

August–Fall 2019

CONNECTIONS

COLONIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Join a **GROUP**
this **Fall!**

Adult Bible Fellowships

IN THIS ISSUE:

- New Sermon Series
- Join a Group
- Divine Connections
- STS Partnership
- Christmas in September
- And More!

AUGUST-FALL 2019

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WELCOME FALL!



Dear Colonial Family,

Fall is just around the corner! I don't know about you, but I'm excited to welcome a new season with cooler temperatures, football, and pumpkin spice anything! That's one of the many things I love about North Carolina since moving here from Texas ... well, not the football so

much! ... I'm talking about the seasons! Here we actually DO get to enjoy all four seasons! But fall is also a great time to settle into some new routines and rhythms.

Vacations are over, kids are back in school, and new groups and studies are launching at church. Pastor Davey is kicking off a new sermon series (see pg. 3), our Sports Ministry is hosting their fall leagues, and the Shepherds 360 Fall Conference is coming up in October! Before you know it, Christmas will be here, and you know what that means—Christmas Sweet! Mark your calendars now to attend one of our Music Ministry's incredible performances (Dec. 10-14). Tickets go on sale October 15!!

It's certainly a busy season—but definitely one filled with so many opportunities for you to get plugged in and take a next step here at Colonial. Be sure to check out our back page calendar to see some of the many groups and programs that we have to offer here to help you worship, connect, grow and serve!

In His Service,

Cheryl Coleman
Communications Director

CONTENTS:

New Sermon Series	3	STS Partnership Making an Impact at Colonial	11
Join a Group	4	Next Gen News	12-13
Group Spotlights	5	Christmas in September	14
Divine Connections	6-7	Global Staff Update	15
Shepherds 360 Fall Conference	8-9	August-Fall at a Glance	16
Ready, Set, Go!	10		
STS Grad Pursues PhD Abroad	10		

Finding Meaning ... UNDER THE SUN

Beloved,

We just launched a new series on Sunday mornings that will take us through the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes. And by the way, I'm shifting to the ESV translation from this point forward. The New American Standard Bible, which I've used for several decades, is beginning to shake hands with the politically correct nonsense of "gender neutrality" in its forthcoming 2020 edition. I have no interest in political correctness, especially when it tampers with inspired pronouns. Besides, if something is politically correct, it is most often biblically corrupt. So moving forward I'll be using a translation which isn't interested in shaking hands with nonsense.

Now ... Where was I?

Ecclesiastes, which I'm looking forward to studying along with you, happens to be one sermon delivered by Solomon. Just one sermon. I confess I have no idea how many sermons of mine will be delivered to expound on *one* sermon of his, but I don't plan on hurrying. Ecclesiastes is deeply practical, corrective, convicting, motivating, troubling and, along the way, incredibly inspiring. And that's because it is—inspired!



In the last century, a graduate of Spurgeon's College in London by the name of J. Sidlow Baxter, delivered a series of messages at Charlotte Chapel in Edinburgh on the Book of Ecclesiastes. Baxter preached, "Successive generations of human beings commit the same sins, repeat the same big blunders, fall prey to the same ensnaring stupidities, and suffer the same agonizing disillusionments, as those who have lived and died before them; all because they will not take to heart

the lesson of Ecclesiastes—*everything is empty apart from God*. Solomon isn't pessimistic, he is bravely honest. And if there is one Old Testament book more than another which many *Christians* of today need to read and pray over, it is Ecclesiastes."

Amen to that . . . so let's dive in, for the sake of living honorably, purposefully and wisely.

Satisfied in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen".

Stephen Davey
Pastor/Teacher

Join a Group!

By Scott Wylie, Family Pastor



Autumn is a time when families develop new routines. Summer travel brought new happy memories. The kids are back in school, one grade older. Life takes on a new rhythm. As you settle into a pattern for the new school year, make sure that pattern includes finding community in a ministry group.

If you're honest, you'll admit there is a discrepancy between who you are today and who you want to be. Or more precisely, who you know God wants you to be. All of us need growth and change in our spiritual lives. We all need to learn, and we need to apply what we've already learned.

God consistently uses groups to bring about growth in His people. When we interact with each other in small groups, we enjoy the fellowship and love that defines the body of Christ. We develop friendships with brothers and sisters who make the joys of life more sweet and the trials of life more bearable. We grow deeper and faster because we're rubbing shoulders with others who are facing the same things we are and are willing to hold us accountable. We serve Christ more effectively because we pool our gifts, talents and resources together for God's glory.

The life of our church family is centered around the worship service when we gather to sing, learn and give. But we believe you need more. You need to be known, you need opportunity to have others pour into your life, and you need to invest in the lives of others. This is especially true in a large church like Colonial where the size of our corporate gathering may seem to make connecting with others difficult.

That's why we offer several small groups to choose from on Sunday and throughout the week.

