

Altitude

STORIES OF IMPACT 2026





Altitude is a midyear publication featuring stories of impact that showcase how College Park's Core Values are lived out in the life and body of the church. You are receiving a copy of it because of your partnership in the gospel ministry of College Park Church. You have played a role in each of these stories.

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Pre-eminence of Jesus

While many things vie for priority in life, we are committed to centering our lives on Jesus—our Savior, our Lord, the Way to the Father, our example and enabler, our High Priest, and the One who is worthy of our worship and total allegiance. The main thing is to keep the Main One (Jesus) the main thing.

Where Fun and Jesus Go Together

By Student Ministry Team

Around College Park, there's a phrase we often use: *The main thing is to keep the Main One (Jesus) the main thing.* This statement refers to keeping Jesus central in all we do. One way we reinforce Christ's preeminence in Student Ministry is by having some pretty outlandish fun.

In Student Ministry, leaders constantly find themselves in a balancing act, navigating energy in the extremes. In the span of one evening, a leader may cheer as one student chugs a two-liter of Coke to win a game and later listen as a quiet student opens up to his small group about navigating school as a Christian.

Every week, our small group leaders live in the tension between this high-octane energy and its relationally invested counterpart. When the goal is to ignite within the students a passion to follow Jesus, you might wonder: How does this dynamic setting serve to "keep the Main One the main thing"?

First, we recognize that games and activities serve to build valuable trust.

Fun “leads to conversations with eternal significance.”

“A fun-for-students environment is a platform for relationships to start forming,” explains twelfth-grade leader Mike Mumau. In his six years of experience in Student Ministry, he has witnessed that the fun “leads to conversations with eternal significance.” Mike also notes that fun and meaningful conversations about Christ aren’t mutually exclusive—more often than not, they go together.



Mike shares that for much of a student’s life, they are tasked with following others’ instructions.

“‘Teaching them in the way they should go’ and ‘honoring their mother and father’ is biblical. Full stop,” Mike says. “However, making a space with

fewer rules, more freedom, less pressure, and more fun breaks down barriers that may get in the way of their relationships with peers and leaders.”

Ninth-grade leader Sarah DePoy has a similar view. Having served with Student Ministry for three years now, she sees tremendous value in the silly moments.

“To help students grow in their relationship with Jesus, we must help them build meaningful friendships too.”

“To help students grow in their relationship with Jesus, we must help them build meaningful friendships too. Small groups are a great way to do that—they turn fun moments into something deeper, creating memories that continue to bring them back to the main thing.”

For both Mike and Sarah, fun is simultaneously the context in which student relationships are formed and a vehicle for the gospel message. In other words, fun and Jesus go hand-in-hand. And in Student Ministry, *they must*.

Amidst the fun, student leaders have an opportunity to both listen and share how God has worked in their own lives.

"I didn't grow up in an evangelical church . . . I know what it is like to be a teenager without a relationship with Jesus," Sarah says. "I know the temptations many of them are facing, and I want to be there to help them navigate a life that honors God and help them to see that his way truly is better."

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Sarah's prayer is that ultimately, once students graduate and move on from Student Ministry, they will "feel a deep desire to seek out a community of



believers who will strengthen their faith and guide them into a deeper, more loving relationship with Jesus."

"I hope they recognize the awesome journey they're on," Mike agrees. "[They have] the opportunity to grow into adults who love the Lord and are ready to share the hope that lives within them."

God has shaped Mike with a love for theology and a gentle heart. This comes out in the way he leads his small group and connects with students—using theological depth and the vulnerability of an engaged heart. Sarah connects using the boldness of her God-given personality. She goes out of her way to invite and include students—whether at a student gathering or as she interacts with her own kids' friends who hang out at the DePoy house.

"Kids are usually up for a good time," she asserts. "They very rarely say no!"

As trust is built, God opens the door for gospel discussions and discipleship that point students to Jesus. At the end of the day, prayerful conversations and games of 9 Square are both kingdom work . . . one is just a little more chaotic.

