

“ALIVE” AT GOODYEAR HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

By Christy Ramsey

The “Alive” Youth Group meets on Sunday evening from 6 to 7:30 pm throughout the school year at Charlie’s Place, a separate building on the campus of Goodyear Heights Presbyterian Church in Akron. The leadership team includes Sue Tinker and Sam Sapp. At their weekly meeting they provide a time for activities, lessons, and fellowship. The group also participates in monthly activities, service projects, weekend retreats and lock-ins throughout the year. Alive is open to all middle and high school youth. Over 95% of the Alive group are not from church families but the surrounding community.

Goodyear Heights youth group has their own web site at www.GHPCAliveYouth.org. Updated throughout the week, there are news



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and pictures from youth events such as a Star-War themed lock-in, formal night at McDonalds, a leprechaun pasta church dinner, cyber bowling, meeting in a bubble, mall scavenger hunt, dress up mystery night, dinner and a movie,



stuffing of Easter baskets for those in Akron shelters, and the building of Akron’s only public outdoor labyrinth! This summer they will be helping with the church’s Vacation Bible School, walking weekly in the PowerWalk hike/Bible study combo, sharing dramas in worship, and traveling to Cedar Point Amusement park

Scholarship \$\$\$ for Our “Kids”

At the May 8, 2007 meeting of Eastminster Presbytery, the evening’s offering was allocated to Joseph Badger Meadows Camp and Conference Center to be used for scholarships. We as a presbytery rejoice that \$498.10 will provide an opportunity for Summer Campers to experience the presence of God’s love in an outdoor ministry setting.

Eastminster Presbytery

EASTMINSTER EVANGEL

Congratulation Graduates

By Rev. Dan Schomer, General Presbyter

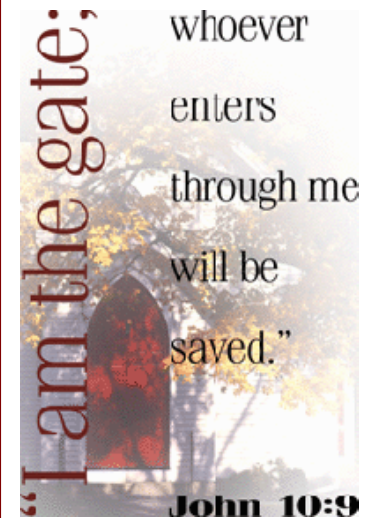
Congratulations to all who are graduating from high school and college or university. We celebrate with you as you reach this milestone in your life, even as we encourage you to use what you have learned in ways that glorify God and serve humankind.



Presbyterians have long recognized the value of education. The first university in the colonies,

Princeton, was established by the Presbyterian Church to educate candidates for ministry. A remarkable number of colleges throughout the country were established generations ago by the Presbyterian Church. Presbyterians have in the past, and continue in the present to develop mission schools to educate children around the world.

The mind is a terrible thing to waste precisely because it is a gift from God. As you and your families celebrate your graduation, may you also give thanks to God for the gifts of knowledge and wisdom that God provides.



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SUMMER QUARTER
YOUTH

Be an Evangel! Send Articles!

Fall: Stewardship

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Write Now! johnsontjp@aol.com

Common Ground G.I.G. Youth Group - (Grow In God)

*By Nancy Fortenberry, Program Director
Common Ground Church Community*

The teens of one of the new churches in our Presbytery are reaching up and reaching out! They are seeking to GROW IN GOD - which is what gives them their name - G.I.G.!

The group started over a year ago meeting in a local coffee shop in Columbiana. There were just a couple of them meeting with several adults. Their time consisted of getting to know each other and having discussion about various topics. Then, it built into Bible Study and discussion time with a few others. Slowly the group has grown to about 10 youth attending regularly. They meet weekly in someone's home. It rotates between a couple of families who are a part of the leadership of this group.

As they grow, they are reaching UP to God. This takes place as they meet and are challenged to engage in the Bible and how it relates to their lives and their world. They are challenging each other as they have discussion with each other and the adult leadership in the group about relevant topics. They are encouraged to build and nurture their relationship with God on a daily basis.

As they grow, they are reaching OUT to others. This takes place as they invite friends and neighbors to group gatherings. They are connecting with their friends and encouraging their friends to connect with God and others

in the group. They are inviting friends to come to discussion nights, to summer camp, to Bible School, to "work days" at the new property. They are thinking not just about what the group is doing for them, but also what the group can do for others.

The leadership for GIG has included Wendy Broderick, Gretchen Emch, Nancy Fortenberry, and Rob and Luci Patterson.

The youth group is dividing and multiplying! It is dividing into separate Middle School and High School age groups. As of May 20th, the new middle school age group had a kick-off night. It is multiplying because it becomes larger by adding the 5th and 6th graders to this new group.

What a blessing our youth are to our church family! They have become a vital part of our worship time. They participate in worship by assisting with the soundboard, the computer system, the electrical set up, the praise band, and helping in the nursery and children's church.

Again, as our youth blend into our church family, they are reaching UP to grow in their relationship with God and reaching OUT to those around them. Please pray for the youth and those who are in leadership over them!