Sunday Groups

Our Adult Bible Fellowship groups vary in size from 15 to 100, and all of them give you an opportunity to CONNECT to the body of Christ through relationships, fellowship and social interaction; GROW in your faith through the teaching, discussion and application of God's Word; and BELONG in a loving community based on encouragement, care, support and prayer. Some of these groups have even smaller groups that meet during the week.

Throughout the Week

Our women's and men's ministries host various Bible studies at convenient times throughout the week, so you can participate regardless of your work and life schedules.

Is It Worth It?

Make no mistake... it's not easy. You might need to leave your comfort zone and be willing to pour into the group. But the benefits are worth it! The Church is, and has always been, centered around community and the only way you can experience true community is in the context of relationships. A small group is where this happens best!

If you want to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ and want to experience deep relationships with others who share that same vision, join a group!



Learn more about all the groups we offer by visiting adult.colonial.org.

GROUP SPOTLIGHTS

Recalibrate ABF *By Joel Thimsen, ABF Teacher*

Perhaps you've been a Christian for years, or maybe you're new to the faith. Perhaps you're newly married and you long to be more grounded as a Christian couple, or maybe you're a parent and you desire to raise your children to the glory of God. When you think about your faith, do you find yourself in a rut? This class is called "Recalibrate" because our goal is to dig deeply into God's Word and allow the truth we find there to *recalibrate* our lives.

Currently, we're working through "The Gospel Project for Adults" curriculum, which goes through the major themes and storyline of the Bible in three years. Incidentally, if you're a parent, ColonialKids is concurrently using "The Gospel Project for Kids," so your entire family will study the same passage and theme each Sunday.

Our group consists of singles and married couples, ranging in age from 20 to 40. But adults of any age are welcome. We average 20-30 people each week in attendance, but would love to have more! There is a \$5 quarterly cost for the workbooks, but please don't let cost be a barrier. We have gracious people that have offered to cover book costs for others if that's ever an issue.

In addition to our Sunday morning gathering, we also have Bible studies, separate men's and women's fellowships, and every month we meet as a group for lunch after church at a host home. It's a great time of fellowship together. We also help serve one another as needs arise and are shared in the group.

Interested in learning more? Feel free to contact me at thimsen@gmail.com.



Joel and Jenn Thimsen

Recalibrate ABF

Meets: Sundays, 11:10 AM

Location: FC201

Teacher: Joel Thimsen

Group for any adult interested in recalibrating their life around the gospel.

New Season ABF *By Mari-Jo Hill, Contributing Writer*

This "empty nesters" group of active adults stays connected by fellowshiping and serving together, both in the church, and to ministries in the community and beyond.

They hold quarterly "Potlucks with a Purpose" that have provided freezer meals for our Care Ministry, and "Love Bears" for special-needs families and "Hearts Cry" orphanages in Panama. They have packed bag lunches for the Raleigh Rescue Mission, serving the homeless population.

They have hosted a shower for "Your Choice" pregnancy clinic (part of Hand of Hope Pregnancy

Resource Center) to provide for the needs of their clients. Within the church body, they host the "Widow's Might" Christmas brunch at the home of a member and also assist with clean-up during Christmas Sweet.

Several class members have visited Heart's Cry in Panama on a regular basis, logging their third trip in four years with the endorsement and prayer support of the class. There is no slowing down for this group!

If you love solid Bible teaching and enjoy serving others, consider joining this very active group!



New Season ABF

Meets: Sundays, 11:10 AM

Location: Parlor

Teacher: Various

Group for parents of adult children; emphasizes growth, fellowship and service.



Divine Connections

By Cheryl Coleman, Communications Director

Meet Jackson Springthorpe:

An 18-year old, recent high-school grad who truly is on fire for the Lord! This past summer he served at Word of Life camps in New York and also participated in the Colonial summer service trip to Albania. This fall he begins college at Word of Life Bible Institute with the ultimate life goal to become a youth pastor so he can impact young people's lives the way his own life has been impacted by the gospel.



But Jackson's faith hasn't always been paramount in his life. In fact, like many young people who have grown up in the church, Jackson found himself just going through the motions. He had developed two sets of friends—his church friends and his public-school friends that included his varsity soccer teammates.

"I was pretending to be one kind of person at church and with my family, while at school I was engaging in foul language, partying, drinking and dabbling in pornography," Jackson shares.

But in June 2018, Jackson made a divine connection with one of his church friends, Matt Higdon, who had the idea to have the senior guys begin a weekly meeting with the new student ministry pastor Caleb Cruse. Caleb was excited to get the opportunity to build relationships with these young men. The weekly meetings really paved the way for what God was doing in Jackson's heart and culminated in a powerful turning point at Colonial's summer camp that year.

"All the seniors had gathered on that last night of camp for a special night of worship," Jackson recounts, "and I really felt God's presence like I never had before."

