

A Calvary Chapel

East Gate Ministries Tucson

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF EAST GATE MINISTRIES TUCSON | JANUARY 2017

Update on the Adopt-a-Family

Thank you to everyone who donated to help our Adopt-a-Family this Christmas. They were very blessed by the expression of love and support from our church body.

Our church body sincerely blessed a family in need last month. The outpouring of donations was wonderful, so thank you to everyone.

This family is recovering from a severe domestic violence situation, and we were able to give them

clothes, toiletries, kitchen items, gift cards, and so much more. Thank you to Melisa Elliott and her mother, Maria, who spent hours at the church collecting and wrapping all the gifts.

BY THE NUMBERS

December 2016	Year to Date 2016
Income: \$5,724.40	\$80,509
Expense: \$5,331.54	\$84,546
Net: \$392.86	\$-3,937

Church Events

- Feb 5 – Communion
- Feb 18 – Men's Breakfast
- March 5 – Communion

AWANA

- Feb 1– Penny Candy
- Feb 8 – Team Color Night
- Feb 15 – Jesus Loves You
- Feb 22 – No AWANA (Rodeo break)

NEW LIFE

New Year's resolutions are popular this time of year. The most popular resolutions are exercising, losing weight, and getting organized. It is estimated that 45% of people will make them every year, but by February, only 64% of those people will have kept them. So, why do we make resolutions? Most people make them because they want to change their lives.

The Bible talks about a "new life" as a fundamental change. It is not an outward alteration. We can do those on our own. We can affect change in our own lives without Christ;

whether it's losing weight, breaking a bad habit, or creating a new one, it's pretty easy to enact a small change. What *isn't* easy is to **revolutionize** our lives – this is why we need Jesus!

The theologian Charles Spurgeon once wrote, "The leopard might suddenly lose his spots...but the leopard will remain a leopard." What he meant is that the change Christ makes in our lives is essential, not cosmetic. It is a modification to our soul, and the only being that can do that is God.



Does anyone make matter? The artist can sculpt clay, but God made that clay. Just like we can reshape ourselves – lose weight, quit smoking, get organized – but as God created us, only He can create that new life in us. We cannot do these things ourselves.

When we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, it is said we have new life. But what does that mean? Many of us experience a sense of peace, relief, even excitement when we take the leap in faith. Do we understand that as we take that step, our old lives are being left behind, and we have become new?

Sure, we may not be a better version of ourselves – we're not fitter, healthier, smarter, or more attractive – but we have become a new person. We have the love of Christ in our souls, in our very DNA, changing us with the power of the Holy Spirit and God's grace.

Since, then, we do not have the excuse of ignorance, everything—and I do mean everything—connected with that old way of life has to go. It's rotten through and through. Get rid of it! And then take on an entirely new way of life—a God-fashioned life, a life renewed from the inside and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces his character in you. Ephesians 4:20-24 (The Message)

Announcements

- Join us for our 2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off on Sunday, February 21st after service! Whether you want to enter in the cook-off or just taste different recipes, come enjoy some fellowship, food, and fun! This event will be a potluck, so we will be looking for people to bring side dishes, cornbread, and desserts. Sign up is in the sanctuary!
- There will be a Men's Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, February 18th, starting at 9 am. This will be a potluck event, so grab some donuts and come to the church for fellowship and prayer!
- The Women's Bible Study will be starting a new book on Monday, January 23rd at 7 pm. The workbook is titled "His Last Words" by Kim Erickson and is available on

Amazon or at Gospel Supply on Broadway and Craycroft.

- Our new High School Ministry will begin Sunday, January 22nd during morning service. This is for youths from 9th – 12th grade and is being led by Brandon and Amanda Childs.
- Fundraiser for Egg-stravaganza: It's mason jar time again! We are raising money for our first annual neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt Outreach! Our goal is to raise \$600, so please pick up a mason jar in the sanctuary starting Sunday, January 22nd, and fill it with spare change. Help us make this neighborhood event Egg-stra special and Egg-straordinary! (Ok, done with the cheesy puns!)

Reminders

Security

Please remember to keep an eye on your children while at the church building. They cannot be left unattended, and should be picked up promptly from all activities, including AWANA, Youth Group, Children's Church, and Nursery. Please be aware the church and its staff are not responsible for unsupervised minors.