Mountain Top Experience

*By Kristen Stroble, Member of United
Presbyterian Church, Cuyahoga Falls*

Triennium is a triannual youth conference of the PC (USA) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church that brings together youth and adults from all over the United States and world. The conference occurs at Purdue University in Indiana and usually has 7,000 participants. Triennium is designed for high school age youth, but it also has college age work crews, adult advisors, and small group leaders.

The main events are daily worship, small group time, and recreation. Daily worship is started with energizers, has music led by a band, and wonderful preachers who excite the youth about their faith. Everyday the youth meet with their assigned small group to explore the theme of the day, have Bible study, and learn and grow together as a group. Lastly, a time for recreation-dance, laugh and play!

Going to Triennium is a life-changing experience and not soon forgotten, it made me excited about my faith and being a Presbyterian. I had never experienced worship where youth and adults line up an hour early for worship to get the best seat.

Triennium is an amazing gathering of 7,000 enthusiastic Presbyterian youth and adults coming together to worship and explore their faith!

Being A Christian

*David Cramer, Youth Advisory Delegate to
217th. General Assembly*

This past summer I had the privilege to serve as your Youth Advisory Delegate to the General Assembly. The trip served as one of the best experiences in my life, and was certainly the most spiritual. However, the experiences that strengthened my faith the most were my many summer mission trips that I took as a youth.

Having the opportunity to spend a week serving the East End Co-Operative Ministry in Pittsburgh for seven summers, as well as going to Washington D.C. for my final trip, laid the foundation for my understanding of being a Christian.

To me, the best way to follow God's word is to serve others. This meant doing yard work for the elderly, delivering meals to shut-ins, working in a soup kitchen, and otherwise helping others. It also brought together our Youth Group, and was obviously a very humbling experience for all. In Birmingham the question of how to attract more young people to the church was often asked, and I can provide no answers. I can say, however, that the best way for the youth of the church to get a better understanding of what it means to serve God is by spending time serving others.



Themes - Continued

friendship through thick and thin; confessions of wrong leads to the freedom to do

right; reconciliation: receiving the giftedness of others back into your life; the dark side of religion: praying for the wrong thing; overcoming the strange powers of evil; love: the greatest of gifts; the power of truth to change wrong thinking; making right choices when the battle rages within. What did I miss?

As you make the journey from entertainment to enlightenment, you'll see I missed a lot! And then, maybe, we can decide to make a creative journey together to impact and affirm the youth of Eastminster Presbytery with the exciting call to follow Jesus.

Southside Ministry Youth News

By Debbie Hillman, Board Member

What's happening at The Needle's Eye Christian Counseling Center:

2007 Summer Camp Program will be held at JBM Camp July 20-22. Youth are expected from the Tri-County area as well as Cleveland to be fed spiritually, emotionally and physically. Inner city youth have been influenced for such a long time by the crime that has taken place so close to their homes and schools. We offer a safe place to fellowship away from the elements of their surroundings. Camp is also attended by adults serving as counselors, cooks, chaperones, mentors, speakers and spiritual advisors.

Saturday evenings at the Needle's Eye

provide a study and fellowship time for boys and girls from the age of 13 to 18. This is a perfect time to socialize in a protected environment as well as to learn biblical principles in a relaxed venue with peers.

Education, Recovery and Aftercare is the focus of the "Boys to Men" Program on Thursday afternoons. An opportunity is given to young boys to learn from experienced men in recovery about tools for living without a drink or drug.

God's Little Princesses Program will

begin in May for all girls K-6th grade for one weekend a month for at least six months to a year. The program will teach young girls the importance of being a respected lady in society. God's Little Princesses will provide girls with the opportunity to escape and peacefully learn how to deal with negative problems that they may be experiencing at home. The values of the program will be developed through Bible lessons that tell why children are special in the eyes of God; short stories about how women should be treated; movies; manners and etiquette taught through tea parties, fancy dining and performances. Self expression will be encouraged and developed through arts, crafts and discussion.

Senior Salute will be celebrated with 5 graduating seniors. These young adults have attended and been part of the Good News Club for most of their lives and we are proud to see them go on to further their education at Bowling Green University, YSU, and Theil College.

**Joseph Badger Meadows
Makes a Difference**

By Tom & Karen Riley, JBM Camp and Conference Center Directors

"I couldn't stay away! I saw JBM as my refuge away from a bad home life, and a place where I was encouraged and loved by the staff and my friends. It was also the place where I learned the most about who Jesus is, and what direction God was planning to take me in my life. It was a place where I was confronted with the sin in my life, and challenged to repent and seek forgiveness. It was at camp where I learned how to love like Christ, and serve others with a servant's heart. I learned what it meant to be in real Christian community; what it meant to be part of the Body of Christ."

Whether it was at summer camp, a retreat or an individual visit, many lives like the one quoted above have been changed and challenged during the 40 years of ministry at JBM. A capital campaign has been started to help with projects needed for the next 40 years including a new office and spirituality center.

There are currently openings in all sessions of our summer camp program so it's not too late to register.

