

September 2016 Newsletter



Northlake Crisis Pregnancy Center

19348 N 4th Street

PO Box 3208

Covington, La 70433

985.893.4281

www.northlakecpc.com

Our Stats

We have seen 347 new individuals in 2016 and had 881 appointments. We have performed 156 free pregnancy tests. We have counseled 68 women considering abortion. We have provided 207 parents with food, diapers, clothing, formula, etc. We have helped 143 women find pre-natal care. We have shared the gospel with 237 individuals and prayed with 327. We have cried with these women, laughed with them, and shared in their joys and sorrows. All of it has been a privilege.

Our Services and Programs

Medical

Pregnancy

Testing

Ultrasound

STD Testing

Counseling

Crisis Intervention Counseling

Individual Therapy

Abortion Recovery Counseling/Group

Healthy Relationships Group

Education

Pre-Natal Classes

Parenting Classes

Long-Term Material Assistance

Clients of the Northlake CPC may come monthly for a variety of baby and maternity items throughout their pregnancy and for two years after the birth of their child.

Our Staff and Board of Directors

Rachel Q. Adair, Executive Director

St. Timothy United Methodist Church

Jill Callihan, Board Secretary

New Zion Baptist Church

Drew Maliskas, Board Member

Covenant Christian Church

Carmen Brawders, Center Director

Bogue Falaya Baptist Church

Joe Taylor, Board Member

Church of the King

Nancy Frantz, Board Member

St. Peter Catholic Church

Renee LaGamba, Nurse Manager

Church of the King

Debbie Wondergem, Board Member

Northlake Assembly of God

Allison Jung, Board Member

St. Peters Catholic Church

Bryanna Iles, Professional Counselor

Jefferson Baptist Church

Kathy Bass, Board Member

Bogue Falaya Baptist Church

Mike Mire, Board President

Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church

Mark Siverd, Board Member

Faith Presbyterian Church

Our Medical Advisor

Dr. Ted Guillory, Medical Director

Save The Date!

The renovations to our new facility are finally complete and we have moved in! We will be celebrating Sanctity of Life Sunday on January 15th by hosting an Open House in our new home. We are so excited to share all that the Lord has done for this ministry through our new location! Thanks to all of you who helped make this dream become a reality.

A Note from the Executive Director

This summer I had the privilege of testifying before the state legislature regarding a very exciting piece of pro-life legislation which passed with overwhelming support. House Bill number 618 offers parents who miscarry their baby in a hospital setting the opportunity to bury their baby. Prior to the passage of this bill, miscarried babies were treated as medical waste and discarded as such. Parents will now have the freedom to choose what happens to the remains of their child. I am especially excited about the passage of this bill from a pro-life perspective. As time goes on, it will become more commonplace to attend a funeral service for an unborn child. I believe this will shape the way that our society views the unborn child and the grief that comes with the loss of such a child. I truly believe that if a woman who is considering abortion has previously attended a funeral for a miscarried baby and seen the grief and pain of those parents, she will be far less likely to choose abortion for her own unborn child.

I first heard about this bill at a luncheon hosted by the Louisiana Right to Life. The Director was asking for women to share their personal experience with miscarriage in a testimony before the Health and Welfare committee. As soon as I heard this request, I knew that God was asking me to be involved. As excited as I was about the bill, it also brought back some very painful emotions. In 2010, my husband and I became pregnant with our second child and we were thrilled. I had my first ultrasound here at the pregnancy center and then another with my doctor. The baby was strong and healthy; the pregnancy was going exactly as expected. Near the end of my first trimester, I decided to do another ultrasound here at the pregnancy center to get some more pictures for the baby's scrapbook. As soon as I saw the baby on the screen I knew something was wrong. I could tell that my baby had not grown since my last ultrasound, and even worse, I could not see the flickering of her little heartbeat. The next few hours were a blur of tears and emotions as I felt the weight of what was happening. I had spoken with so many women who had miscarried, but I was shocked by the level of sadness that I felt. The death of my baby was finally confirmed by my doctor via ultrasound, but because I was not experiencing any signs or symptoms of miscarriage, I was given two choices. I could go to the hospital and have a D&C procedure to have my baby surgically removed, or I could wait until my body figured out what was going on and miscarry naturally. My doctor informed me that waiting to miscarry naturally could take as long as a month and that it would be very painful and potentially dangerous. The D&C would be a quick procedure and I would be home that afternoon. Because of my involvement with our abortion recovery and healing ministry I knew that it would be important for me to have closure and properly grieve my unborn child. For me, this meant burying my child. I just kept thinking about how desperately I wanted this to be over, but the question kept coming, if I have a D&C what will happen to my child? I knew many friends and clients of the pregnancy center who had experienced the D&C procedure and all of them had come home empty handed. The thought of this was so upsetting to me, but at the same time I felt embarrassed that I wanted to have a burial and a memorial service for a miscarried baby. I felt like this desire was too extreme and that I just needed to "get over it" like everyone else. I felt ashamed by how sad I was. Ultimately I decided to wait and miscarry naturally. For the following month I lived life with the knowledge that I had a dead baby inside of me. It was one of the hardest things I have ever done. When the miscarriage finally happened, it was every bit as painful as my doctor said it would be, but I was not left empty handed. My husband and I asked the Lord to reveal the gender of our baby and to help us give her a name. She was a little girl and her name was Mirabelle. We were able to have a beautiful burial for her. Even now, as I write this I feel an accusation of shame coming from the enemy. I know in my mind that it is normal and even beautiful for a mother to want to name her baby and bury her child, but the accusation still comes. I still have to remind myself that I am not silly or extreme for wanting to do those things. I believe that this accusation is a direct result of what abortion has done to our culture. It has devalued the life and humanity of the unborn whether miscarried or aborted. Prior to my miscarriage, if you would have asked me if I believed in any part of the lie of abortion, I would have confidently said no. But the shame that I felt for my sadness proved otherwise. I know that I am not alone in feeling this way. I often hear mothers minimize their grief over miscarriage or deny it all together. I am so excited that we now live in a state where miscarriage can be openly grieved and I feel so proud that the short life of my daughter was a part of making that happen. Her life truly mattered and so does the life of every unborn child whether miscarried or aborted. Thank you for letting me share my story and for joining us in the fight for the lives of the unborn.