Learn more about Student Ministry at yourchurch.com/students.



Authority of the Word

The Bible is the foundation of who we are, what we believe, and everything we do. We are committed to preaching, teaching, counseling, sharing, and living by the sufficiency of the whole counsel of God because it contains everything we need for life and godliness. Real life change is found in the Spirit-empowered Word, not our ideas, thoughts, or opinions. God's Word is written in ink while our plans and theologies are in pencil.

From Scripture to Song

By Sarah Gurley

At the end of a 2014 Bible Study Fellowship class on the Gospel of Matthew, College Park member Mandy Confer spent some time reflecting on what she'd learned about Jesus. Particularly inspired by the Great Commission in Matthew 28, Mandy wrote a poem titled "Have You Heard," which spoke to the excitement of the gospel message spreading from person to person.

"The humble birth of the Sovereign Creator of the universe was astounding to me, so I started there, working my way through the awesome life of the God-man, Jesus Christ," she remembers.

With her experience leading worship, it's no surprise that her poem was soon paired with a melody, becoming a joyful anthem.

"I just knew the Holy Spirit was at work as the next verses and chorus flowed out, ending with 'watch those clouds, he's coming back again,'" she says.

With the help of Pastor Eric Anderson, Mandy crafted the song into its final form and introduced it to the College Park congregation in July 2014. When College Park Worship—then “College Park Worship Band”—recorded a live album called *Ignite!* in November of that year, “Have You Heard” was one of a dozen songs featured, and it was part of College Park’s Sunday worship rotation for much of 2014 and 2015.

Like other songs chosen for corporate worship at College Park, “Have You Heard” was always selected with intentional care, guided by several key considerations. Chief among these considerations is theological integrity—ensuring that each song’s lyrics faithfully reflect biblical truth and meaningfully reinforce the Scripture being preached that Sunday.

Each piece is intentionally rooted in Scripture—letting God’s Word shape both the message and the music.

The same intentionality goes into the writing of original College Park Worship songs. Each piece is intentionally rooted in Scripture—letting God’s Word shape both the message and the music. These songs aim to faithfully reflect biblical truth, often drawing directly from specific passages or overarching themes in Scripture. This emphasis on the authority of the Word ensures that what is sung not only resonates artistically but also forms and reinforces the congregation’s understanding of the

gospel. It is within this framework—where Scripture is the starting point and final authority—that many College Park Worship songs are written, including “Have You Heard.”

As time went on and other songs came into regular rotation, “Have You Heard” was set aside and, until recently, hasn’t been used in corporate worship since late 2016.



In God’s providence, in January of 2026, Mandy was driving alone in her car when “Have You Heard” popped up on Spotify.

“I hadn’t heard it in ages, and I was filled with joy as I sang along,” recalls Mandy.

In that moment, she asked the Lord to provide a way for the congregation at College Park to once again sing the song in corporate worship. What she didn’t know at the time was that the theme for THINK|26

was “Go and Tell,” a phrase woven throughout her song. God was already working in the details as she expressed the desires of her heart to her Father.

Less than a month later, the song came up in a Sunday service planning meeting. As the group discussed upcoming sermon texts and creative elements for THINK126, Chelsea Moran remembered “Have You Heard.” She had grown up singing the song at College Park and recalled how well its lyrics lined up with the theme of THINK. Many on the team were unfamiliar with the song, but after listening to it, the suggestion stuck.

Two months after Mandy’s prayer, Jake Brothers told her they were considering “Have You Heard” for the THINK126 theme song.



“I felt so loved and seen by God,” Mandy says. “He truly delights in lavishing us with his love.”

After nearly a decade, “Have You Heard” returned to corporate worship at College Park. This time, it wasn’t only sung by the congregation; it was also introduced to children at kidTHINK, allowing a new generation to engage with a song rooted in the Great Commission.

Now he is using this song to disciple a new generation in the beauty of Scripture.

