music Team"***  
**Christmas Eve**  
**4:00, 6:00 or 8:00 PM**  
***Free Concert / Seats are Limited***  
***Tickets Available at The Connection***  
***Childcare provided for Infants - Preschool***



## GroupConnection

Friday, January 4, 2008

If you are looking for a way to get connected with others, then look no further. GroupConnection is a social event where you can meet others like yourself and explore the possibility of connecting with them in a small group environment for Community, Bible Study and Prayer. Refreshments and childcare provided. Contact Pam Harris at 730-3676 or [pam.harris@atleechurch.org](mailto:pam.harris@atleechurch.org) to join or for more information.

January 2008



This is a conversational small group environment where you can explore faith and experience community. It is designed for those who are investigating God, Jesus or Christianity, those who have just begun a relationship with Jesus Christ, or those who have some church experience, but have been away for a while. The next Starting Point group begins early January 2008. Contact Pam Harris for more information.

# DOLLARS & SENSE

## Operating Budget

## 2007-2008 Budget

As a part of this newsletter I have included a copy of this year's budget. It is my desire to keep you informed of the needs of the Church. Finances are always a sensitive topic of discussion, but let me start by quoting from our brochure on financial guidelines: "We will be open and honest about the needs of the church, but we intend to avoid exaggeration, manipulation, and scare tactics to play on the sympathy of our people."

Our hope for the new ministry year that started the first of September was to see our financial situation stabilize. In many ways it has! Our overall giving has increased over the same time last year. Overall giving would include monies received for the operating budget as well as the Capital Campaign "Finishing the Work".

Statistically every church that goes through a capital campaign will see their regular offerings (monies for the operating budget) go down. In some cases, monies that would have gone to the operating budget have been redirected to the capital campaign.

In the big picture we are thankful that we have been blessed with the generosity and faithfulness of our members and those who consider Atlee to be their home. We appreciate all that you do!

In a practical sense we have not met our weekly budget for several months now. Every month we don't bring in our budgeted amount, we are forced to transfer money from our savings. We would like to see this trend change. I would ask that you prayerfully consider what God would have you do. There is always a balance of the immediate needs versus the future needs of the Church. The immediate needs are for our existing budget. My intent is to let the needs be known that we might see how God will respond through his people. I appreciate your prayers and consideration in this. In the next section of this letter I will inform you of the progress being made with our "Finishing the Work Campaign".

*Nelson Parker*

Nelson Parker, Executive Director of Administration

|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <b>Ministry &amp; Program &amp; Extension Ministries</b> |                                 |
| I.   |                                 |
|  | Mortgage 281,200                |
|  | Programming 14,750              |
|  | Believer Development 6,000      |
|  | Children's Ministry 16,690      |
|  | Youth Ministry 8,000            |
|  | Miscellaneous 750               |
|  | Hospitality 3,000               |
|  | Staff Development 2,500         |
|  | Small Groups 13,410             |
|  | Media Services 2,400            |
|  | Extension Ministries 21,500     |
|  | <b>370,200</b>                  |
| II.  | <b>Staff Ministries 559,351</b> |
| III.   | <b>Administrative</b>           |
|  | Medical Benefits 36,000         |
|  | Office Utilities 51,475         |
|  | Insurance 10,500                |
|  | Payroll Taxes 32,599            |
|  | Postage 9,000                   |
|  | Promotion 16,000                |
|  | Telephone 3,500                 |
|  | Office Supplies 18,250          |
|  | Bulletins 1,350                 |
|  | Newsletter 3,500                |
|  | Building & Grounds 24,250       |
|  | Pre-Employment Screening 500    |
|  | Outside Services 4,200          |
|  | <b>211,124</b>                  |
|  | <b>Grand Total 1,140,675</b>    |
|  | <b>Weekly Need 21,936</b>       |



At this point in time we are exactly half way to our goal of \$750,000. We have raised \$375,736 in pledges and have already received \$129,351 in cash. That is really great news!

When this campaign started there were two main goals to achieve in order that we may use the upstairs. An elevator had to be installed as well as heating and air conditioning.

The monies we have received have allowed us to begin construction on the upstairs. A few weeks ago we closed off the back stairwell in order to put in an elevator. Our next step as the money comes in will be to start on the heating and air conditioning. After that we will

need volunteers to help put up a lot of drywall as well as painting.

We have started on the plans for the middle room which will house KidStuf and Upstreet. The middle room will also serve as a multipurpose room that will allow for more meeting space. We are excited to see this dream finally come to fruition. It has been several years coming. Now is the time for us to move on up! The upstairs has been empty far too long.

The KidStuf and Upstreet ministries need more space to grow and allow us the opportunity to reach more families in our area.

Office space is needed just to house the staff we have now. There are several people on staff that have very cramped quarters.

Meeting space is at an all time premium on Sundays. We would love to have more space for our Resource Center as well as the Community Café.

All that to say this is great news because that means there is a lot of ministry work going on at Atlee.

