



Summer Newsletter

Coming Soon

Friday, June 26th to Thursday, July 2 - Velocity

Sunday, June 28th - Summer Worship Schedule Begins (see page 3)

Friday, July 3rd & Saturday, July 4th - G-Hope Training

Sunday, July 12th - Church Picnic

Thursday, July 2nd - Sports, Art, & Drama Camp & Playschool Playgroup (see page 3)

Monday, July 20th - Friday, July 24th & Monday, July 27th - Friday, July 31 - G-Hope Mission Trip

Saturday, August 1st - Sports, Art & Drama Wrap-up Dinner

Monday, August 10th - Friday, August 14th - VBS

“Down the Shore”

"Down the Shore." Living in New Jersey, these are words that when we hear them, they bring about a smorgasbord of sensations in us. For some it's relaxing in the sand and soaking up rays while they catch up on the reading that they have ignored all year. Others, it means trips on the Atlantic City line with their families, pretending to relax while their young children run into the surf, kick sand all over the blankets (both yours and your neighbors), and beg for ice cream sandwiches from the beach vendors toting dry ice filled coolers. For many it's visions of the Ocean City Boardwalk and satisfying their hunger with Johnson's popcorn, fried Oreos (still have not been brave enough to try these), Kohrs Brothers frozen custard covered in jimmies, or a fresh slice of pizza from Mack & Manco. And yet for some, it is simply a place to take long walks, think, pray, and refocus; a place of retreat to withdraw from the crazy world we live in. Perhaps you can relate to some of this, but what ever thoughts enter your mind, I think we can all agree, there is something incredibly special about the place that God has made, where the oceans meet dry land.

I must admit, that many of these thoughts come to me as well. I love the shore with all that it has to offer, but I think one of the things I like the most, is to simply stand on the waters edge and marvel at the immensity and beauty of all that God has made. It seems to help put things back into perspective for me. When I see the vastness of the ocean and consider it's depths, I am reminded of truly how big our God is; His omnipresent nature, that no matter where I am and no matter how deep the trouble is that I face, God is there with me. When I think of the grains of sand and consider the fact that God knows each of them, I am reminded of God's infinite wisdom and knowledge.

So next time you go "Down the Shore," stop for a moment and consider our God. Look at the ocean and take in as far as you can see. Our God is bigger. He made it all. Pick up a handful of sand. Note each grain of sand. God knows them all. He knows its structure, size, color, where it came from, and where it will end up. He knows everything, and He knows you.

It's Great to be your Pastor,

Jamie

How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. (Psalm 139)

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Congratulations to our College Graduates!



Megan Buckley - graduated with the highest GPA for her major from Goizueta Business School at Emory College in Atlanta, Georgia. She is currently working for a mergers & acquisitions firm in Atlanta, Georgia.

Carol Holmes - graduated with a Masters in Worship Studies from the Institute for Worship Studies

Jessica Proctor - graduated from Liberty University majoring in Social Sciences (History and Government)

Presently plans to stay in Lynchburg VA and may possibly continue to a masters degree program. She walked in May 2009 *cum laude* and she was a member of the Phi Alpha Theta and Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Societies.

Chris Slone - graduated with a Masters in Jazz Studies from the University of the Arts.

Thursday Evenings

July 2nd to July 30th

7pm to 8:30pm

Preschool Playgroup

Age 3 to Entering Kindergarten

Your preschoolers will have a blast and make new friends while learning about Jesus through fun lessons, games, and snacks.



Sports, Art, & Drama Camp

1st to 5th Grades

Choice of Soccer, Basketball, Tae Kwon Do/Self Defense, Art, or Drama.

After the elective time, we'll gather together for snacks and an interactive, multi-media Bible Lesson. Soccer players, be sure to bring your soccer ball, cleats and shin guards. Basketball players, bring your basketball, if you have one.