Despite trying to ignore the promptings of the Holy Spirit, Jackson approached Pastor Caleb to ask if they could step outside to talk. It was pouring rain at the time, perhaps a symbol of the cleansing work that God wanted to do in Jackson's life. Jackson became emotional and with tears began confessing how he felt he was living a double life—wearing a "mask" of Christianity that wasn't real—and he didn't want to keep living a lie. But it was Caleb's profound response that really impacted Jackson, when he told him, "No matter what you've done or said, God won't love you any less." He then shared the gospel about Jesus' atoning sacrifice, and Jackson understood it like never before. Realizing his desperate need for a Savior, Jackson prayed to accept Christ into his heart.

That's when everything changed. Jackson immediately began to rebuild his life, reorienting his priorities, and reading the Bible daily. Back at school, he made it clear to his old friends that he had changed. Before long, he garnered the affectionate name, "Pastor Jackson."

Caleb vouches for Jackson's amazing transformation, sharing, "Jackson is thriving in his spiritual growth."

Praise God for Jackson and his heart for pursuing God and full-time ministry! We look forward to seeing what God does in this next chapter of his life.

Jackson shared his testimony with the Colonial youth this past summer.



Meet Paul Hewitt:

Long-time Colonial member, Evangelism Explosion (EE) trainer, door greeter, and stroke survivor. At age 62, Paul suffered a massive stroke that had even the doctors concerned that he might not pull through. If you know Paul, you know that he has a servant's heart with a strong love for the Lord and a love for people. It was truly a miraculous recovery that Paul experienced . . . beating the odds and regaining his strength and mobility in record time. But it wasn't easy—requiring a lot of hard work, therapy, and of course prayer!

Through it all, God has used Paul to reach others with his cheerful demeanor and genuine spirit. While in the hospital and rehab facilities, Paul helped lead four healthcare staff to Christ. After he was home and feeling better, Paul began hanging out at the church offices in his wheelchair and pitched in at the receptionist desk helping to greet folks, while his wife Pam, who serves as Colonial's event coordinator, worked throughout the week.

On one of those days, a young man who had never been to Colonial came in inquiring about a certain Christian book that he wondered if the church had. Receptionist Diane Maness and Paul began chatting with the young man and quickly realized he was searching for more than just a book . . . he was searching for spiritual answers. With Paul's training in EE, he seized the moment, asking the young man a poignant question:

**If you know Paul,
you know that he
has a servant's heart
with a strong love
for the Lord and a
love for people.**



Paul Hewitt with Church Receptionist Diane Maness.

“If you were to die today, do you know if you'd go to heaven?”

The young man tried to answer, but as Paul suspected, his response was “works-based”—essentially hoping that if he did enough good deeds in his life, he'd make it heaven.

That was Paul's cue to begin sharing the gospel with him, which ultimately led to the young man praying to accept Christ as his personal Savior.

“When I saw tears in the young man's eyes, I knew it was real,” Paul recalls.

Praise God for Paul and his heart for evangelism and reaching people for Christ! Since having the stroke, God has brought many similar divine connections into Paul's life for him to be a powerful witness for Christ. Despite his ongoing physical struggles and challenges that linger due to the stroke, Paul remains thankful and sees God's goodness and sovereignty through it all.

Shepherds 360

Fall Conference:

Communicating Truth

OCTOBER 20-23, 2019

By Dave Burggraff, Executive Pastor

It's hard to believe, but this is our sixth year hosting the Shepherds 360 Church Leaders Conference! What a great privilege to host world-renowned speakers and special guests who will address topics impacting and influencing the Church today.



The church conference kicks off Sunday morning with guest speaker Dr. Robert Smith Jr. This beloved servant of God—who always says coming to Colonial “feels like coming home”—will be speaking during all three morning services.

We'll also be offering a special ABF in the Chapel featuring Costi Hinn. Costi is a conservative, evangelical pastor who has authored two widely read books on dangerous religious movements and deceptive teaching. He has seen it firsthand, having worked alongside his famous uncle, televangelist Benny Hinn.

The conference continues Monday through Wednesday. While there is a cost for the daytime sessions that includes 10 general sessions and over 40 workshops, there is no cost for the Monday and Tuesday evening sessions. More specifics will be announced soon!

We hope you'll attend and take advantage of all the wonderful sessions available. Read more here or visit www.shepherds360.org for all the details!

SUNDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 20

All Three Services

ROBERT SMITH JR. is a Colonial favorite! We know him as a dynamic pastor, but he's also a professor and author of several books, including *The Oasis of God: Mourning to Morning*, *Biblical Insights from Psalms 42 and 43*. He's currently on staff at Beeson Divinity School in Alabama.



Special ABF in the Chapel During All Services

COSTI W. HINN is the executive pastor of discipleship at Redeemer Bible Church in Gilbert, Arizona. He is passionate about equipping Christians to live boldly for Jesus Christ and seeks to accomplish this through preaching, teaching, and writing. Costi is the nephew of televangelist Benny Hinn, and details his experience with his uncle's teaching in his book *God, Greed, and the (Prosperity) Gospel*.



