What is the ministry of Cottage Cove? A quick answer would include the two primary mission statements which are a part of our governing documents:
(1) To provide educational opportunities and training in the arts through the power and in the name of Jesus Christ.

(2) To provide spiritual instruction, upholding the Bible as God's inspired Word and as the complete and final authority on all matters of life and faith.

These broad statements allow for a lot of very different ministry opportunities. From the beginning we have focused on a core implementation of these mission statements in regards to children. In fact, again quoting from our by-laws, a later statement under finances shows how much we believe this to be an integral part of our ongoing ministry:

(3) Daily children’s programs will be provided without charge to the children or their families; believing that God, through His people, will provide for His work.

While we have added a number of additional outreaches, some of which I’ll mention shortly, the non-negotiable for us is children. All children. Of course, in our neighborhood, a host of other adjectives could be added to the word children: low income, inner-city, at-risk, single parent, minority, etc. Perhaps the best summary of these are words that Jesus used, “the least of these” (i.e. Matthew 25:34-45). When times get tough, children often are the first to suffer, to be forgotten. Since children don’t have a say, their programs are often the ones that get cut first. At Cottage Cove, we’ve turned this inside out. Our focus is not on those who can give something in return, but as it should be, on those who cannot (i.e. Luke 6:32-35). If things get severe enough that we have to cut back, everything else will go first and the children’s ministry will remain as long as God enables. We believe this to be a Biblical priority! (i.e. Luke 18:16)

The ultimate contrast and contradiction of our type of ministry is that when things are rough economically the need for our help increases exponentially. While we have struggled to make ends meet for the past few months, God has enabled us to, so far, maintain every one of our outreaches. Our daily children’s program continues to provide home-work help, tutoring, life skills classes, arts, and more, for children ages kindergarten to middle school. “C4” has been joined by an “open court night” to provide a program geared towards older teens. Families are being helped with a weekly food distribution, plus the option of warm fellowship and worship on Sundays complete with a noon meal. Another aspect, often not consid- ered, is the hosts of volunteers, interns, and short term missionaries who come to serve, learn, and grow. They too are a vital part of what we do. We dream of doing more, but only as God allows — we can’t do it unless He provides through His people. So the more things change, the more they stay the same: another day, another opportunity. Thanks for your prayers and support!

Brent MacDonald

Staff News & Stories

Clockwise from left: Donovan in Phonics Class, Marisol & Anthony in Digital Photography, Brittnesha & Destiny in Art, Autumn with Ms Alyssia in Book Club

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(first edition 2009)

Printing of Cottage Cove In Focus is donated.

Missions Trips to Nashville

Plan a trip to Nashville with your teen or adult group. Our DTI experience offers a time of service and personal growth in discipleship. Including great accommodations and food, at a manageable cost, this is a trip to remember.
Another year has gone by here at Cottage Cove, and there are more and more changes taking place every day. C4 (our once a month youth program on Sunday evenings) is now well over a year old and is continuing to grow and develop, especially with our new basketball court where the old playground used to sit. On April 9th we began having an “open court” night every Thursday evening after the regular Cottage Cove children’s program. Open court night is a time where any junior high and high school student can come play basketball supervised by staff and volunteers. (I fully intend to play a bit myself as well, of course.) The majority of our students in the past, if they haven’t moved, drift away from Cottage Cove because it is primarily a kids program, and they feel too cool, or just out of place. Open court night, along with C4, are excellent ways to connect and reconnect with the older students in the neighborhood and to further our long-term involvement in their lives.

With the closing of the Vine Hill Boys & Girls Club, there is a lot of slack to be picked up in the area in regards to after school and summer activities. Pray for us as we try to grow and adapt our programs for older students as this is a much different endeavor than our regular program working with younger children.

I am still loving my time here at Cottage Cove, having now been full time (including my time as an intern) since May 2007 (involved since 2003), I have seen so many students come up through the program, and it truly makes a difference. One of my particularly favorite parts about Cottage Cove is teaching Bible Study with older students (grades 3-7). Right now we are going through Judges on Wednesdays and Thursday is what the kids call “Questions Bible Study.” Usually we have another book we would be going through (in this case Acts), but so many questions started coming up that I realized, hey… these kids have real questions about God rolling around in their heads; we could spend the entire Bible Study every week answering questions. I am kept on my toes regularly with questions like “What happens when we die?”, “Is it wrong to hate church?”, and “Can people in jail still go to heaven?”. All questions you know came straight from the heart.

My favorite question, I received actually only a few weeks ago, was from a 4th grade student, Delondre, who asked, “So, if Jesus knew everything, then why did He still go down there (Garden of Gethsemane) when He knew they were going to kill Him?” After a moment I realized the golden opportunity God had just given me, and the following week we talked about how Jesus knew they were going to kill Him? After a moment I realized the golden opportunity God had just given me, and the following week we talked about how Jesus knew they were going to kill Him? After a moment I realized the golden opportunity God had just given me, and the following week we talked about how Jesus knew they were going to kill Him? After a moment I realized the golden opportunity God had just given me, and the following week we talked about how Jesus knew they were going to kill Him? After a moment I realized the golden opportunity God had just given me, and the following week we talked about how Jesus knew they were going to kill Him? After a moment I realized the golden opportunity God had just given me, and the following week we talked about how Jesus knew they were going to kill Him? After a moment I realized the golden opportunity God had just given me, and the following week we talked about how Jesus knew they were going to kill Him? After a moment I realized the golden opportunity God had just given me, and the following week we talked about how Jesus knew they were going to kill Him? After a moment I realized the golden opportunity God had just given me, and the following week we talked about how Jesus knew they were going to kill Him? After a moment I realized the golden opportunity God had just given me, and the following week we talked about how Jesus knew they were going to kill Him? After a moment I realized the golden opportunity God had just given me, and the following week we talked about how Jesus knew they were going to kill Him? After a moment I realized the golden opportunity God had just given me, and the following week we talked about how Jesus knew they were going to kill Him? After a moment I realized the golden opportunity God had just given me, and the following week we talked about how Jesus knew they were going to kill Him? After a moment I realized the golden opportunity God had just given me, and the following week we talked about how Jesus knew they were going to kill Him? After a moment I realized the golden opportunity God had just given me, and the following week we talked about how Jesus knew they were going to kill Him? After a moment I realized the golden opportunity God had just given me, and the following week we talked about how Jesus knew they were going to kill Him? After a moment I realized the golden opportunity God had just given me, and the following week we talked about how Jesus knew they were going to kill Him?

Please keep Cottage Cove’s finances in mind throughout the year, we are feeling the hurt like every other ministry that runs on donations. Our program is still offered for free, as a service and a witness to the 99% low income families involved. In an effort to keep our program overtly Christian (with Bible Studies), we choose not to take grant money with anti-religion strings attached, which means more responsibility falls to individuals. With everything going on in the country, giving has dipped, and yet we have more need now than ever as we work to pick up the slack in this inner-city neighborhood. Thanks again for all you do to help make this place possible!

For more information on ways to get involved, please visit our website: www.cottagecove.org

Longhorn Steakhouse Gallatin hosted a Christmas party/field trip.

Autumn & Demisha waiting for center sign-up

Cottage Cove has ministered to inner-city children in Nashville since 1995. Our mission is to provide educational opportunities and training in the arts through the power and in the name of Jesus Christ. We are a non-profit, 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization.