thewell

It's Kind of Like Having a Baby...?

I have it on very good authority that the birthing process is a very painful process for the woman who is giving birth. I have witnessed the births of my two daughters, I have seen the look in my wife's eyes during a contraction and I still have nightmares about what I saw. I felt the pain in my hand as she clamped down on it with a strength that can only be described as "superhuman," but I have never felt the pain.

From what I have been able to gather, the final stages of preparing to deliver a human into the world are uncomfortable, painful, stressful and expensive. In a very real way, I feel that I have just described the process of birthing a new church building into the world: uncomfortable, painful, stressful and expensive. And while it is all of those things, anyone who has a child will say that all of the pain was worth it. (Especially the father.)

This is a very Biblical analogy. One Jesus himself uses. *A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world.* John 16:21

As we are getting closer to the move in date, things are happening! It is an exciting and stressful process to be involved in.

I have been to churches in the past where the building becomes the mission of the church. Everything becomes about the building. People feel manipulated and guilt-tripped into giving and in the end, you have a beautiful building full of exhausted people. The Bible is very clear on many occasions that if his people are faithful in giving, then his bride the church will not go without. In one case we read God's instructions to Moses regarding contributions.

The Lord said to Moses, *2 "Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from everyone whose heart prompts them to give.* Exodus 25:2

We also learn that God prompted the hearts of his people to the point where Moses was able to say, "You can stop giving. We have what we need." As a church, we are not there yet. I have learned a lot in the past 4 years since we started The Well, but the most recent lesson is that we must communicate needs. Moses did it, Jesus did it. I am not sure why I have been so hesitant to do it. Maybe it is pride, if it is then I apologize to you and confess my sin to God before you as your pastor.

But what my heart has been in all of this is that The Great Commission is our mission and the building remains something that we are also doing because our needs are changing as we grow as a church. In the late fall when I communicated the financial need to the church the response was wonderful. However, the response was not to the point of being overwhelming. I know that we have yet to achieve the level of generosity that this church is capable of. *We recognize that this may simply be a communication issue on our part, so on March 10th we are going to do our best to give you all the necessary information about where we are in this process, financially and spiritually.*

As long as we stay true to God's will and prayerfully move forward, our future is bright as a church and I anticipate that people will continue to come to Christ in our church, be baptized and our community will change along with our permanent address.

The best way for me to put it is that we are in the final months of the birthing of a church. The body is changing, things are getting pushed in new directions, there is pain and discomfort. These are all signs that something great is going to happen soon.

Josh Kesler, Senior Pastor

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CONTACT OUR STAFF

Current Meeting Place:
Huntington YMCA
1160 W 500 N
Huntington, IN 46750
11 AM Worship Service

Redeveloping Small Groups at The Well

As André and I (Josh Kesler) have been looking at his role as a pastor of The Well, we have been identifying his strengths and how he can best be utilized as a benefit to the church. The main thing is that André is a very gifted church leader and it seem fitting for him to have an area of ownership in the church. A great thing is that Andre is gifted in one of our greatest areas of need: Small Group Ministry. As Pastor, I am proud to be able to give André the freedom to initiate a process to produce effective small groups at The Well. In order to give you a better idea of what small groups mean to Andre, I have asked him a few questions and provided you with the answers. I invite you to learn a little bit more about Associate Pastor of Small Group Ministry, André Laird

ANDRE HAS BEEN PUTTING MUCH THOUGHT INTO SMALL GROUPS AND THEIR ROLE AT THE WELL

Why are small groups beneficial for growing as a church/disciples?
Small groups are essential to the growth and development of any church as they foster a sense of community. People need to feel connected outside of Sunday morning and small groups allow this. From a biblical/spiritual standpoint, small groups and qualified small group leaders help to advance the mission of the church and ultimately God's mandate of loving Him and serving others.

How have you been preparing to lead the small group ministry at The Well?
In preparing for the small group ministry at The Well, I am reading, *"Making Small Groups Work"* by Townsend and Cloud, to better understand the process. Also, I have been researching and compiling a library of helpful resources to kick start the ministry. A small group leadership team is currently being assembled to plan the next stage of the ministry.

Where do you see small groups in 30 days? 60 days? Six months? Future?
Within the next 30 days, the goal is to identify and assemble an inaugural group of members within the church, who will undergo a small group leadership class or classes. With every venture, it is key that everyone is on the same page, especially in regards to the scriptures.
Following the leadership class, based on the areas that are identified as greatest need, small groups will be offered to the church. Examples include, but are not limited to, singles & young adults, evangelism, discipleship, men's, and women's as well as topical studies.
In six months time, the goal is to offer a full line of small groups as well as periodic leadership classes as more leaders are identified. The hope is that small groups will meet throughout the week at various locations in addition to the church.
With a firm foundation, the future of the program is limitless. If the small group leadership team accepts the challenge of humbly loving, serving and staying grounded in the scriptures, then there is great potential for the ministry to be successful.