MONDAY, OCTOBER 21

ERWIN LUTZER served as senior pastor of the Moody Church in Chicago for 36 years before retiring in 2016. A renowned theologian, Dr. Lutzer has also authored several books, including *Rescuing the Gospel* and *He Will Be the Preacher*. He and his wife, Rebecca, live in the Chicago area.



COSTI HINN (see Sunday)

STEPHEN DAVEY (Colonial's pastor/teacher will speak Monday evening, you can find his bio at colonial.org.)



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22

DAVID GIBBS III is the President and General Counsel of the National Center for Life and Liberty, a ministry organization that defends life and liberty freedoms nationwide. David speaks regularly to audiences in churches and conferences while also litigating cases as a trial attorney. He also manages Gibbs Law Firm and has authored several books including *Understanding the Constitution*.



DAVID FLETCHER is an accomplished executive pastor, professor of doctoral ministry, and an expert on church marketing, management and leadership. Having served in churches with between 1,000 to 8,000 members for more than 35 years, he's very honed in to helping "equip, coach and lead" churches of all sizes.



ALEXANDER STRAUCH is a gifted expository Bible teacher and author, whose books have been translated into over 30 languages. He has written many books on church leadership, including *If You Bite & Devour One Another: Biblical Principles for Handling Conflict*.



JUAN SANCHEZ helps train pastors in Latin America, South America, and Eastern Europe, and is senior pastor of High Pointe Baptist Church, a multi-ethnic congregation in Austin, Texas. Juan also serves on the council of the Gospel Coalition, and is co-founder and president of Coalición.



THOM S. RAINER is the president and CEO of Church Answers and the Executive Director of the Revitalize Network. He is the author of numerous books, including *I Am a Church* and *Scrappy Church*. His podcast, Rainer on Leadership, is one of the highest-rated Christian leadership podcasts online today.



JONATHAN LEEMAN serves as the editorial director of 9Marks, a ministry dedicated to building healthy churches. He is also the author of a number of books, including *Church Membership: How the World Knows Who Represents Jesus* and *The Rule of Love*.



R. ALBERT MOHLER JR. will speak Tuesday evening. He serves as president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, one of the largest seminaries in the world. In addition to his presidential duties, Dr. Mohler hosts two programs: *The Briefing*, a daily analysis of news and events from a Christian worldview; and *Thinking in Public*, a series of conversations with the day's leading thinkers.



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

HEATH LAMBERT is the senior pastor at First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Florida. Prior to serving at First Baptist, Heath served as the Executive Director of the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors (ACBC). He is the author of several books, including *Finally Free: Fighting for Purity with the Power of Grace*.



JARED C. WILSON is the director of content strategy for Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, managing editor of For the Church, and director of the Pastoral Training Center at Liberty Baptist Church in Kansas City, MO. Jared is also the author of more than 10 books, including *The Pastor's Justification* and *The Prodigal Church*.



BRUCE WARE is another Colonial favorite who has spoken here numerous times! Bruce is an esteemed theologian who has taught at several seminaries. He's currently on the faculty at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Bruce has written numerous books, including *God's Greater Glory: The Exalted God of Scripture and the Christian Faith*.



Special Monday and Tuesday Evening Sessions

OCTOBER 22 & 23 | 7 PM

- Adults Enjoy Music and Solid Biblical Teaching
- Special Programs for Teens and Kids. Details Coming Soon!
- Childcare Available: Birth-4 years (*Must Sign Up In Advance*)
- Fellowship and Refreshments After Each Service
- Exhibits and Bookstore Open After Each Service
- FREE and Open to Everyone!



*Sigler, Lofquist, and Davey
at 2019 Commencement.*

Ready, Set, Go!

By Dr. Tim Sigler, STS Provost and Dean

Great things are happening at Shepherds Theological Seminary—and part of that is the addition of exceptional faculty. Meet Les Lofquist, who is eager to serve our students.

Dr. Lofquist will serve as Director of Church Relations and Assistant Professor of Practical Theology. Les holds multiple degrees, including his Doctor of Divinity from Calvary Bible College and Theological Seminary (Kansas City, MO). Most recently, he served 20 years as the Executive Director of the IFCA International where he provided servant leadership to over 1,500 churches, pastors, Christian workers, chaplains, mission agencies, and eight Bible colleges and seminaries in 27 countries. He has served as a church planter, visiting seminary professor, and senior pastor. Les is even known locally through his son Paul who serves as an Assistant Pastor in Colonial's College Ministry.

As a sought after speaker for churches and conferences, Les will represent Shepherds at colleges and seminaries throughout the country. His role at STS will help expand the reach of the seminary, enable new recruiting opportunities, and prepare more servant leaders for strategic ministry in the future.

While Les and his wife Miriam are looking forward to being near their grandchildren in the area, they're most excited about their new assignments from the Lord to invest their lives at Shepherds and at Colonial, where Les will also be helping to co-teach the LifeSpring ABF class . . . ready, set, go!

