



Fall Newsletter

Coming Soon

- Friday, Aug 29 - Young Adults Event**
- Sunday, Sept 7 - Special Service**
- Sunday, Sept 7 - Sunday School Kickoff**
- Wednesday, September 10th - Kids Fall Programs begin**
- Wednesday, Sept 10 - ESL (English as a Second Language) begins**
- Saturday, Sept 20 - Women in Ministries Breakfast**
- Sunday, Sept 21st - Pancake Breakfast.**
- Thursday, Sept 25th & Friday, Sept 26th - Women's Bible Study Begins**
- Friday, Sept 26 - Young Adults Event**

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Together is a Wonderful Place to Be

One evening this summer, as I entered my living room, I looked around, and was struck by a sense of tremendous gratitude and admiration for my family. My wife and four boys were all relaxing in the same room together. There were no agendas that had to be tended to. We were all just in the same place together enjoying a bit of peace from the hectic lives we live. As my children get older, their schedules seem to get busier and busier, and this added to already demanding schedules makes it a challenge to find these quiet times. I may be getting more sentimental, but I find myself appreciating more and more the dinners we have together, the times when we ride our bikes to get water ice, or just relaxed times we spend together as a family.

I had a similar feeling this past July when our church family joined together for our annual picnic. Arriving a bit late, due to activities at the church and home, I was greeted by the sight of a festive and vibrant gathering. Once again I was struck by that same sense of gratitude and admiration that I had felt that evening with my wife and kids. It was so wonderful to see so many of our family members joining together in the same place, away from hectic schedules, enjoying time together feasting, worshipping, and simply having fun. At one point, I was reflecting with one of our Elders, and both of us came to the same conclusion. "this is like a family reunion." Maybe next year we'll just have to call it that. The annual Ashland Family Reunion!

Sometimes I think that God gives us moments on this earth that help us to understand a little more what heaven is going to be like. I got a bit of that picture that day at the picnic. The Bible describes to us a great gathering of the family with a wonderful feast laid out in front of God's children. It also speaks of the times of worship where we come before our God, and declare his majesty and the wonders of his beauty. Being in the park that day with God's family was truly a blessing to me, and a great reminder of God's presence with us at Ashland Church.

It's great to be your pastor!
Jamie

Annual Picnic

On the day of our church picnic, Jamie did a wonderful sermon about friendship. God really does bless us with many of the people He brings into our lives. Sometimes we have friends who come and go, but true friends are the ones who really love and care for us. The ones you can deeply trust and count on no matter what.

At the picnic, I was happy to be serving with one such friend. Michelle Williams and I are lifelong friends since our childhood (28 years now) and I am so blessed that she is in my life. Thank-you Jamie for your sermon reminding us of God's gift of friendship.

Sonja Campbell

I was amazed at the age ranges of everyone who came to the picnic and how well they all interacted. It was truly like a family, with grandparents, aunts & uncles, young adults, the 12 and 17 year olds cousins teasing each other, even the little ones that everyone was looking out for, and the newborn that we all wanted to hold. I think God was smiling down upon us that day.

Claudia Tahan

I think my favorite part of the picnic was seeing my family enjoying their time with the Ashland Church family. Whether we were eating great food, worshipping and hearing testimonies, soaking each other with water balloons, or getting sandy on the volleyball court, it was a wonderful time for all of us. I'm grateful that we have such close friends to share our lives with and that my children have brother and sisters, aunts and uncles, and grandparents in Christ through our Ashland family.

Janine Fleming

This year's picnic was the best. I especially enjoyed the 3 legged race and water balloon fight. I got soaked from head to toe, but I landed quite a few also. I had so much fun that I didn't want it to end and was the last person to leave. To me it felt more like a family reunion than a church picnic.

Dana Herman

I thought that Carol did an excellent job in leading worship, what else did I like, I just liked it, I thought it was fun. I liked that there was a lot of people that came. I really enjoyed the chance to hear Jamie's friend Robert sing for us at both the picnic and the service.

Kay Weber

Weather was good. It was nice to have everyone come together for a family type outing. It was nice to hear Carol and Robert sing a duet.

Kurt Weber

The children said they liked the water balloon fight with everyone. One said they wish they had more watermelon and had mac and cheese. We liked the picnic. Family games are always nice.

Lynn Beasley

This was the first time my son and I attended Ashland's Annual Picnic. We both had a delightful time. Jake thoroughly enjoyed playing volley ball and hanging out with friends. I was moved to the core by the testimonies given. Laughter, conversation and good food was plentiful. The Korean BBQ was delicious. We are both looking forward to next summer's picnic.

Nancy Cominsky

I liked that that man came and felt free to open up to all of us about himself. He also told all of us that when he came to Ashland he felt welcomed.

Andy C. Age 16

It was fun hanging out with friends that I don't see often. The volleyball games were COOL!