The Art class will be making decorations for our upcoming VBS, the Drama group will be working on a production that they will perform at our closing dinner that weekend, and the Tae Kwon Do class will be taught by Eric, a 3rd Degree Black Belt instructor from Holmes Tae Kwon Do Martial Arts Center. Visit www.holmestkdo.com

All programs have a suggested, but not required, donation of \$10 per child. (That means, if you can donate you are welcome to, but if you can't, PLEASE join us as well.)



Vacation Bible School

August 10th - 14th

9 am - 12 pm

Age 3 to Jr. High

This year Ashland Church will bring the outside in and turn our church into an outdoor adventure camp. High above the cluttered schedules and ringing cell phones of ordinary life is SonRocks Kids Camp - an outdoor adventure camp like no other! As SonRock campers your kids will learn how their lives can be transformed by God's great love for them (1 John 3:1) through worship, exciting Bible lessons, skits, games, crafts and so much more!

There is a suggested, but not required, donation of \$10 per child. (That means, if you can donate you are welcome to, but if you can't, PLEASE join us as well.)

Every Sunday

Sunday School - Age appropriate and fun Christian Education for everyone (from infants to adults) at 9:30 AM. There is also an adult class @ 11:00 AM for those who attend the 9:30 AM service.

KIDS Church - Elementary children are dismissed during the 11 AM worship services for a multi-media, Biblical and (of course) fun lesson during the sermon time of the worship service. *Children whose parents are in Sunday School or worship team can sit in the front left pew and will be supervised 'til KIDS Church starts.*

Nursery - While their parents worship at the 11:00 AM service, infants through Pre-K have a fun playtime and lessons at their level.

Parents - *the Sunday Children's Programs are set up so that you can be in a Worship Service and an Adult Education Class on Sunday mornings so please feel free to take advantage of this.*

Summer Schedule - begins June 28th

9:00 AM - Christian Education - age appropriate and fun Christian Education for everyone (from infants to adults)

10:00 AM - Sunday Services

Fellowship to follow Service in Horner Hall

Nursery is staffed for both Christian Education and Sunday Services and Kid's Church is available during the service (infant - 4th grade)

Upcoming Events

Velocity (Youth summer camp) - June 26th - July 2

Church Picnic - July 12th, 2009, after service, in Washington Lake Park. Come join in the fellowship, food, and games!

G-Hope Training - July 3rd & 4th

Mission Trip G-Hope Street Camp - July 20th - July 24th & July 27th - July 31st

Sports and Arts Camp - Thursday evenings in July beginning July 2nd from 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Sports and Arts Camp Dinner - Saturday, August 1st

SonRock VBS - August 11th - Aug 14th

Women's Service Projects - Wednesday, July 29th and Friday, August 7

Women's Reading Book Club - dates TBA

Leadership Training Schedule

June 28th - Chapters 5 - 7 of the Leadership Training Guide
July (date TBA) - Chapters 8 - 11 of the Leadership Training Guide

August (date TBA) - Chapters 12 - 15 of the Leadership Training Guide

Text 10 Challenge

This summer, we want to encourage all of us to continue to grow in our spiritual life. God gives us 1440 minutes a day. The goal is to try to spend a minimum (you can do more) of 10 of those 1440 minutes a day in Bible reading, prayer, journaling, and meditation. As a reminder, partner up with another person, or perhaps with your small group, and just text each other the number 10. If you haven't had your quiet time that day, then just stop what you are doing, park the car, or let the fishing line sit and spend the next 10 minutes with God. If you are not a "texter" then just pick up the phone, say "10" and hang up. Spending at least 10 minutes a day can hopefully prove to be a great encouragement to each day.

Always Going On...

