

Despite the challenges we have faced in these last years of Covid, many of our people have remained faithful to Nall Avenue. Covid did leave a mark and continues to leave a mark on us both in the church and secularly, but I'm now hopeful that no matter the trials we go through, God is faithful.

From a youth ministry perspective, I am again thankful for those who have remained consistent despite the circumstances we have faced. Rather than viewing our numbers as low as they are, I've been focusing on how we can build more fruitful relationships that prioritizes the teens in ways where it would become more difficult in a larger group. As our youth ministry continues throughout the year, I'm excited to see how we grow more in tune with one another as I'm beginning to see this take shape in our one-on-one conversations, our group activities, and in our Sunday night programming together. Even though we remain to be a smaller ministry, our teens have actively invited their friends to participate with us, especially in our late-night events (gargoyles) where we have seen our numbers rise to the 20's. We also have decided to implement a new discipleship event ('Sunday Night OverTime' aka SNOT) that has proven to be successful. This monthly event is held in parents homes where food is provided and teens come to fellowship with one another over food and games. All of these events have shown to have positive effects to the extent that teens frequently ask when the next event(s) will be.

Moreover, we have taken on the task of refreshing the youth room to reflect an industrial theme. This includes a painted ceiling (dark gray), painted walls (light gray), brick accent wall, cove baseboards, new light fixtures, new furniture, and games. While this project is not complete we wish to have the youth room completed by mid-summer. Nonetheless, I'm thankful for my church family who believe in us as staff persons to get the job done but through the guidance of our Lord.