EVANGEL

**Liberty Presbyterian Church
Happiness Blankets**

By Rev. Jeanine Haven

Maybe Linus from "Peanuts" had it right, and happiness can be found in a warm blanket. We all know that happiness cannot be found in material possessions. However, if you ask the members of the Liberty Presbyterian Church Family they would tell you that creating blankets on behalf of God's love does bring you joy. With 72 members, Liberty Presbyterian Church is a small congregation with a very large heart concerning mission.

One of their favorite Mission Organizations to support is the Needle's Eye Christian Counseling Center in Youngstown. Among the programs at the Needles Eye is one that encourages inner-city youths to make positive life choices not involving drugs.

Every summer these youths attend church camp retreat at Joseph Badger Meadows Camp and Conference Center. This experience provides an oasis from the city and has a positive impact on their lives.

Earlier this year Liberty Elder Kathryn Infante, approached the congregation with an idea.

(Read more on page 4)

Happiness Blankets

(Continued from page 3)

After learning about the blanket ministry at Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church in Youngstown, she was moved to think about the possibility of creating a similar ministry at Liberty with the blankets being created to give each youth attending the Needle's Eye church camp retreat. A blanket they could have for their very own! The congregation enthusiastically accepted this project of creating about 125 fleece blankets!



The project was funded by donations and two fundraisers. The entire Liberty Presbyterian Church Family has participated. During the May 20, 2007 worship service the blankets were blessed and the congregation celebrated a ministry that had a very positive effect on the church family. More importantly, is the outreach to the Needle's Eye and sharing God's love. It goes to show that when you have faith in God and confidence in yourself, size does not matter!

Champion Presbyterian "IGNITE"

By Kelly Adams, Student and Sports Ministries Director

We have started a local youth event called IGNITE. The goal of IGNITE is to reach out into our community through the schools and local churches to have a quarterly event that brings teens together. At each IGNITE event we have a relevant speaker, DJ, pizza, games, and praise and worship led by a youth band put together of youth from a variety of churches from the Champion area. All churches of all denominations are invited as well as community teens that do not have a church home. You can check us out at www.ignitenight.com for more information and pictures from previous events.

The youth of Champion Presbyterian are gearing up for another exciting Summer. Some of the events that we offer during the summer months are: weekly Bible Studies for both Jr. and Sr. High age teens, trip to the Alive Fest, work trip to Steubenville, Ohio for 1 week, local mission project for Jr. High teens called SERVE for 3 days working in the Warren area, Spirit Song at Kings Island, IGNITE, illuminate events on Wednesdays, combining worship, fellowship and food, Summer camp at Joseph Badger Meadows, and many other fun opportunities for teens of all ages to learn and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. This will be our 3rd summer going to the Urban Mission in Steubenville, Ohio and it truly is an awesome experience watching the teens be transformed throughout the week through the many experiences that God lays before us.

Thank-you for giving us time to share as we join together in reaching teens for Christ.

From Entertainment to Enlightenment: Exploring Themes of Discipleship in Spiderman 3

By Rev. Nick Cammarata

If anybody has seen *Spiderman 3*, please call and let me know which word was used more – *love* or *forgive*. In the midst of the action sequences, I lost count of the two most glorious words in the vocabulary of a disciple of Jesus, love and forgive. It was then I knew I must seize the entertainment value of this movie to enlighten young people to Jesus' call to become disciples. So, from entertainment to enlightenment, I plotted my course.

I thought if I could develop Bible Studies based around themes in the movie I could engage the young people at Pleasant Grove in a dialogue with the Christian tradition and their own contemporary experience. I believed through the use of this movie young people could become active participants in generating fresh and powerful meanings of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

From the previous two movies and now the third, we learned that Peter Parker possesses great supernatural powers and protects society from evil villains, but cannot protect himself from the struggles that all young people encounter. Parker cannot get to class on time, has problems in his family relationships, gets fired from a job he really needs, goes through an identity crisis, and has sour moments with his sweetheart. With all his exotic abilities, Parker's humanity comes through like a tear in a young person's favorite pair of jeans. "Parker could be the super hero that is you".

Taking this wide angle view to help young people see themselves in Parker's life, I began to explore how Parker's ordinary life and giftedness becomes a way to think about how to become good stewards of the gifts God has given young people when their humanness, adolescent angst, gets in the way of that giftedness.

Starting with I Peter 4:10 and moving into other passages like Ephesians 4:11-16, Romans 12, I Corinthians 12-14 and the Confession of 67 9.38-39; and also, looking at selected passages in the Old Testament (I Samuel 17:42, Jeremiah 2:2, Psalms 25: 7; 71:5, 17, Ecclesiastes 11:9; 12:1) where the word Youth is used can help show young people that even though they can't figure it all out like Spiderman, their giftedness is critical to the life and ministry of the Church.

Other themes could be explored by matching those themes to certain scenes in the movie. For example, Aunt May's counsel to Peter on how forgiveness keeps a person's inner life from being poisoned.

Now, for all you bright and imaginative *Spidey fans* out there, see if you can match these discipleship themes with scenes from the movie;

(See page 6 for Themes)