“I especially love hearing our church sing it,” Mandy shares. She’s heard from parents whose children are singing it at home—dancing along and even using the hand motions they learned at kidTHINK. “This must bring God such joy and glory.”

Looking back, it’s striking to consider how the Lord works. He brought the Word to life for Mandy, inspiring her to write a song about the Great Commission. Now he is using this song to disciple a new generation in the beauty of Scripture. It’s a reminder of the privilege of serving a God who attends to even the smallest details with perfect care.

Listen to “Have You Heard” at yourchurch.com/haveyouheard.

Listen to College Park Worship albums at yourchurch.com/cpworship.



Redemptive Community

We are broken people loved by the Father, redeemed by Jesus, and indwelt by the Holy Spirit. We strive to minister God's love by repairing the brokenness and bringing those who are lost to sin into restoration, by the power of the crucified and resurrected Lord Jesus. Our focus is Jesus; our authority is the Word; our dependence is prayer; and our aim is Christ-likeness as we live together as the community of God's redeemed.

Standing Straight Again

By Kayla Pugh and Jeff Ballard

Sitting across the table from women she had just met, Kay noticed something they all had in common. It was the first night of Betrayal & Beyond (a Soul Care Group), and each woman was there because she had experienced the pain and wounding that happens when a husband engages in sexual sin. Some women sat with heads bowed; others couldn't stop fidgeting. Yet, each woman shared a similar story of hurt and was desperately searching for hope amid their pain.

Kay knew that feeling because she had once been in that same spot.

When the world shut down in 2020, Kay's world was already falling apart. After some marital issues surfaced, she and her husband engaged in counseling. During this season, Kay felt disoriented and questioned her reality: Had she somehow played a part in the situation? What parts of her marriage were real? Kay was experiencing what she now knows is called betrayal trauma.



A person experiences betrayal trauma when trust is violated in a close relationship. Deeply disorienting, this type of experience can damage the betrayed person's ability to trust and cause them to question what's true. The wounding experienced by betrayal trauma comes on multiple levels: physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual. Betrayal & Beyond groups at College Park aim to help women come to terms with these wounds and help them find healing and hope through deep relationships with other group members and with God.

“At the beginning, I trusted the Lord, and I mistrusted people.”

When Kay shared her struggles with some friends, they told her about Betrayal & Beyond. She gave it a try. Each week, Kay heard stories around the table that sounded like her own. She resonated with the

Amid the pain, she saw God's provision in the community she found.

testimonies in the group curriculum, and over time the Holy Spirit started lifting the veil to reveal the truth of her situation.

Through the group, Kay found words to describe what she was feeling and a language that spoke to what she was experiencing.

“Every week, it seemed like the Lord was giving me more knowledge that I'd never had before,” she remembers. “It gave me a language that I just did not know existed. Having that new vocabulary was revolutionary for me.”

“At the beginning, I trusted the Lord, and I mistrusted people. My emotions were a wreck. By the end, I not only trusted the Lord, but I believed the Lord and understood his protection of me.”

Seeing how much the group was helping her, Kay was eager to connect other hurting women with Betrayal & Beyond. She had previously led Bible studies and was used to group environments, so stepping into a leadership role was a natural next step for Kay.

“Being broken women together—learning about God’s provision and God’s healing together—is a very powerful thing.”

Around this time, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the behaviors that led to Kay’s marital situation were addressed directly, and she and her husband began a period of separation that eventually ended in divorce. Even as she waded through the divorce, Kay poured her heart into leading her first Betrayal & Beyond group. Amid the pain, she saw God’s provision in the community she found.

“I believe the Lord rescued me out of a very bad situation, which is a victory,” Kay says. “By the end, I was a different person. His provision doesn’t always look like what I thought it should look like.”

Now leading her fifth group, Kay feels honored that God has called her to walk alongside hurting women. She loves pointing women to what’s most important: The hope we have in Jesus.

“I firmly believe in good individual counseling. But

I also think the Lord brings so much healing in community.”

