

## Top 10 Reasons to Love Community Church Without Walls

**10. Feeding hungry people**—CCWW celebrates with a fellowship meal at every CCWW gathering. For some members of our community, this is the only balanced meal they will have all day.

**9. The kids**—CCWW offers spiritual formation, religious education, and constructive play for children at nearly every CCWW gathering. At CCWW’s children’s programs, kids have a safe place to be themselves and grow with God!

**8. Helping those without reliable transportation**—CCWW’s transportation ministry fills in the gaps of Birmingham’s public transportation system in the West End neighborhood by taking seniors to doctor appointments, young people to GED programs, and adults to the DMV, job interviews, and other errands.

**7. The youth**—Youth ministry has been crucial to CCWW’s work since the beginning. The youth gather weekly for Bible study and are an vibrant part of our worshiping identity. CCWW believes in spiritual formation for youth through Bible study throughout the school year, as well as summer church camps and fellowship activities.

**6. Leadership Development**—By offering our young adults training, mentorship, and roles of responsibility, CCWW seeks out, develops, and deploys spiritual community leaders!

**5. Education**—CCWW provides scholarship for high school students to attend Holy Family Cristo Rey, a college preparatory high school for low-income students with a 99% college acceptance rate.

**4. Community development.**—CCWW's ministry seeks to identify and eliminate deficits within our community, and to assist the community to work for its own internal change.

**3. We’re a community church**—We are not in West End by accident! We believe Jesus Christ is on the loose in our neighborhood! When we expect to find him here in our midst, we are not disappointed!

**2. No walls!** - No walls means no pews or steeple, but borrowed space and metal chairs instead. “No walls” also means no barriers, no judgments – we are a place where everyone can find God’s love, regardless of what you did 10 years ago or 10 minutes ago.

**1. Worship**—CCWW gathers for worship or Bible study four times each week. Together, we sing, we pray, and we celebrate God’s scandalous love for us. In a world with no time to be still and know God, CCWW stops to honor our Creator over and over.

## Fall Children’s Celebration

The words “costume contest” originally gave me pause. In a neighborhood where some families cannot afford store-bought costumes, I worried that such an activity might lead to tears.



I should have known better than to fret. The twins had already thought of a solution.

Kia and Tia came up through CCWW’s youth group, and the two recently joined the staff as part-time children’s ministers. Not only do they have the Mary-Poppins magic of great children’s leaders, but they also have the added skillset that comes with growing up in West End. They know what CCWW’s kids are going through, because they’ve been there themselves. You can’t teach that stuff – the Mary-Poppins magic or the West End experience. And the twins have both.



Together, they planned an epic fall children’s celebration for Wednesday night church, including waterless apple bobbing, games, face-painting, and that infamous costume

contest, where groups were given a container of aluminum foil, a roll of tape, and a large plastic garbage bag. On the count of three, teams had five minutes to create the most creative costumes they could imagine. The competition was steep, producing superheroes, villains, a shepherd, a boxer, and no shortage of queens and princesses. A brilliant and creative solution – no tears or store-bought costumes necessary!

# Join With Us — Return This Today

**YES! I want to know more about the Community Church Without Walls.**

- I want a pastor to call me.
- I want to enter into a partner covenant with the Community Church Without Walls by promising to support the church through prayer.
- I want to enter into a partner covenant with the Community Church Without Walls by giving \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as a one-time gift, \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as a monthly gift, \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as an annual gift.

*If your address is incorrect, please make changes on reverse and return this to us so we can update our mailing list.*

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## A Word from Pastor Caitlin



### A Word about Advent and Ms. Ernestine

Most have already heard the news of Ernestine Washington’s passing on October 2. The church is still grieving, and Ms. Ernestine will never be replaced. For those who did not know Ms. Ernestine personally, the following is an excerpt from CCWW’s e-newsletter released in tribute to her.

*Ms. Ernestine was a force of nature, a magnetic energy, an unstoppable power. Everywhere she went, she was the adult in the room—the one who knew what to do, who wouldn’t take any guff, but also the one who loved you unconditionally. She was the one throwing out her arms wide and saying, “HEY BABY!” when you walked in the room. She was the one raising an eyebrow and raising her voice when folks weren’t acting right.*

*She had the capacity to move people – to draw them to her, to animate and empower them to move themselves.*

*Once, after an impressive Sunday meal, I asked her how she’d managed to pull it off.*

*“I didn’t do a thing!” she smirked, motioning toward the teenagers that had miraculously materialized in the kitchen. “I just pointed my finger!”*

*Garrett and I joke that she had the most powerful finger in West End.*

*It’s no wonder Ernestine drew in so many people. Her love was her power, and she protected, defended, and cherished those she loved.*

*We are all blessed to have spun in her powerful orbit. She may not have put her own story down on paper, but her story is written in the streets of West End. It is written in all of us..*



At CCWW, we feel Ms. Ernestine’s absence even more strongly as the holidays approach. She embodied a spirit of love that knows there is no such thing as “someone else’s children,” because we are all part of a larger family in Christ..

In this season, where we celebrate the great love that was born in a manger, we also remember those whose celebrations are dimmed with grief.

Regardless of whether we grieve or rejoice, we still anticipate the coming of the Christ child with the weary longing of a world in need of a savior.

Take a moment to pray for Community Church Without Walls, for the work of Jesus on the streets of West End, for those who are grieving, and for all of us waiting in hope.

### How You Can Help

One-time gift	Monthly gift for one year	Equals
\$150	\$12.50	A week’s worth of gas in our vans
\$250	\$20.83	Sunday supper for the CCWW community
\$300	\$25.00	Sends a student to summer camp at SIFAT
\$410	\$34.17	Pays a van driver for one month
\$416	\$34.72	A month’s worth of van maintenance
\$540	\$45.00	Pays children’s director for one month
\$625	\$52.00	Pays for postage & distribution of a newsletter

### Consider giving to CCWW’s core support fund

Help us keep things running smoothly! Having no building means we have very low overhead costs, but even a church with no walls has some non-negotiable administrative expenses: Things like background checks, postage, website hosting, printing, and bookkeeping. Lots of people love giving toward educating or feeding kids, and giving toward the daily grind isn’t always as fashionable. Be a hero – keep us running smoothly!