Wee Worship Choir - on hiatus for the summer

Kid's & Youth Choir - on hiatus for the summer

Adult Choir - on hiatus for the summer

Wednesday Night Kids - on hiatus until the fall but check out the events on Thursday nights in July

English as a Second Language - on hiatus until the fall

FougCrew - every Wednesday from 7:00 pm - 8:30 until the end of June

Middle School Youth Group - every Sunday @ 6:30 pm

Sr. High Youth Group - every Sunday @ 7:00 pm

Blanket Making /Knitting - on hiatus for the summer

Prayer Shawl Ministry - on hiatus for the summer

Men's Prayer Group - every Tuesday from 6:00 - 7:00 am

Worship Team - every Tuesday @ 8:00pm

Church Picnic

The picnic is on July 12th at Washington Lake Park in Williamstown. We will have an outstanding church service at 10 am and then meet up at the park for a picnic. We have the pavilion reserved for the whole day just like last year. There will also be a service at the park. After lunch, we will have lots of fun games as well as the annual water balloon fight. ***We look forward to making more wonderful memories with our church family and our neighborhood families.*** Please sign up to bring food on the sheet outside the sanctuary.

Future Events

Youth Event - Tubing Down the Delaware, August 22

Youth Cookout at the Church - September 4th

Leadership Night - September 10 at 6:30 pm

All Ministry Leaders (including Session, Deacons, Trustees, Women in Ministry, Teacher's, Small Group Leaders etc.)

Potluck dinner at 6:30 followed by a joint meeting and separate meetings afterwards for some groups. Babysitting provided from 7-8 (end of joint meeting).

Sunday Fall Kickoff - Sunday, September 13th

Wednesday Night Kick-off - September 16th

Women's Bible Study - September 17th & 18th

Do You Want to be Part of the Prayer Outreach Team?

"There's no telling what God can do when God's people begin to pray". - Jim Cymbala

Ashland Church has had and will continue to be involved in many local outreaches in our neighborhoods. However, without God being a part of it we are just striving on our strength. God can do so much more than we can imagine as we reach out. He can enable us to truly love our neighbors and change our lives as well. We want to regularly pray for the outreaches of Ashland Church. If you would like to be part of this prayer team please let Janine Fleming (Janine@ashlandchurch.org) know.

Janine Fleming

Sharing Love Through Easter & Mother's Day Gifts

Thanks to your generosity, this spring we were able to share Christ's love in two new ways this year....

- we were able to reach out to a friends church to help them in ministering to the Hispanic community by giving Easter Buckets filled with goodies to nine children and presents to others.
- we gave 26 hard working mom's a little extra love by giving them Mother's day bags filled with items to pamper themselves.

Ashland Staff

A Family's Testimony

From Nevin Beasley: Every time I go to Foug-Crew I learn something new that's why I don't like to miss it. I learned more about praying. You just say what comes from the heart and that's prayer. Thank-you Mr. Fougeray.

From Noah Beasley: I like to pray. I like it when we give to the children in Africa so they can learn and have things they need. In Sunday School I remember learning about the blind man who couldn't see and Jesus said put mud on your eyes and wash it off with water. The blind man did what Jesus said and the blind man could see again. That story is awesome! Thank you to my Ashland Church teachers.

From Star Beasley: I was glad when we got to write to the children in Africa. Also, I love to learn more about Bible verses. I really liked it when Emma and I got to lead the Sunday School lesson for one class. I was very happy when Ashland Church helped out with the Coat and Blanket Drive Thank you Ashland Church.

From Lynn Beasley: I learned that Ashland Church is a great church for anyone who wants to learn about Christ. Ashland is a community outreach type of church. A church that wants to get the message out about Christ and his love for us. I enjoy the women's bible study that Ashland has. Thank you Pastor Jamie for delivering great services, I really like to hear you preach. Also, we just finished a bible study given by Pastor Jamie and his wife Tamera. I'm sorry I missed the last one because I really loved it. I hope you do another one. Thank you to Janine for doing a great job with the Children's Ministry. Thank you Ashland Church for ministering to me and my family.

African Book Challenge

Through the generous donations by our church family, the ABC Outreach ministry just completed two new classrooms and modern restrooms for the 240 kids attending the Trinity Presbyterian Pre-school and KG at Kwabeng, Ghana. Both the teachers and the students are currently enjoying their new facilities. The ministry is now raising funds for these two new projects:

Scholarship Fund - This fund will be used to help needy JHS graduates at Kwabeng to enable them get Senior High School education. During the last three years, about 35% of the JHS graduates in the township could not pursue HS education because their parents simply could not afford the required annual fees of about \$300.00.