Kay has seen how redemptive power is unleashed when we find community through shared experiences. These kinds of relationships bring healing, as we join together to follow Jesus, trust God’s Word, and find healing through God’s Spirit.

“Being broken women together—learning about God’s provision and God’s healing together—is a very powerful thing,” Kay declares.

The support Kay has received through Betrayal & Beyond has given her tremendous strength and courage. It’s helped her to see that when we grieve, rejoice, and seek God together, we grow together. And this is how God designed us. We are made for relationships, and God’s redemptive power is richly experienced in community.

Kay has seen the Lord lift the veil for other women, just like he did for her years ago, and has seen their postures shift—just as her own posture shifted. These moments of reflection are a gift.

“There’s something pretty cool about helping a woman stand up straight.”

Learn more about Soul Care Groups at yourchurch.com/scgroups.



Biblical Unity in Diversity

Within the framework of sound doctrine, we value an atmosphere of theological freedom with humility and a non-divisive spirit. We want to reflect the unified beauty of Father, Son, and Spirit, participating in the building of the multi-faceted Kingdom of our triune God. In our theological systems, our ministry forms, and our personal relationships, we are committed to biblical unity in diversity.

Growing in the Disciplines Together

By Bob Martin

On a busy Sunday morning, I walked hurriedly to The Portico, anxious to settle down with some friendly faces.

A year prior to this particular Sunday, I had led a College Park class on spiritual disciplines, but when the eight-week class ended, something unusual happened: A dozen people told me they wanted more.

I was peppered with questions—“How do I practice fasting when I’ve never done this before?” “How much time really counts for solitude?” “How do you do silence on a regular basis?” And most pointedly, “What do I do now?”

Our introduction to the practices of the spiritual life was technically over, but these believers were eager to test them out as regular rhythms, and they knew they needed a community. So, we built a team—a small band of men and women committed to diving deeper into spiritual disciplines and helping our church family do so as well.

When I blew through the door into The Portico, I heard laughing and chatter at one of the tables. The benches were filled with the faces of men and women who had taken a journey together. I loved that the faces are so similar, yet so different. There was a whole spectrum of people and personalities: men and women, singles and married folks, Black and White, Asian and Latino, individuals in their twenties and those in their seventies. The combination was splendid—a beautiful display of the diversity of our church family.

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As I enjoyed time with these friends, I reflected on the diversity of our experiences with the spiritual disciplines as well.

Many on the team had saturated themselves with Bible reading but had rarely encountered God through silence. Some were consistent when it came to worship but were still figuring out how to engage with Scripture. A number of us had built deep community but were beginners at fasting.

We had all seen God work through the disciplines, but we all had room to grow. That's why we banded together.

What started as a personal thirst to encounter God quickly evolved into a community of men and women with a vision for a larger mission to share our experiences with the rest of our church community. After all, explorers don't just discover; they point others to what they've found.

Our common love for God and one another has helped us navigate our diverse perspectives and experiences. We've also carved out a few important working dynamics to help us embrace unity.



Our common love for God and one another has helped us navigate our diverse perspectives and experiences.

First, everyone's voice is valued. If someone is notably quiet, we invite them to share their thoughts. We've often found that the quietest or least experienced person has the most helpful insight.

Second, we are willing to try new things. In this pursuit, we've launched a solitude retreat and radically reshaped a monthly prayer walk into seasonal prayer and journaling lunches. Some ideas have been better than others, but each event has laid the next plank on the bridge toward a churchwide culture.

Third, we are committed to shared leadership. I am the only pastor on the team, and I do surprisingly little. Two of our members lead the monthly fasting event, and three others prepare for the solitude retreats. We want to help the church see that spiritual formation isn't just for pastors and to make it easy for everyone to engage with the disciplines.

This team is more than a think tank or a serving team. We are an incubator for diverse, authentic gospel community.

It's easy to think of spiritual disciplines as solo activities, but we've found these practices are so much richer when they're done with others. Even solitude is better when we can share our experiences with friends!