FOLLOWING THE LORD'S PLANS: STS Graduate Pursues PhD Abroad

By Roben Dent, Contributing Writer

Denis Salgado (MDiv, 2018) has been blessed with the opportunity to further his academic career by pursuing a 3-year PhD program in New Testament studies at the University of Edinburgh. This opportunity may not have been possible without the award of two scholarships—one will cover tuition, while the other is a living expense stipend.

While abroad, Denis will continue his work with Wisdom for the Heart, the international Bible-teaching ministry of Stephen Davey, with broadcasts heard in five continents—North America, South America, Africa, Asia, and Europe. Denis will continue to oversee and execute all Portuguese translation, editing and reporting.



Tiffany, Denis' wife, excitedly welcomes this major transition with a few understandable twinges of anxiety. Their official move will take place in September. Thankfully, they will reside in fully furnished student housing, which means they will only need to pack clothes and small items, reducing the logistical headache that an international move can cause. Moreover, with 18-month-old Stella and the October 31 due date of their second child fast approaching, Tiffany is looking forward to quickly making their new community home.



When asked if there was anything that Denis and Tiffany would like the church community to know, he stated, "I'd like to highlight the amazing support we have received from individuals at Colonial, Wisdom for the Heart, and Shepherds Seminary. We praise the Lord for them!"

STS Partnership Making an Impact at Colonial!

The partnership between Colonial and Shepherds Theological Seminary is producing a bumper crop of servant-leaders who are making an impact right here at Colonial! Check out this impressive list of men and women who are affiliated with STS and also serving in some capacity at Colonial.



Bill Barber

STS: Professor Emeritus of Practical Theology
Colonial: LifeSpring ABF Co-Teacher



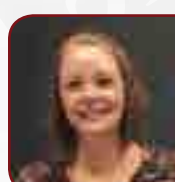
Paul Lofquist

STS: Pursuing Master of Divinity
Colonial: College Ministry Pastor



Caleb Cruse

STS: Pursuing Master of Divinity
Colonial: Student Ministry Assistant Pastor



Tiffany Salgado*

STS: Her husband, Denis, Master of Divinity, 2018
Colonial: Early Childhood Coordinator
**See adjacent article on where God's leading this sweet couple next!*



Kate Dreesen

STS: Master of Theological Studies, August 2019
Colonial: Student Ministry Admin Asst.



Joseph Scarfone

STS: MA in Christian Ministry, May 2019; Pursuing Master of Divinity
Colonial: Children and Family Ministry Pastor



Peter Goeman

STS: Asst. Professor of Old Testament & Biblical Languages
Colonial: Fusion ABF Teacher



David Spinks

STS: Pursuing Master of Divinity
Colonial: Facilities Assistant



Sarah Hays

STS: Pursuing Master of Theological Studies
Colonial: Family Ministry Admin Asst.



Carissa Wronski

STS: Her husband, Mathew, pursuing Master of Divinity
Colonial: Church Piano Accompanist



Justin Hollabaugh

STS: MA in Church Ministry, 2014; Pursuing Master of Divinity
Colonial: Sports Ministry Assistant



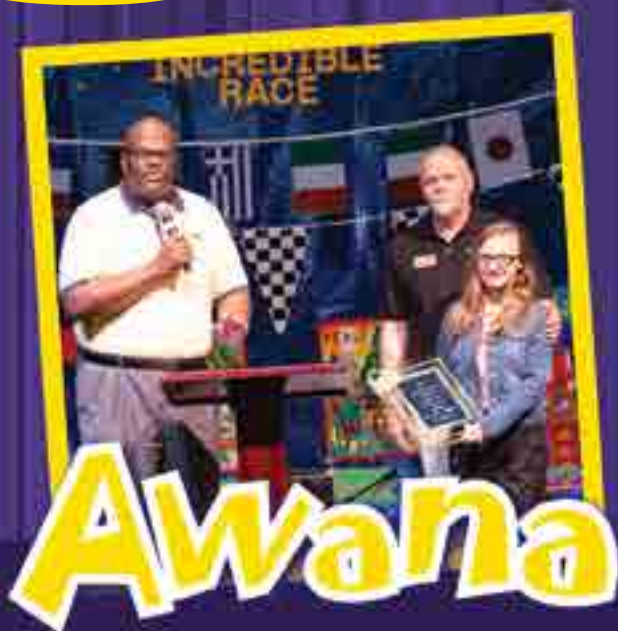
Noah Zobrist

STS: Pursuing Master of Theological Studies
Colonial: College Ministry Assistant



Daniel Kukin

STS: Pursuing Master of Divinity
Colonial: Leads Worship for Fusion ABF



CITATION AWARD PRESENTED TO COLONIAL YOUTH

By Cheryl Coleman, Communications Director

Awana's highest honor—the Citation Award—was presented this past May to recent high school grad, Emily Lamb. The award is quite an achievement, requiring a student to:



- Complete 10 Awana curriculum handbooks since grade 3.
- Read all 66 books of the Bible and write a summary about each book.
- Memorize up to 1,063 verses.
- Participate in up to a year's worth of service projects.