Electric Power Supply - The goal is to provide lights in, at least, two classrooms for the Presbyterian Junior Secondary School. We need to raise \$1,000 more for this project

*With your continued support, ABC can accomplish both goals. Make a difference today!
Support worthy causes!! Support ABC to help poor Ghanaian kids!!! Thank you!*

Visit the ABC website www.africanbookchallenge.org

Love by Noah Kernan

Who is to define such a word without first experiencing it themselves?

Love is majesty.

It is very subtle and prides itself not on who receives it.

You are majesty.

You are wonder.

My mind races day by day contemplating which love you are.

Mighty? Secret? All - Knowing?

No. You are all of these and more.

You are perfection, your beautiful voice that I hear constantly tells me, "I know you. Your understanding of my kindness, friendship and love is unlike anything you will ever know!"

My mind is a collection of roads, ever leading in the same direction

And leading towards a very possibly greater location.

And no matter what road I take, what lane I am in,

The roads of my mind will forever lead to you.

Without you, I am nothing but the hollow shell of a cold, broken hearted man looking for even the tiniest hint of--

What?

Happiness? Salvation? Bliss?

You.

Without hearing you daily,

My world would fade into a colorless void.

Roses wither and turn black.

Tulips bleed gray and limp uselessly.

Trees turn bare and completely fade into white.

So who is to define "Love" without ever experiencing such a thing?

"Love is patient, love is kind.

It does not envy, it does not boast,

it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking,

it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

it always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always

perseveres." *

Love is such a mysterious thing.

It is everlasting and we as humans know so little of it.

We need to learn love.

We need to learn you.

* Corinthians 13:4-8

Blanket & Coat Drive

Thank-you for your outreach donations for the homeless. Because of your generosity, you helped so many people during the cold, winter months. You also helped the youth of Ashland and the Brownie Girl Scouts Troop 30381, get involved with outreach and know what it means to give from the heart.

Star also says thank-you very much for helping out!

Love and blessings to all,
Star & Lynn Beasley

Why ESL? Why Should I?

It was a little over three years ago that Kathy, Miles and I moved to New Jersey. Since that time we have had to learn not only a new area, but also a new culture. Or maybe I would be accurate in saying that we had to learn new cultures!

There is not a simple definition of who are our neighbors. They may be from Philly or somewhere in south Jersey. They may be transplants like us who scratch their heads when they try to make a left hand turn like they used to in "normal" America where they are from. But we have also had to learn what it's like to live in and among so many different international cultures and peoples.

In Ohio, where we moved from, the state population of foreign born peoples is 3%. This is drastically different than the New Jersey foreign born population of 17%! Think about that, nearly one out of five people is from another country. Right here at Ashland we have people from Ghana, Korea, Egypt, and Argentina. (We even have Canadians!!!)

Take a moment to imagine what it would be like to pick up everything and move to a different country. You're trying to get around, find what you need, learn new laws and find work. These all pose great challenges to you. You strive to not get taken advantage of because you are new and don't necessarily know how things work in the new place. This is at best very stressful, and you find yourself in need of help.

Jesus commanded us to not only love one another in the church but also to love our neighbors. This love can be demonstrated in a number of ways, but one of the ways we, here at Ashland, strive to love our international neighbors is by offering ESL classes. English as a Second Language classes provide the valuable practice and teaching to learn English. But it does much, much more. It gives tangible contact and even friendship with someone they can trust who is there to help navigate their new world. And on an even more basic level, volunteering in our ESL classes will give you an opportunity to introduce them to the love of God that we have through belief in Jesus.

So, we need you to come and help. The classes are on Wednesday evenings (but I am sure they could be offered to fit your schedule) and, no, you don't have to be a "teacher" in any formal sense. The students simply need you spending time getting to know them and speaking English. If you would like more information on volunteering please talk with Janine Fleming or email her at janine@ashlandchurch.org.