Team member David Rawlins puts it this way:

Being a part of a team has allowed me to revisit these practices and marinate in them while practicing them [with] the accountability of knowing others are fasting weekly, hearing updates about God meeting people in prayer, and through silence and solitude. Ultimately, I know the spiritual

disciplines are deep practices with many facets, but practicing them in community allows us to learn from and encourage one another—turning what might slowly be forgotten into regular rhythms.

Belinda Isom, a newer church member, reflects, "[This group] has affected my confidence to share my experiences that may be helpful to others."

It's easy to think we need to "figure out fasting" (or any other discipline) on our own, but opening ourselves up to learn and grow in the context of a diverse Christian family is when we grow best. Adopting new insights from others' experiences, sharing our lives, and seeing the beauty of God's kingdom more fully is a gift this team is eager to share.

Learn how you can participate in spiritual disciplines alongside others at yourchurch.com/spiritualdisciplines.



Extravagant Grace

We desire to be a community of believers who treat others with the same extravagant grace that God has lavished upon us. We yearn to demonstrate this grace through our church culture and our lives in a way that is transparent, real, and helpful. We are blessed to be a blessing to each other, the city of Indianapolis, and the world.

When the Church Became Home

By Bjorn Carlson

It was the last Sunday of 2024, and the sanctuary was understandably quieter due to many families traveling for the holidays. One family, however, was desperate to get to church in hopes of receiving encouragement and support. That same Sunday, Michael Smith was preparing for one of his duties as an elder: making himself available for those who needed prayer. Despite the holiday busyness, he was not going to miss the final Sunday of his term as elder.

This is how Michael came to meet the Klennert family.

Just fourteen days earlier, Sam and Amanda Klennert welcomed their second child into the world. Amid the joy of meeting their new son, a thread of fear and sorrow began to emerge as the Klennerts learned that their son, Jonas, had significant medical challenges. Jonas was quickly admitted to a NICU just a few miles from College Park, and the Klennerts settled in for what would end up being a seven-month hospital stay. Their world had turned upside down in a heartbeat.

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The couple was an hour away from their Kokomo home, navigating the logistics of parenting their older daughter while balancing their jobs, family, and church life. Knowing they needed spiritual and practical encouragement closer to where their son could receive the best medical care, they showed up at church on that late December Sunday morning. After the service, they came to the front for prayer and met Michael. None of them knew, however, that this connection would be the beginning of a whole new and unexpected journey for the Klennerts.

About two weeks later, Sam visited the College Park website to see if he could find contact information for Michael. The Klennerts needed a place to rest for a few hours after long days at the hospital before they returned home to Kokomo, and they wondered if College Park could offer help. He couldn't find Michael on the elder list because the day they met had been Michael's last week in his term as elder. So, he used College Park's "Contact Us" form in an attempt to connect with the elder who had prayed with him and his wife.

Sam was trusting in the Lord, but he had no idea if his message would be delivered or if there was anything the church could do.

However, the Lord faithfully provided. Sam's message was read within minutes of being sent and was promptly passed along to Compassion Ministries, and the "elder named Michael" Sam referenced in his message.

Michael quickly responded that he had been praying for the family since their providential meeting and offered his family's home as a place of respite for the Klennerts.



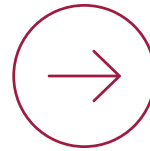
Others sprang into action as well. A pastor promptly visited the Klennerts at the hospital and engaged another woman in the church—one who understood and had experience with hospitalized children—to come alongside Amanda. Two other church families offered overnight accommodations to Sam and Amanda to reduce the amount of driving needed. Another pastor and an elder jumped in to provide support, and the broader College Park community began providing meals through Parish Meals Teams. And when the family learned that Jonas would be in the hospital for longer, a single woman at College Park invited the Klennerts to move into her basement apartment until Jonas could go home.

While his health remains medically complex, his joy is unmistakable.