As a result of winning this prestigious award, Emily will be eligible to receive as much as \$12,000 in college tuition scholarships over the span of four years, depending on the college. Congratulations, Emily, on a job well done!

Awana Commander, Ken Berry, who has been involved in the program for 29 years, explains the importance and value of the Awana program:

“The earlier kids can hear the gospel and learn of their need for a Savior, the better. Statistics show that the older kids get, the harder it becomes to reach them with the gospel.”

The program is divided into various clubs by age—starting as early as two years old all the way through high school—and incorporates times of fun games, large-group teaching and small-group breakouts.

The program is so successful “because it’s highly scriptural and highly relational,” Ken says. “Kids begin learning Scripture at an early age, but having a relationship with the leaders week-to-week is really what helps solidify it.”

Awana registration for the 2019-2020 school year is now open! **Visit colonialkids.org** to sign up your child today!

For more happenings this fall in our Children's Ministry, visit **colonialkids.org** or download the Colonial App.





COLONIAL STUDENTS

Fall Spotlight

NEXT STUDENT CONFERENCE

September 20-21

This year, we're introducing a *brand new* weekend of enrichment for you and your family! On September 20-21, all students in grades 6-12 and their parents are invited to **NEXT—a conference designed to equip the next generation of servant leaders**. At Colonial, we believe every student has leadership potential. And, we believe everyone can tell a story with their lives that changes this world for the better. Our desire is to prepare students to fulfill their calling and lead at the feet of Jesus.

We're organizing a number of helpful main and breakout sessions on Friday night and Saturday morning that include tracks for both students and parents. You'll also want to stay for the fall festival on Saturday afternoon—this is going to be the best weekend of fall!

Registration is now open at colonialstudents.org.



AN INVITATION FOR YOU!

By Paul Lofquist, College Pastor



Attention all College Students: Colonial's College Ministry (C2) is ready for the school year, and we want to see you get involved! We provide all sorts of opportunities to build relationships with other believers, as well as reach out to your campus. Our Community Groups meet at different times throughout the week on all of the major campuses, and focus on group Bible study and prayer. Then, we come together once a month on one of the campuses for a big group time of worship. Add to that our Fall Retreat and Sunday morning gathering, and you'll find there are plenty of chances to grow in your walk with Christ alongside other believers.

Also, did we mention free food? Yes, there will be plenty of that, too! We'll kick off the school year with a Party in the Park. You'll also want to join us for our monthly 4th Sunday Lunch in Colonial's Café. And the much-loved Broomball is back for another year, too. Rounding out the semester will be opportunities to serve in the community, game nights, and a random bonfire or tailgating. Check us out—we're here to help you navigate the challenges of the college years!

Visit college.colonial.org for info on any of these upcoming events and gatherings.

Be sure to Download the Colonial App and subscribe to our Push Notifications to keep you in the loop for all of our events and happenings!

Christmas IN September

By Andy Poole, Contributing Writer

"I have always loved everything about Christmas—family, decorating, and the whole spirit of that special time of year," says Pam Gerace, who currently leads Colonial's Christmas in September outreach sponsored by our Mobilization Office. "I even watch all the Hallmark Christmas movies starting in November!"

Pam demonstrates this holiday cheer early each year through the spirit of giving. As summer changes to autumn, she collects donations of Christmas gifts from Colonial members and attendees for our Global Workers.

"Success to me is getting all of the approximate 450 gifts to the right families in time for Christmas," Pam says.

"That can be challenging. Trying to get two skateboards to England was interesting, and mailing a portable ironing board was another challenge." Sometimes the items can be shipped in the mail; at other times, Pam and her volunteer team search for a willing courier.

"Many of the countries have a mail system that cannot be used, so finding someone who might be going over to drop off gifts is always fun," she shares. "People have graciously agreed to bring second suitcases. We even ship barrels to Liberia!"

Pam got involved with Christmas in September while serving in Evangelism Explosion (EE). "As part of EE, in December, we would deliver Angel Tree presents for the Prison Fellowship Ministry and would share the eternal 'gift' of Christ with the families and children," she recalls.

She volunteered for Christmas in September after she saw a table in the lobby and later took on the leadership role, once held by Bill and Faye Lindsay who retired.

The number of families blessed by Christmas in September each year can reach as high as 43. With each family member requesting three gifts, that means that the number the outreach sends ranges between 425 and 450 gifts. Pam enjoys seeing God meet this demand every year through the generosity of the Colonial church body. Sometimes, though, it comes down to the wire. "I am very much a 'Martha,'" she says. "And I begin to get nervous by mid-September when we still have 200-300 gift requests that need to be picked up."