What gets you excited about small groups?
In the public sphere, I'm not a big conversationalist. However, given a small setting, such as in the case of a small group, I enjoyed discussions on the Bible and hearing what others have to say as we examine God's Word together. I think it would be safe to say that a lot of other people feel the same way and hopefully this leads to a strong and vibrant small group ministry.

THE BUILDING PROJECT CONTINUES

THE CONSTRUCTION CREW IS MAKING SOLID PROGRESS AND MOST OF THE WALLS ARE NOW STUDDED IN. IT IS BECOMING EASIER AND EASIER TO SEE THE WONDERFUL BUILDING THAT THIS WILL BECOME. REMEMBER TO CONTINUE TO BE IN PRAYER FOR EVERY ASPECT OF THE PROJECT, FROM THE SAFETY OF WORKERS TO THE DECISIONS BEING MADE BY THE LEADERSHIP.

WANT TO PITCH IN? STAY TUNED FOR AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN MARCH 10TH'S SERVICE AS TO HOW YOU CAN BECOME INVOLVED.

LIVES ARE BEING CHANGED!

On February 17th we held a Baptism Celebration directly after our worship service. Three unique stories of how God has been working in the hearts of the people attending The Well were shared and lives were renewed. Congratulations to Mitch Bowers, Dustin Rutledge (aka Paco), and Marleigh Fordyce! We rejoice with you.

If you would also like to be baptized or have questions about baptism, please contact Pastor Josh at josh@thewellathuntington.org.

YOUTH NEWS

We are changing our meeting place to the UB Headquarters/Healthy Ministries building at 302 Lake Street. It is located at the front of the Huntington University Campus at the corner of Guilford and Lake. We are excited about this new space, and hopefully it will be our last move until we have access to the new church building.

Thanks to all the youth and parents who continue to be flexible and follow us around during this transition time! We will be meeting at our usual time- Sundays from 6:30-8pm- through the month of March.

We will not meet on Sunday, March 31st due to ***Easter****.*

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEEDS FOR THE NEW BUILDING

Kelli has created a convenient way to convey the needs of the Children's Ministry for when we move into the new building. As you know, the YMCA is set up to provide a decent learning area for the children, but once we leave the Y, we also leave the chairs, tables, and materials behind with it. Through Amazon, Kelli has created a shopping list for what is necessary to continue to give our children the best opportunity to come to know and grow in Jesus. She has created the list on Amazon so there would be a central location of the list, you don't have to buy from Amazon, but please do check off the list anything that you would buy. If you have any questions on how this works, please get with Kelli. Also, if you aren't the internet type, just let Kelli know what you donate and she can update the list. And if all this seems complicated, but you want to give specifically to the Children's Ministry, you may designate any gift for any specific ministry, just make a note with your gift.

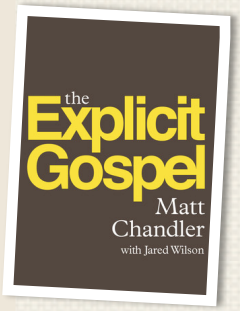
To locate the wish list go to www.amazon.com/wishlist and type in kelli@thewellathuntington.org in the area for finding someone's wish list.

If you have any questions about the needs of the Children's Ministry, please contact Kelli at kelli@thewellathuntington.org.

COFFEE CUPS

THE WELL IS STILL SELLING COFFEE TUMBLERS IN OUR COFFEE SHOP, PRIOR TO SUNDAY SERVICES. THEY ARE ONLY $10. STOP IN, SAY HELLO TO LEAH, AND FILL UP FOR THE SERVICE. WE PROVIDE COFFEE AND ROLLS THANKS TO YOUR DONATIONS, LOOK FOR THE DONATION CUP AS YOU FILL UP.

EXPLICIT GOSPEL



THE LEADERSHIP OF THE WELL IS CURRENTLY READING A BOOK ENTITLED "EXPLICIT GOSPEL" BY MATT CHANDLER WE WOULD ALSO RECOMMEND IT TO ALL OF YOU TO READ AS WELL. IT GIVES GREAT INSIGHT AS TO WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO.

GOOD FRIDAY

THE WELL WILL BE COLLABORATING WITH COLLEGE PARK CHURCH FOR A GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE, HELD MARCH 29TH AT COLLEGE PARK, 1945 COLLEGE AVENUE, 7 PM.

JOIN US AS WE WORSHIP, REMEMBERING THE SACRIFICE MADE FOR US ALL.

EASTER!

WE WILL HOLD A CELEBRATORY EASTER SERVICE AT OUR REGULAR TIME, IN OUR REGULAR LOCATION, ON SUNDAY, MARCH 31ST. HUNTINGTON YMCA, 11 AM

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORSHIPING OUR RISEN SAVIOR TOGETHER WITH YOU!