

JULY 2017-OCTOBER 2017

NEW CREATION CHURCH

TRYING TO BE A CHRISTIAN

We have been walking this life together, sharing space and love, for almost eleven years. For most of those, we searched for two things, a farm where our family could grow and a church where our faith could grow. Many winding roads lead us out to the old Rainey estate on Douglas Bend where we found the land we were looking for in 2014. Soon after, the church we were longing for found us.

The other churches we attended always felt wrong to us. This one - New Creation - has always felt right to us. While there were variations amongst congregations, man-made rules and rituals, that rubbed us as ungodlike, there were seemingly two constants: (1) our children would fuss and fight not to go and (2) the church leaders taught what the Bible was against, not what it was for. Here, we have a right to choose what we believe, who we love, how we worship, where we serve. God loves us all and welcomes us all, despite our shortcomings and failures. We were disheartened with church.

We started sitting it out. Then one of Penny's friends, Jill Moore, started telling her about this unique little church, where community outreach and inclusion were at the core of the creed. Penny said, "That's the church that has Christmas Eve service in our barn." Before then, we had separately engaged Keith in blessed conversations at the farm as the barn was decorated for the Christmas services. He quietly invited us to come see what was different, better about New Creation.

Finally, we quietly eased into the back row for a service. That was the last time we eased in. Or sat in the back row. New Creation is like Aunt Bertha at the family reunion who smells like a mixture of Sand and Sable and stale cigarette smoke that pulls everyone in for the big, two-armed swaying back and forth, thirty-second hug. At first, you don't want the hug but it melts you down. Then, when she finally unleashes her bear-like grip, Bertha steps back, with hands on both of your shoulders, and genuinely asks, "so how are you, baby?"

New Creation is a big, loving, dysfunctional family, a community of broken people trying to live a little more like Jesus, leaning on each other just to get through to what's next.

We share joys and sorrows, tragedies and triumphs. Keith teaches us what the Bible stands for: love, compassion, benevolence, community. Loving and inclusionary. Not hateful and exclusionary. We are never more like Jesus than when we love and help those who are not like us. Jesus shows us this with the Samaritan woman. We are never more faithful than when we expand our community. This is the story of Peter and Cornelius. This church genuinely asks each other, "how are you?"

We are big tent believers, that everyone should be welcomed in the house of God. We are drawn to the benevolence of faith. We believe in its goodness. We believe in Luke 3:11, that we should always help whoever we can, whenever we can. We know that most, if not all, of you believe these things too.

But we do not believe that God favors one political party over another. We know that God is not Baptist, Presbyterian, Muslim or Buddhist. God is neither black nor white. He (or she) is much bigger and loves greater than ever given credit for in any church. We know that most, if not all, of you agree.

So as soon as Penny makes a name tag we will be both members of this unique gathering of faith-minded folks who love everybody and help somebody if we can. After all, isn't that what trying to be a Christian is all about? Renowned poet and author Maya Angelou wrote:

I'm working at trying to be a Christian, and that's serious business. It's like trying to be a good Jew, a good Muslim, a good Buddhist, a good Shintoist, a good Zoroastrian, a good friend, a good lover, a good mother, a good buddy - it's serious business.

At the crossroads of our farm and our faith, we stumbled into the New Creation family. You took us in. Just as we are. Broken. We are blessed to share our home with our church family. It seems we get so much more than we could ever give. So, we look forward to continuing our serious work here at New Creation, of trying to be a Christian.

Our boys and baby girl never fuss or fight about going to church now. They think it's because of the donuts and Lego tables. Their parents know better.

Rocky & Penny



JULY

July 31- Dinner for Sunday School Teachers @ 6:30 PM

SEPTEMBER

- September 1- HHS v. SCHS Tailgate
- September 3- Combined Worship @ 9:58 AM
- September 10- House Groups Start
- September 16- Hendersonville Half Marathon
- September 28- Taste of Hendersonville
- September 30- Fall Festival @ Gene Brown Elementary

AUGUST

- August 13- Move Up Sunday & 2 Services start
- August 27- Invite Night

OCTOBER

- October 8- Combined Worship @ 9:58 AM
- October 27-29- Women's Retreat
- October 29- Trick or Treat for Cans @ 4:30 PM
- Chili Cook Off @ 5:30 PM

While there are some positives to not having formal "members" at New Creation, one of the things we miss is the introduction of those who are newly connected to our community. At the very least, we learn a name and maybe even make a new connection. Also, with no formal membership we miss the opportunity to share the ownership of seeing our community forward (sharing the load). Thus, starting this fall we will introduce one family each week. This will be new to all of us. Whether you have been with us for a few weeks or a few years we will all have the opportunity to get to know "US." It is a starting point for our community to share our stories and remain highly relational. Get ready for the phone call to find a date that works for you. We will start August 13th.