Jake C. Age 12

The picnic was fantastic, but for me, the center of attention were the water games, we all got soaked! I enjoyed the picnic because our whole church family got to be together and we all made time to include God and had a service singing together.

Lauren H. Age 11

Stephen C. Age 11

The water balloon fight was like I was in 1943, because it felt like WW2.

Liam F. Age 9

I really liked the water balloon fight because I was really hot and I got really wet!

Justin B. Age 7

I especially liked the food, water games, hula hooping and the bean bag racing.

Benjamin C. Age 9

I liked the worshipping and the games. And, I had fun watching Miles fill up his own bucket with cupfuls of water!

Britney D. Age 9

The potato sack race was fun. The water balloons were a great way to cool off and a great way to help cool off other people too:-)

Brandon D. Age 9

Every Sunday - beginning Sept 7

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 'till 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.*

Upcoming Events

Young Adult Event - August 29 Barbeque, no speaker

Children's Ministries Teacher's Training - Saturday, September 6 from 9am - 12 pm at Hope Church

Special Service - September 7th @ 9:30 & 11:00 (hear about missions and summer ministries)

Women's Breakfast - September 20 @ 9:00 AM, with guest speaker Karen Oudyk from the Grace Bible Church. Her topic will be "God Knows Us By Names" (a story on the life of Hagar).

Sunday, Sept 21st - Pancake Breakfast. This is a Youth Fund-raiser being held between the services from 10:15 - 11:00 am.

Young Adult Event - September 26 TBD

Look Who's Coming to Dinner - Friday, October 3 @ 6:30 pm

Fall Rummage Sale - October 17th & 18th, help will be needed for setting up and sorting, for Saturday selling, and for cleanup.

Fall Outreach - October 31st from 5:30 - 8 pm. Stop by while you are trick-or-treating for FREE fun. Don't miss the food, games, crafts, BOX MAZE, and, of course, lots of candy!

100th Anniversary Women's Ministry Celebration - Friday, November 14th with the reenactment of the very first Ladies Guild meeting. Everyone is welcome to come. Desserts to be enjoyed after the play.

Annual Women's Christmas Dinner in Celebration of the 100th Year of Women's Ministries - Friday, December 5th. Belladaux a Bell/harp choir will be the entertainment. Everyone is invited to the program which will begin at 8 pm, after the dinner, which will be provided by Masso's.

ESL Starting at Ashland Church

Our first ESL (English as a Second Language) class will be Wednesday evening, September 10 at 7 pm in the library. ESL classes will be held every Wednesday night and childcare will be provided as any children can join into our Wednesday evening programs. If you know of anyone who would benefit from this class please encourage them to join us.

Always Going On...

Wednesday Night Kids - every Wednesday from 7 - 8 pm starting September 10th

English as a Second Language - Wednesday evening at 7 pm in the library beginning September 10th

Foug's Crew - every Wednesday from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm starting September 10th

Middle School Youth Group - every Sunday @ 5:00 pm

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

Blanket Making /Knitting - 2nd Monday of the month @ 9:30 am starting in September

Prayer Shawl Ministry - 2nd Monday of the month @ 9:30 am starting in September

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

Adult Choir - every Wednesday @ 7:20 pm starting September 10th

Worship Team—every Tuesday @ 8:00pm

Future Events

Look Who's Coming to Dinner - Friday, January 9, 2009 @ 6:30

Sweetheart Banquet - February 2009

Ballroom Dancing Class - Saturday, March 14, 2009

Look Who's Coming to Dinner - Friday, May 1, 2009 @ 6:30

Wednesday Night Kids

Our Wednesday evening children's program will resume on Wednesday, September 10 from 7 - 8pm. All kids from pre-school - 4th grade (older grades can come as well and join Foug's crew or youth group) are invited to join us every Wednesday night for fun Bible lessons, great games, snacks and cool crafts.

We'll be continuing our SonWorld adventure with some special trips to destinations near and far to learn about missions and service along the way! Also - in November we'll start our Christmas play practice for all those kids wishing to be in the Christmas play this year.

Janine Fleming
Children's Ministries Director

Sunday School Kick-off/Move Up

Join us as we kick off our new Sunday School year (classes for infants - adults) on September 7th at 9:15 am to introduce our kids to their new teachers, for those that are moving up this year.

Adult Christian Education

John Tait will be teaching the 9:30 am Sunday Adult Christian Education class, beginning September 7th, on the book of Revelation. This class will also be repeated at 7:00 pm on Sunday evenings. Do not miss part 1 "A Revelation Primer" - a study of the significant terms and concepts of this book.

Greg Goss will continue teaching the Westminster Confession of Faith at 11:00 am on Sunday mornings.

