



NOVEMBER 2012

COMMON GROUND

MONTGOMERY

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NEWSLETTER



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Once again this is an exciting time for Common Ground Montgomery. We have a few things happening right now that will be a great benefit for the youth that we are investing in.

The 2012-13 school year marks the third year Leslie Cowell has developed and administered the academic portion of the Afterschool Program. Leslie has worked with students of all grade levels in her eight years of teaching experience, and she has now completed her doctoral degree from Auburn University in Elementary Education. She also has experience working with teachers and staff as she served as Elementary Principal and Academic Director at Prattville Christian Academy.

Passionate about urban ministry, Leslie aims to continue helping students strengthen the academic areas in which they are weak and partner with local schools and parents to make all CGM students successful.

We recently purchased a curriculum by Carter, Reddy, & Associates that focuses

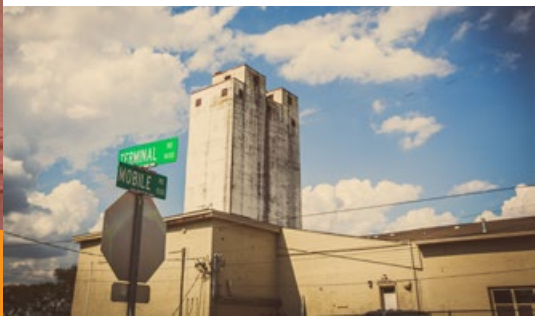
on Language Arts and Math foundational skills. Our students will use these materials each afternoon Monday through Thursday during the Afterschool Program.

The instruction will be individualized for each student. This curriculum, partnered with a caring and experienced teacher, sets the stage for a successful academics program and developing students' abilities in all content areas.

Please continue to pray for us as we learn how to carry out God's love and grace in our community.



Leslie Cowell





Field trip to the Southeastern Raptor Rehabilitation Center in Auburn, Alabama.

COMMON GROUND

Just hanging out at the CGM building.





CHRISTMAS STORE

December 17th-21st marks Common Ground Montgomery's 6th Annual Christmas Store! For the past five years the Christmas Store has collectively provided thousands of toys for youth in our neighborhood! The Christmas Store also allows you and your family a special opportunity to participate by volunteering or donating!

We have two very important goals:

1. Provide the children in our program the joy of receiving toys for Christmas that some of them may not otherwise receive.

2. Offer the parents and guardians of these children the gift of dignity as they are provided an opportunity to purchase toys at an affordable rate.

We need your help!

- Purchase any new toy(s) for children up to age 16.
- Leave price tag intact or leave receipt in bag. DON'T WRAP ITEMS.
- Donate gift cards from the following: Target, Toys-R-Us, or Wal-Mart
- Donate by Cash or Check (please be sure to note "Christmas Store" in the check memo line)
- Drop off at our office at 1516 Mobile Road, in Montgomery
- Consider becoming a volunteer in our Christmas Store

Drop-off days are limited: Please put these dates in your schedule now!!!

Monday, November 12th through Friday, December 14th

Office Hours Monday - Friday, 10 A.M. – 4 P.M.

Need more Information? Call Kevin at (334) 657-7049, call our main office at (334) 593-5803, or email us at: commonground@cgmal.org





Bryan Kelly

God has been very sweet to me in many ways over the last six months. As many of you know, we were blessed by my board of directors with a four-month Sabbatical, in which we moved out of the neighborhood for the summer to focus on our family, hear from the Lord, rest, and seek all the ways that He would grant us health.

I have been overwhelmed with the Lord's presence and the encouragement and support from so many. We have returned to our wonderful neighborhood with renewed strength, some intentional needed boundaries in place, clear vision for our future and the future of CGM, and a beautiful intimacy with the Lord that

For Christ's love controls me

is transforming our family in many ways.

The overwhelming realization God has granted me has been a refocusing of my motivation, security, acceptance, calling, and opportunity to love others as I'm being rooted in God's presence with, and love for, me, my family, and the body of Christ. He is teaching me more and more what it looks like to repent of being controlled by outside influences, opinions, values, and dreams, and being controlled by His affirmation and constant love and presence.

This reality is the place of true change, power, and potential to see Him transform those we get the privilege of doing life with. It truly is the key to freedom to sit with and walk with others and see God show up for them, rather than any fruitless attempt to try to save or change others. In a community like ours, this is the only hope to see the overwhelming patterns of destruction shattered in the lives of our neighbors, as well as in our own families.

As I look forward to the year and years to come I more convinced than ever that all of our efforts to see mutual transformation in us and in the Washington Park/Gibbs Village community must come through reliance on our God and in the power of the gospel as it is demonstrated in our efforts at Christian Community Development. Dependence on His provision, His power to change things, and His timing is non-negotiable.

This stance, however, puts us out of many categories of funding and community help. We are not only fine with that, we are excited to see how God will show up and show off for His own glory and for the good of all of us.

I am available to come meet with you, your Sunday school classes, civic groups, business, etc. to share the direction of our ministry and current partner needs. Please contact Jamie by email (Jamie@cgmal.org) to set up a time I can come fellowship with you.