Ken Buck
Youth Ministries Director

Women in Ministry

Here's what's happening; everything is open to women of all ages

Summer Service Projects

We have an opportunity to serve food for the needy at Cathedral Kitchen in Camden on July 29th and August 7th. We would meet at the church at 3pm and should be done serving and cleaning up by about 5pm. Contact Claudia Tahan if you are interested.

Mentoring

The Women in Ministry at Ashland will be starting a mentoring program this fall. Are you feeling like you need the wisdom, guidance, and prayers of a spiritually mature woman? Are you feeling like you have a lot of wisdom, love, and experience to share with a spiritually younger woman? If so, then start praying now about how you would like God to fill these needs and desires with other women in our church. God has clearly mandated that the older women are to teach the younger women many valuable life principles. To pass on what we've learned in our experiences in life as it relates to the word of God. Let's put the message that God laid on Ken's heart in his sermon into practice and pour ourselves into the lives of others so that we can make a difference in their lives. Training for mentors will be provided. Stay tuned for further details.

Summer Reading Book Club

Our own EPC Women in Ministry is recommending a great book for summer reading. The book is called "Dead Women Walking" by Jennifer Su. It's a true story about the lives of three Taiwanese women who are entangled by drugs, violence, and spirit worship. Dr. Bruce Waltke, Reformed Theological Seminary professor and Old Testament editor of the New Geneva Study Bible, writes: "Jennifer Su gives a glimpse of God's glory in the lives of these women who had lived their lives in the dark side of Taiwan culture. Her writing is lucid, insightful, and edifying. She knows the depths of human depravity and the heights of God's grace. This is a book that I will remember forever." We will meet a couple of times to discuss the book. Dates TBA. Cost \$12.00

Women's Bible Study

On September 17th & 18th we will be starting Beth Moore's "Esther - It's Tough Being a Woman". "Going up against heavyweights bent on her destruction, Esther trusted God and landed a blow that saved her people. The Old Testament story of Esther is a profile in courage and contain many parallels for today's woman. The study runs for ten weeks and will end the week before Thanksgiving.

Women's One Day Retreat

The first Saturday in February we will have a one day retreat for all women. The title is "Sweet Life Café." This sweet retreat will leave us feeling completely nourished in our relationships with God and others. We will encounter a buffet of refreshing group experiences and personal alone time with God. It's about savoring time with each other, with God, and savoring time to make a difference serving others. Cost: \$20, includes lunch.

For
Our
Undeserving
Grace

Live on WNJC 1360 AM and on the
World Wide Web at WWW.WNJC1360.COM

Every Monday night
6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Host: John Fougeray



(John Ministries "Jesus-Opens- Heaven-Now")

A Christian program to reach out to everyone as we live our daily lives here on earth. Topics to both minister and challenge in a togetherness way. "FOUG CREW" is an open forum for expressing struggles, adversities, and, also, triumphs in our Christian walk as we go through the sanctification process until we get to our glory and meet our Savior, "Jesus Christ", face to face.

Come out and
Support Ashland
Church!!



Come and enjoy a Riversharks game Friday, July 24th @ 7:05 pm with friends and family and support Ashland Church's youth and youth missions - enjoy a post game fireworks show! \$5 of each \$11 ticket is donated to Ashland Church's youth. Buying tickets is simple - go to www.riversharks.com and click on "Click here to purchase tickets with a group code" icon, Enter your fundraising code (AEPC), Click "BUY", Select your seats and complete your order. Any questions, please contact Ken Buck at kennethbuck@gmail.com or (856) 669-7965.

Christ
Redeemed
Earth
Willingly

David & Penelope Pickens

Wycliffe Bible Translators

Chocó Project

From the Concert Hall to the Jungle



A
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David's initial journey to Colombia, South America, was as a trombonist in the National Symphony Orchestra. There he heard the gospel, a music far more enchanting and compelling than the Brahms and Beethoven he played on stage!

After being saved, he shared that New Song with Penelope, a French hornist in the orchestra. She too became a Christian, and their budding friendship grew into an engagement and then marriage. A year and a half later they returned to the US hoping to use their musical careers as an opportunity to share the Gospel among their musician friends. But God redirected them to Bible translation, and in 1991 they returned to Colombia a second time – as missionaries.