Common items sent to the missionaries include foods that give them "a little taste of home while they are overseas," such as candy, coffee, tea, coffee creamer, certain types of cereal, macaroni-and-cheese mix—things you can only get in the States. The requests are humble, with many asking for ministry-related items rather than personal ones. These ministry tools range from books on theology and discipleship to medical supplies.

For Pam, connecting people at Colonial with their Global Workers and getting them involved in their ministries is as important to her as giving the gifts they donate. She feels privileged to see these families who serve all around the world grow and persevere in their ministries.

Pam looks forward to reading emails from the grateful recipients. "Our Global Workers are touched beyond words that Colonial would honor them with Christmas presents," she said. "It makes them feel so loved and special."

Colonial members and attendees wishing to donate can learn more at the "Christmas in September" table that will be set up in the lobby during late August through September or by visiting www.colonial.org.

Pam (left) and her sister serving at church.



GLOBAL STAFF UPDATE: The Burtons Serving in London

By Paulette Carrieri, Contributing Writer

The Lord declares, "I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

In 1997, Greg Burton was lying alone on a dirty floor in a stranger's apartment in Ireland. He opened his Bible looking for answers as to what he was doing, or more importantly, what he should be doing. "As I read John 3, I knew at that moment, that night, a thousand miles from home, that I must be 'born again,'" Greg recounts. "From that moment, God transformed me, and I wanted to share the gift I had been given to help transform the lives of others. I cried tears of joy."

In less than two years, God used Greg's gift of basketball to reach people in China, Mexico, Africa, Eastern Europe, as well as Greg's family members.

In 2001, a friend invited Greg to Colonial. "It was the first time I had ever been in an evangelical Baptist church," Greg shares. "I had never heard such teaching, and I knew I had to come back. Before long, I was baptized and became a member of the Colonial family. It was Pastor Davey who exhorted me to use my gifts. He has been and still is a giant encouragement and source of wisdom and counsel in my journey of faith, growth,



and ministry. I owe so much to him, Colonial, and Shepherds Theological Seminary for my growth as a believer." Within two years, Greg would marry Brittany, whom he met while running a basketball camp. They now have five children.

In February 2015, God began sending the Burtons offers from a faith-based sports consultant asking Greg to move to London to help build a secular basketball club. Over the next three years, the Burtons prayed and made exploratory trips to London. "Having our identity solely rooted in Christ, we left behind the life we knew

and answered His call," says Greg. The Burtons have officially resided in London since February 2019 and receive all of their support from back home in the United States.



"The hardest challenge was not having family nearby," shares Brittany. "However, God used this time to draw us closer to each other and to help us make new friends through basketball, home education, and the church we attend. I pray for the Holy Spirit to grow these relationships and use me through our conversations as a bridge to His gospel." Both Burtons are shocked by the sheer number of lost people and the cold indifference to the gospel in England. "London is a difficult city to minister in," admits Greg. "We have but two tools, basketball and home education, to minister to their hearts and minds, thus allowing the Holy Spirit to come in and minister to their spiritual needs."

How You Can Pray

The Burtons ask for prayers of discernment, wisdom and that they would grow in stature and favor before man and God. They also desire that others would join with them and bring their experience and gifts to help London become a launching pad to advance God's Kingdom all across Europe and beyond. Consider praying specifically, not asking should you go, but instead that God would send you. If it's His will for your life, He will open the door, just like He did for the Burton family.

Want to learn more? Send a note to gregburtongo@gmail.com. To receive ministry updates, submit your e-mail address to burtonsonmission@gmail.com. Or follow Brittany's home education blog at <http://www.ourthrivinghive.com>.



AUGUST-FALL 2019 AT A GLANCE

Please note, event details may change. For the most current information, check ministry websites or email a ministry leader.

FOR THE FAMILY

FAMILY POPS CONCERT

September 7/5 pm/Worship Center
The CBC orchestra presents a medley of songs from family favorites like "Mary Poppins" and "Frozen," and presents a musical adaptation of the classic tale "The Selfish Giant."

NEXT CONFERENCE

September 20-21/Student Center
Open to all middle and high school students and their parents; the conference is designed to equip the next generation of servant leaders. Sessions will be held both Friday night and Saturday morning, followed by a fun fall festival. colonialstudents.org

BUMPER CROP

September 22
Bring your canned goods and help feed those in need within our community. If your family would like to help with the collection, contact sbenner@colonial.org.

SHEPHERDS 360 FALL CONFERENCE

October 20-23
Make sure you read the article on pages 8-9 to get a preview of all the great guests scheduled for this year's conference. www.shepherds360.org

JOY TOYS COLLECTION

Month of November
We're partnering with Child Evangelism Fellowship to help make the holidays brighter for families in need this Christmas. More info can be found at colonialkids.org.

CHRISTMAS SWEET

December 10-14/7 pm (plus 2 pm matinee on Saturday)/Worship Center
Music ministry again wows us with their annual holiday dessert concert. Tickets go on sale October 15!

FOR ADULTS

WELCOME CLASS

Meets every Sunday/WC108/11:10 am
A one-time class to help newcomers feel at ease. Come learn about our history, what we believe as a church, and get an overview of our ministries.