Jonas was finally released from the hospital in July 2025. While his health remains medically complex, his joy is unmistakable, and you can see that for yourself on any given Sunday . . . that's right: The Klennerts moved to Indianapolis. Longing to be closer to the kind of care and support Jonas and their family needed, the Klennerts relocated to Indy in late 2025. No longer sojourners in our midst, they became church members in April 2026. The care they received as guests is something they continue to receive and extend as church members—evidence of God's extravagant grace both to and working through his people.



Learn how you can help meet the needs of our church family at yourchurch.com/serveincompassion.



The Call to Go

All of us are called to be Spirit-empowered catalysts for life change in our areas of personal influence. We approach ministry with a passionate resolve to equip the saints to engage our culture, addressing the most pressing problems, and reaching the neediest people in our city and the world. While the body of Christ is made up of a variety of gifts, the calling is the same: GO!

A Life Well Spent

By Tyler Riffe

Vanna Finley spent the first thirty years of her life in China. She had been abroad before—earning her master’s in social work at IUPUI—but it was a major shift for Vanna and her husband, David, when they decided to make Indiana home.

The move was also a turning point in Vanna’s life. In the twenty years she’s been attending College Park, she has grown tremendously in her faith and in her desire to share it with others.

Her love for evangelism though began in childhood.

Vanna was born and raised in Hong Kong. Her parents were not Christians, but she attended a Christian high school. Through that experience, she learned to reach out to God in her desperation. “God, if you exist,” she remembers saying. “I need you to show me who you are.” Around this time, she found a church associated with her high school and committed her life to Jesus.

Being a young believer in a non-believing Chinese family was not easy. Her relationship with her mother was strained. Vanna's mother was angry that her daughter had chosen to follow Jesus. But God continued to strengthen Vanna's resolve to know and worship him. Even then, Vanna felt a strong call to defend and share the gospel.

"If God has decided to give me more years of life, then he has kingdom work for me to be doing."

When Vanna and David had three children of their own, they raised them to know the Lord. In 2019, David died after a long battle with ALS. It was an incredibly challenging season for Vanna and their adult children.

She remembers asking the Lord, "Why take David and not me?" At the same time, Vanna had a realization: "If God has decided to give me more years of life, then he has kingdom work for me to be doing."

In searching for ways to live out that calling, Vanna learned about Alpha. Alpha is a short-term small



group model, designed to be a safe space for non-believers and seekers to ask questions about God and faith. Around the time Vanna heard about Alpha, College Park was considering launching a group. Once Vanna heard the news, she was eager to join.

As she prepared for the launch of Alpha, she grew in her confidence to be bold and relational. She talked with neighbor after neighbor, asking “Would you be interested in coming to my house to have conversations about God and faith?”

It was not just her neighbors who she asked to join her though. Vanna also invited others in her community, including a woman she got to know at her dentist’s office.

Every time they meet, they connect deeply and care for each other.

The first Alpha group launched in Vanna’s living room. All of the participants—including the woman from the dentist’s office—were there as a result of the Spirit at work. Even Vanna’s small group was eager to get behind her efforts—one even brought a non-believing friend. Together, they enjoyed food and conversation as they went through the seven-week Alpha course.

Valuing their new connections and relationships too much to stop, Vanna’s first Alpha group kept meeting after the seven weeks was over. Now, more than a year later, the group continues to meet in Vanna’s home. Sometimes they share a meal together. Sometimes they talk about the Gospel of John. But every time they meet, they connect deeply and care for each other.

Since that first Alpha group, Vanna has helped launch three additional groups. One group is hosted by a member of Vanna’s small group. The other two? They met at Vanna’s house.

Vanna receives plenty of rejections when inviting people to attend Alpha, but that doesn’t deter her from the work God has called her to do.

“At my age, I don’t know how much time I have left. Ten years, maybe?” she reflects. “I know I do not have a whole lot of time, and I don’t want to waste it.”

Learn how you can be involved in an Alpha group at yourchurch.com/alpha.

Igniting a Passion to Follow Jesus

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COLLEGE PARK CHURCH