They lived in the jungle among the Tadó people, learning their language and culture. As this was only an oral culture, they developed an alphabet, deciphered the grammar, helped the Tadó in becoming literate and began to translate the Bible into their language. Due to subversive activity in the area, the Pickens relocated to the city of Pereira. In partnership with other missionaries, they now work mutually to reach five people groups in the Chocó Project: Basurudó, Baudó, Chamí, Epena and Tadó.

The Pickens have three musical children: Noah (19), Bayard (17) and Grace (14).

WHAT WE DO

Vision - We envision local churches led by indigenous leaders using God's Word in their language.

Mission - We minister to the five unreached ethnic groups of the Chocóan language family of Colombia: Basurudó, Baudó, Chamí, Epena and Tadó.

Strategy - We are a team of partner churches, agencies and indigenous communities who strive together to establish growing, indigenous churches through:

Translation - We translate the Scriptures to communicate God's message in the heart language and culture.

Transformation - We share the gospel and make disciples; God transforms lives.

Training - We learn from one another and train our partners for ongoing ministry.

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WHAT GOD HAS DONE

Onorio (Tadó pastor) & Tiberio (Tadó translator) arrived at our *Bridge of Grace* ministry desperately ill with malaria. We opened our doors to him, treated his illness for three weeks and spoke to him about Jesus in his own language. Uninterested, he left as soon as he was able. Several months later, he returned with tuberculosis, a disease which requires months of treatment. During that time we taught him to read and write in his language and how to use a computer. We also engaged him in a study of Genesis, having him and other Tadó act out the narratives we translated. One night he dreamed he was walking along a jungle trail. Arriving at a point where the trail divided, he heard a voice call out: "Onorio, walk on my trail!" He did not know which path to choose, and woke up. Because dreams are very significant for the Tadó, he was greatly disturbed by its possible significance. None of the other Tadó could explain to him its meaning. When he came to me, I suggested to him that it was God who was inviting him to have a personal relationship through Christ. That day Onorio decided to walk on God's trail.

We disciplined Onorio and trained him to work with us in translating the Scriptures into his language. He began to make trips back to his community to share this good news with his own people, and returned with reports of many other Tadó walking on God's trail. In the city he was a Bible translator; in the jungle he was an evangelist. Over time there were handfuls of Tadó Christians scattered throughout the jungle, but there was no one to nurture or strengthen them. One day Onorio announced to me that he thought he needed to return to his community in the jungle to be able to spend more time in ministry there. That day I lost a translator, but the Tadó gained a pastor. The Tadó now meet regularly in several locations, and are busy taking the good news to their neighbors. We continue translating the Bible with a team of Tadó we have trained.



David Pickens will be guest speaking at Ashland this summer.

ASHLAND YOUTH

Congratulations to our High School Graduates!



Katelyn Coskey - Granddaughter of Joe & Ruth Tavani, graduated from Collingswood H.S. and will be attending Suffolk College in Boston in the fall majoring in Chemistry.

Ashley Holmes - graduated Eastern H.S. and will be attending Camden County in the fall majoring in Social Work.

Alyce Milakovic - graduated from Triton H.S. and will be attending a college in the fall majoring in Sociology and playing basketball.

Megan Tahan - graduated Cherry Hill East H.S. and will be attending Camden County in the fall majoring in Education.

FougCrew

Ever since FougCrew, a variety of changes have taken place which have been beneficial. "Focus" carries on the legacy of spreading the word of God. Once in a while, we try to answer questions from the Westminster Catechism. In addition, the optimal Our Daily Bread booklets, which can be purchased, deepen our knowledge and understanding of God.