DIVORCECARE, DIVORCECARE4KIDS, GRIEF SHARE

Now through November 7
Thursdays/6:30 pm/Family Center 2nd Floor
Support groups that help you cope during these painful life events. Join at any time. For more info, email Melissa at mdement@colonial.org.

ESL CLASSES

September 6-May 15
Fridays/9:30 am/Family Center 2nd Floor
We offer several classes organized to help people with varying abilities learn the English language better. Volunteers and students can join at any time. Email esl@colonial.org for info.

WIDOW'S MIGHT LUNCHEONS

September 10, October 8 and November 12/11:30 am
Come fellowship with other widows during lunch and special activities. Visit women.colonial.org to RSVP.

DEPRESSION WORKSHOP

September 28/9 am/Upper Room
Bringing biblical light to the darkness of depression. Registration required at care.colonial.org.

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

November 14/6:30 pm/Family Center 2nd Floor
A seminar designed especially for people who are separated, divorced or grieving a loved one's death. Visit care.colonial.org for details.

JOBSEEKERS

Meets Mondays/8:30 am/Upper Room
Ministry to the unemployed and those in job transition. Visit jobseekers.colonial.org.

PRIMETIMERS (AGES 55+)

Visit primetimers.colonial.org for details and registration information.

Pig Pickin'

October 12/1:00 pm/Lake Wheeler
Our annual fall event where we kick back and enjoy a great BBQ meal and the casual life! Come rent a canoe or paddle boat, take in the lake view, play some corn hole, enjoy the bluegrass music and socialize with friends.

PrimeTimers Luncheons

12 Noon/Parlor
• September 19/Understanding the Opioid Crisis
• November 14/Get to Know Our Ministry Partner, With Love from Jesus

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

(Begin August & September)
There are eight different studies being offered this fall in both the morning and evening hours. Visit women.colonial.org for info and to register.

MEN'S MINISTRY

Visit men.colonial.org for details and registration information

MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

- Tuesday evening: Colonial Outdoors/6:30 pm/SC202
- Wednesday morning: General/6:30 am/Parlor
- Wednesday evening: General/6:30 pm/FC203
- Thursday evening: Men's Purity Group/7 pm/SC206

MEN'S BREAKFAST

November 2/7 am/Parlor
Join us for a hearty breakfast, fellowship and a devotional.

FOR COLLEGE-AGE YOUNG ADULTS

Visit college.colonial.org for a full list of activities.

4th SUNDAY LUNCHEONS

September 21 and October 26/
Following the C2 Gathering/Café
Enjoy a free catered lunch and hanging out with other students.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Small groups meet throughout the week on campus and off to study God's Word, pray, and spend time together.

PARTY AT THE PARK

September 13/Pullen Park
Kick the semester off right by joining us as we grill out, play games and make new friends!

FALL RETREAT

October 18-20/Camp Oak Hill
Spend some quality time with God and friends as you take a break from your everyday routine.

BROOMBALL

October 25/10 pm/Cary Ice House
Costume contest and exciting broomball. Come dressed to impress!

SERVE DAY

November 16
A day to go out and serve others in the community.

FOR TEENS

These are just some of the events on the calendar. For a full list, visit colonialstudents.org.

CSM SUNDAY NIGHTS

Sundays beginning Sept 8/Café
A time for student choir, Bible study and MS/HS small groups.

CSM WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Every Other Wednesday starting September 11 through December 18/7 pm/Student Center
Bible study and fellowship time for MS and HS students.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS RETREAT

November 8-9/Salt and Light Retreat Center
Join us for a time of bonding and spiritual growth as we kick back and enjoy a weekend at the beach.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS RETREAT

November 8-9/TBD

TURKEY BOWL

November 27/8 am/Colonial Fields
Start your Thanksgiving break with a little two-hand touch football at Colonial. Ages 14+ are welcome.

FOR KIDS

Visit colonialkids.org for registration information.

AWANA

Sundays, starting September 8
5:00 pm/Children's Center
Children memorize God's Word and develop friendships while learning Bible stories, enjoying fun games, music, crafts and snacks.

FALL CAMP

October 18-20/Raleigh
The annual retreat for 3rd-5th graders will be at New Life Camp in Raleigh. The weekend is a great time to bond with other kids while studying God's Word.

BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS

December 22/9:45 am, 11:10 am/
Children's Center
ColonialKids celebrate the birth of Jesus—complete with cake!

SPORTS

Visit colonialsports.org for registration information.

Open Gym Adult Volleyball and Basketball

Pick-up games occur weekly.

Basketball Registration Now Open!

This league is for boys and girls, ages 6 to 13 as of January 1, 2020. Boys and girls play in separate leagues (not coed).

LIBRARY HOURS

Wednesday: 11 am-1 pm
Thursday: 11 am-1 pm
Sunday: 9:15 am-12:45 pm