Anticipation for a Celebration...

In 2012 First Presbyterian of Nashville, along with EakinFund, invested prayers and financial resources to establishing a new church unlike others known in the Hendersonville area. Their faith in this process and their financial contribution have been an integral part of our growth and security. We are proud to inform you that at the beginning of 2017 we received their final commitments, which now allows us to move toward our own independence and sustainability.

What does this milestone mean?

First, we are planning a celebration in 2018 to thank these two for their faithfulness and generosity. We would not be what we are today without them.

Second, we are working diligently to position ourselves to balance our giving with our expenses by 2019. Currently, we are trending to receive 1/2 of our budget through giving in 2017 (\$125,000).

Finally, we want to continue to acknowledge our tremendously generous congregation. Eighty percent of our families are consistent givers and we recognize that it is through efforts like this and constant outreach to our community that we will be able to thrive through all of these changes.

Thank you for your faithfulness! We are excited to serve a God who continues to call us out to serve!

Finance Team

AUGUST 23

Fall Kick-Off Food Fight & Parent Info Night

SEPTEMBER 6

Middle School from 6:30-8:00 at the church

SEPTEMBER 20

Middle School meet at Strike & Spare Family Fun Center @ 6:30 for Bowling & Pizza

OCTOBER 4

Middle School from 6:30-8:00 PM at the church

OCTOBER 18

Middle School from 6:30-8:00 PM at the church

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH

If you have any questions please contact Katie McIntosh at 770.286.4191 or by email to katiemcintosh@newcreationhendersonville.org

If you are in 6th-8th grade you should check out Hendersonville Wyldlife that meets at New Creation on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 6:00-8:00 PM (**We will meet on August 19, September 16, October 21, November 18, December 16**)

MARKERS ON THE KITCHEN DOOR...

On the inside frame of our kitchen door you will find what first looks to be graffiti art done by a 2 year old. A closer look and you will discover the markings of the growth of our 3 children since we moved to Hendersonville. Each mark is filled with stories that represent a milestone of excitement and a new season of life. The marks are exciting because they often meant a new adventure awaited them.

I wish there was a way we could do this with our church. We are a young community filled with milestones that could cover a door. We have reached another mark.... Starting August 13th we will begin 2 services (8:45am and 10:15am). Like any new season of life, it will come with some difficulties but we hope to embrace where God has called us. We believe there are some things we can do to help this milestone be even greater....

First, we fully expect the time after the first service and prior to the second service to be essential community time. Thus, some of you will be hanging around after church and others will be showing up early to help us all stay connected.

Second, we will be asking many of you to extend your Sunday morning (at least for a month at a time) to teach a children's class. The good news is you will be able to serve and keep your own time of worship. (There will be kids classes at both services.)

Third, it is our hope that by creating a space for our community to grow that we will retain our authentic relational community. As well, we believe this to be a critical step for us to become a vital church.

We are excited that we are able to make it to this mark. Please be patient with our growing and be in prayer as we take these next steps forward.

Grace and Peace

Keith

***Note, once a month we will gather for a single combined service. Here are the dates for the combine worship at 9:58am:**

September 3, 2017

October 8, 2017

November 26, 2017

December 31, 2017



Mark your calendars now. Space is limited! Deadline for registration is 9/10 (estimated cost is \$150)

Katie McIntosh
(katiemcintosh@newcreationhendersonville.org)



Join us for Invite Night, Sunday August 27. Contact Katie if you would like to host a table.

Katie McIntosh
(katiemcintosh@newcreationhendersonville.org)

NEW CREATION CHURCH

1020 Avondale Road
Suite 103
Hendersonville, TN 37075

**DON'T FORGET 2
SERVICES START
AUGUST 13TH!!**