His love, grace, mercy, holiness, and perfection are displayed when we are positive and even negative. There is no chance of being sinless but asking for forgiveness makes all the difference. God's wisdom is what outsmarts us and during times of doubtfulness, grief, and anger. He is omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent. Being all knowing, He knows our every move and plans it all to be part of His great plan. Being all powerful; He is always in control and can make anything happen but His wisdom quells the power so the end goal of His plan is not to eradicate the good but correct the wrong. Being always present, He will always be there with us, to guide and assist our journey to glorify Him. Our existence on earth and our purpose is to serve God as our Lord and Savior. The one who fears God the most, loves Him the most. God does business with those who mean business. To honor God, you have to abide by His laws which are set in the Bible, directing us with basic instructions. God does not waste our time, He will use our past and our present so we may serve Him with our future. Living our lives the way God wants us to., He will prepare our home for eternity in the ultimate paradise....Heaven.

10 Godly Principles To Live By:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Obey God | 6. Accept the fact that God loves you |
| 2. Put your trust in God | 7. God is in control |
| 3. Wait on God | 8. Depend on the Holy Spirit |
| 4. Give to God's Work | 9. Meditation with God must be a priority |
| 5. You cannot live a Christian life on your own | 10. The word of God will transform you |

C.J.Y.

Sunday Mornings

In Sunday School I have learned about the Apostle's Creed. Ken and the youth leaders have taught us about Jesus and his followers. I have a great time learning how Jesus died for us. Ken is a great teacher.

Alex C.

Every Sunday @ 9:30, the teens of the church, Grades 6-9, meet for Teen Sunday School hosted by Ken Buck, and, occasionally, by Andy Gross. Just recently, the teens had been learning the Apostle's Creed. Ken Buck helped the teens learn about the creed by going through it line by line, explaining what it means.

Stephen C.

Stations of the Cross

This was an important and interesting event. For those who have never gone, you take a walk through the last few days of Jesus' life. When you get to the cross, you write down a sin and then nail it to the cross. At the end, while you are leaving, you feel refreshed and new. You feel a weight lifted off your shoulders.

Lauren H.

This is a walk through of the last days of Jesus Christ's life. The stations are in a nice, quiet environment that's perfect for making a deep, emotional connection with what Jesus felt, saw, and experienced the days just before He was put on the cross. This fantastic journey is one of the best experiences you will ever have.

Noah K.

Youth Group

Ashland's youth group is a tight-knit family. It is a warm and accepting environment. The youth leaders are fun but also understanding and provide great advice. Youth group is a fun place to hang out and learn about my religion. Being one of the few girls here makes coming to Wednesday and Sunday nights a new experience.

Elise R.

Youth Group means the world to me. It's a place to come twice a week to see good hearted people, relax, and be yourself. It's a place to be yourself around people who won't judge you. Leaders like Matt Thompson and John Winther are people you can trust; people with life experiences that can guide you through life situations. Youth Group is the best.

Ian P.

ASHLAND KIDS

How Am I Closer to God This Year?

I learn a story, then I know more about God. Sometimes I read the Bible.	I read the Bible. Conner F.
Because I learned more stories about God.	Nick D.
Yes, I am closer to God.	Michael L.
By starting Tae Kwon Do, we did Bible stories and they teach us at Sunday School. I learned more stories to get closer to Him.	Elyse P.
I learned more about God this year.	Donald (DJ) Y.
I had fun coming to Wednesday nights.	Autumn D.
I like doing crafts at Ashland on Wednesday nights.	Alyera B.
I learned more about God	Aaron
I learned more about Him.	Justin B.
I am closer because I go to church and do Tae Kwon Do and we pray and stuff.	Ben C.
I go to church more.	Nicole B.
I read my Bible more and my teachers taught me more about God.	Britney D.
I like pray more I guess. Whenever there is a problem I stay faithful.	Liam F.
I have read more in my Bible I have been taught about things in the Bible and I have learned about compassion and stuff like that.	Brandon D.
I just come more often.	Rachel R.
I pray more and I listen more.	Star B.
Because I actually come to church now and I am glad.	Caitlyn G.
Because God loves us all and He wants us to have good things.	Noah B.
Because God loves us.	Houston S.
From Miss Debbie's lessons this year, I learned more about God.	Capone S.
Jesus loves us.	Sarah B.
That He made the earth.	Zoe H.