We want to thank you again for partnering together to fulfill God's mission for Atlee "To reach seekers and equip believers to love God, love others, and serve the world."

If you have any questions about Atlee's Finances or "Finishing the Work", contact Nelson Parker at 730-3676 or [nelson.parker@atleechurch.org](mailto:nelson.parker@atleechurch.org)

## Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University

How would you feel if you had **NO DEBT** and a solid plan for what to do with your money each month? Would you make different choices? Have different priorities?

Financial Peace University is the most important step to changing your financial future. It takes the knowledge from the books and radio show and turns it into real action. Learn and apply biblically based principles on how to manage your money, get out of debt, and invest for the future. Financial Peace University is for EVERYONE from the financially secure to the financially distressed.

This is a 13-week, life-changing program, which empowers you and teaches you how to make the right money decisions to achieve your financial goals and experience a total money makeover.

On average, families have paid off over \$5,300 in debt and saved \$2,700 during this 13-week program!

Visit [www.daveramsey.com/fpu/home](http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/home) for more information. These classes will be offered at Atlee in January, 2008. To register, contact the church office at 730-3676.

### For The Record

| <u>Offering</u> | <u>Year-To-Date</u> |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| <b>Budget</b>   | <b>\$ 241,296</b>   |
| <b>Actual</b>   | <b>\$ 170,784</b>   |

*Every year we see a decrease in giving during the summer months due to people being away on vacation or weekend trips to the lake and river. As you can see we are behind on our budget going into a very busy time of ministry. If you were gone over the summer or haven't given lately please consider helping us catch up. We cannot provide ministry at the level we do without your help and support. For those who do give regularly, Thank You!*

# The CommCare Compass



## “Caring for the Community”

### Community Care Newsletter Hits the Stands!

#### Welcome to The CommCare Compass

Thanks for taking the time to read the first edition of The CommCare Compass. I plan on getting this out whenever the church newsletter comes out.

#### “What? Another Newsletter?”

You might be thinking, “Why another newsletter, with all the stuff I have to read?” Let me give you several reasons why The Compass is important:

1. **Mission Essential.** Atlee Community Church has one Vision: to turn unbelievers and unchurched people into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. This is accomplished through our mission statement: *To reach seekers and*

*equip believers to love God, love others, and serve the world.* The Community Care Ministry exists to greatly facilitate our mission.

2. **Knowledge is . . .** How many of you actually know the many opportunities the Community Care Ministry affords you? And if you don’t know, how can you get involved?

3. **Information Extension.** There has been, and continues to be, a large number of very worthy community outreach ministries and programs which come across my desk. It is currently impossible to make everybody aware of these things. The CommCare Compass will serve as an outlet for them.

4. **“Who are You?”** The Community Care Ministry is made up of many parts, with many volunteer positions and the leadership to go with it. I will highlight the “Faces of CommCare” so you can virtually get to know them and hear their passion for their ministries—and how YOU can partner with them.

My prayer for you is that the CommCare Compass will give you practical direction in following the example of Jesus, where He did not come to be served but to serve others.

Your Fellow Servant,  
Glenn Hawkins  
Community Care Pastor

### Community Care Ministries: Do You “Have What It Takes”?

A High School had a convocation which hosted several branches of the military. One by one, each branch offered their recruitment pitch. This left the Marine representative with about 30 seconds. He stood before the kids, complete spit and polish, and glared at them. His only words were, “I don’t think any of you have what it takes to be a Marine.” Who do you think the vast majority of the kids flocked to?

A CommCare team member has the heart of a servant, filled with

love for others. Jesus said, “greater love has no one than this, that he lay his life down for his friends.” This love is sourced in God Himself: “We love because He first loved us.”

Let me simply list the main “branches” of the Community Care Ministry. In the coming issues I will go into greater detail about each branch. I pray that you discover that you “have what it takes” to serve on the CommCare team and then join us.

*Hospitality Ministries: Offering God’s Comfort and Help to Those Who Need it*

*Extension Ministries: Taking God’s Love Around the Corner and Around the World*

*Health Ministries: Giving Jesus’ Healing Touch to the Hurting*

*Spiritual and Emotional Support: Touching the Heart of God and People*

*Church Ministries: Connecting Others to the Life of ACC*

#### Atlee Community Church

#### Community Care Ministries: What are they?

- \* Hospitality Ministries
- \* Extension Ministries
- \* Health Ministries
- \* Spiritual and Emotional Support
- \* Church Ministries
- \* Community Links

#### Inside this issue:

- \* Welcome to the CommCare Compass 1
- \* Do You “Have What it Takes” to Serve? 1
- \* Angel Food Ministries 2
- \* Stephen Ministry 2
- \* DivorceCare and DC4K 2

For More Information on the CommCare Ministry, Contact Glenn Hawkins at 730-3676 or [glenn.hawkins@atleechurch.org](mailto:glenn.hawkins@atleechurch.org)