

As I write this in the middle of January, we are gearing up for our first *RISK* event at Southside Park. This event is planned for the third Saturday of each month until the end of the year, except for December when we plan to meet at the park on the second Saturday. I'm really excited to get this amazing church body out of the church building and into the community we've been called to. I know we're already out there in our communities when we work, shop, and play, but I'm looking forward to doing something together, something bigger than we could each do on our own. If you are one who likes to plan out your year, save the following dates to the best of your ability:

February 16, March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21, July 19, August 16, September 20, October 18, November 15, and December 13

Some other really exciting news, if you couldn't be at the Family Gathering on January 13th, includes:

- We've been able to start giving Becky Henry a monthly stipend for her work with our kids, which is a huge blessing.
- We've been given approval by the county for the changes we want to make to our rooms, and we're moving forward on getting that done. Our goal is to be finished with moving walls and such by the end of February.
- We purchased the bus from *Cornerstone*, and want to have it insured and being used in February (any drivers out there we don't know about?).
- We are looking into refinancing the building so we can buy the land to the east of us (which we pledged to do a couple of years back), get new carpet, a new sound board and equipment, and take care of a big chunk of all the deferred maintenance issues we have around here. Another thing that we feel is super-important is to get a new playground for our kids and demolish the old one.
- Going to 2 services on Sundays seems to be working out well. Our attendance has gone up, plus it gives our volunteers who are serving in Nursery, Kid's Ministry, or Youth the opportunity to participate in a service, even when they're scheduled to help out elsewhere.
- We're going to have a new photo-directory, which should help us get to know all the people God is bringing together to be part of this body. It starts with matching names with faces! ☺
- There are so many Bible studies going on that I gave up trying to keep track of them weeks ago!

I'm sure I can come up with even more, but you get the picture. I truly believe that God is positioning us (as much as we'll surrender to Him) to allow His word to change us so we will truly be about the mission He has given us. And what is that God-given mission? I'll give you a little hint: **Loving One God, Loving All People!**