Kids Summer Service Project

This summer our kids will be saving their pennies (and any other change or dollars they can save) to raise money for ABC (www.AfricanBookChallenge.org). Our goal this year to raise money for ABC's new scholarship fund. The scholarships will enable children in Kwabeng, Ghana to attend Secondary School, which is the equivalent of our high school. The high school level in Ghana must be paid for and most children stay in boarding schools for lack of a good school in their town. Though 122 completed the junior high level in 2008 from Ghana's four schools (Presbyterian, Anglican, Islamic, & Zion) only 61 went on to high school in the fall, severely limiting their options for earning money or living a different life. Annual fees for one student are approximately \$300. This summer our kids will help to meet that goal. We invite our local community to join us as well. We will be collecting the kids change at Sports and Arts camp and SonRock VBS but you can make donations of any amount (every little bit helps) to the scholarship fund at anytime through the church offering (please label it ABC scholarship fund) or online at www.AfricanBookChallenge.org

Our Rainy Day Egg Hunt

The rain did not hold us back on Saturday, April 11th for our annual egg hunt! We just moved indoors. We had tons of fun and welcomed many families from our community. From our crawlers in our infant nursery who had more fun playing with the eggs then actually taking them, to our upper elementary kids, nobody went home empty handed. Every kid got candy filled eggs and prizes.

Every child also met all of our special guests, the characters from the Bible that helped them learn the story of Jesus and what Easter means. The Bible characters such as Mary Magdalene, Pilate, and Peter shared with the children their life changing experiences with Jesus, and Jesus shared how he came to offer us all forgiveness through his sacrifice and how he rose again!

Our "Women in Ministry" group held a bake sale to raise money for Eagles Wings (www.epc.org/ministries/women-in-ministry/faith-focus/faith-focus-2008-2010/), a girls home in Albania that offers a safe place for adolescent girls where they can learn skills and be free from the dangers of living on the street, such as human trafficking. They raised \$300 and also handed out brochures to educate people on the horrors of this modern day slavery that human trafficking is.

Janine Fleming

Community Garden Service Project

Our children and a handful of adults on church clean-up day helped to plant seeds and expand our garden this spring. The vegetables will go to local families to help them out. This year we planted tomatoes, peppers, squash, cucumbers, tomatillos, eggplant, broccoli, cauliflower, radishes and beets. If you know of any families that could use these please let Janine Fleming know.

Ashland Evangelical Presbyterian Church

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Our Mission

**To seek the lost and grow disciples
who worship and enjoy our Lord.**

Our Vision

**To be a Covenant Family in our community which is transformed by the
Gospel, empowered by the Spirit, and focused by our Mission.**

Getting to Know Our Youth Volunteers

1. I had perfect attendance for all four years of high school.
2. When I was 14 I travelled through Mexico on an anthropological tour . The wild experience included Buss rides shared with chickens, hotels rooms that flooded when it rained and lots and lots of wonderful food!
3. I fed wild reindeer in a rainforest.
4. I have slaughtered pigs.
5. When I was 2 years old, I thought OJ Simpson was in my closet.
6. I've climbed to the roof of all but three buildings on my college campus.
7. I grew 6 inches in one day.
8. I am highly perfectionistic when working on church projects.
9. I once broke my leg falling out of a ski lift forty feet and belly flopped on the ground... ouch.
10. You can count on me to deliver.
11. I just had a baby boy.

Next Issue ...

Thank-you to all who contributed to this newsletter. Our next newsletter is scheduled to go out mid August. If you would like to write an article to include in the next newsletter please email it to terridyck@yahoo.com or drop it in Janine's mailbox in the office, by the end of July 2009, for staff approval. We love to receive articles from people of ALL ages! Thank-you and God Bless.

Answers: 1.Sonja Campbell 2.Dana Herman 3.Barry Campbell 4. Matt Thompson 5. Robin Thompson 6. Andy Gross 7. Chris Stone
8. John Winther 9. Kevin Gallagher 10. Mike Buzzard 11. Melissa Gallagher