General Assembly

Our denomination's 28th Annual General Assembly (GA) was held June 19-21 at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, MD. "What is GA?" you ask. GA is when representatives from all our denomination's churches come together to worship, encourage, and pray with one another, and to do the "business" of the church. Think of it as a Presbyterian "Congress" that meets only three days a year.

Among the news and highlights of this GA include:

- As of the beginning of 2008, the EPC consists of 229 churches, with 77,701 members, 319 Pastors/Teaching Elders and 1,673 (Ruling) Elders, all significant increases over the previous year.
- A new position of "commissioned Pastor" has been approved. For example, this will allow pastors who have emigrated from countries where education is harder to come by (whom are likely to meet our denomination's educational requirements) to serve as pastors here.
- The overall budget for the coming year is \$1,580,500 for Administration and \$504,000 for Benevolence.
- The "asking" or amount requested from churches to support ministries of the EPC was increased from \$23 to \$25 per church member.
- Twelve new overseas missionaries were appointed in the past year (7 at GA), making the total of overseas missionaries serving with the EPC 89 adults (and 85 kids!), serving in 21 nations.
- We appointed four new home missionaries and we agreed to work with two more mission agencies: Trinity Christian Community, which works in New Orleans, and OM Ships International, which operates the *Logos and Doulos* hospital ships.

The following items were discussed at GA, and more discussion will take place next year:

- The possibility of allowing churches to have "co-pastors";
- A preliminary draft of a position paper on the authority of Scripture
- What it means for our denomination to be "missional", that is, to see the whole of our church at all levels (not only the denomination and churches, but also individuals) as have a missionary orientation and outlook.

This is only a short summary of the main business involved—now you know why it took three days! Those who weren't directly involved in the business of GA were also quite busy. Our women were introduced to the Faith Focus 2008-2011 project. The project will partner with World Outreach missionaries Beverly and Austin McCaskill to provide a safe and nurturing home near Tiranna, Albania, for adolescent girls who are forced due to their age to leave state-run orphanages. In a country where family is all-important, orphans are often left feeling that they are worthless. Having no place to go and no one to care for them, these teenagers are at very high risk of being abused. Girls are especially vulnerable to being forced into prostitution and human trafficking.

As these girls are placed in faith-based homes, these young women will find their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs met and will have the opportunity to discover the specific and tender love that God the Father has for them (Ps. 68.5). This culturally-sensitive, safe and nurturing home will be devoted to Biblical principles, and prayer, communication, and cooperation will be central to their work and family life. In such an environment, each young girl will more likely grow up into a meaningful and successful life.

Jamie Cupschalk, Greg Goss, and Darrell Proctor served as your Commissioners, voting on matters needed. Also attending and participating in worship and many other activities were: Tamera Cupschalk, Dana Herman, Frank and Wendy Johnson, Gloria Proctor, and Claudia Tahan.

Foug's Crew . . . starting Sept 10 @ 7 PM

for his grace, to this enemy, is Jesus Christ. In Foug's crew we learn and grow in our relationship with God as we become warriors and soul winners for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I invite you to let me have the privilege to mentor, teach, and share my faith and love for Jesus with your child. There are challenging lessons and great discussions and always we read from the *Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth* book (BIBLE). We have a different snack each week to teach children and adults to pray not only for the food that God supplies but for everything in our daily lives. We also have a parent & child Phillies game as my gift to you at the end of the year and some awesome fun. We also celebrate your child's birthday with their choice of cake.

If your child doesn't have a Bible, I will supply one for them to share with you what God is doing in their hearts. See you in September!!

Attention all Parents - there is a world out there and an enemy that wants control of your child's thoughts. His name I will not put in print but I tell you he is real and alive. The answer, thank God

John Fougeray

Women's Bible Study

Starting September 25th, the women will be having a Bible study. Beth Moore's "Stepping Up - A Journey Through the Psalms of Ascent". There will be two separate classes during the same study. One will be on Thursday nights at 7pm, and led by Claudia and the other one on Friday's at 12:15pm, led by Tamera. This is open to all women not only in our church, but any other woman you may know of to invite, who wants to strengthen her spiritual walk with the Lord. Beth Moore will take us on a journey that explores Psalms 120-134. As we examine these 15 Psalms, essential to praise and worship in the Old Testament times, we'll come to a place of greater intimacy with God, who delights in hearing not only our praise but our petitions as well. Please see either Tamera or Claudia if you would like to sign up. The cost is \$20, which covers the cost of your workbook and the DVDs.

Claudia Tahan

Men's Morning Prayer Group

Tuesday morning prayer (6:30 am) is one of the greatest gifts that God has given me in my Christian walk. When Pastor Jamie announced 2 or more years ago that any man interested in a men's prayer group please show up at 6:30 AM, my first reaction was how am I going to fit this in my schedule of a demanding businessman's life of servicing refineries & petrochemicals. The answer is, how could I afford not to. This is a time where two or more men are present and the Lord is there with us. The fellowship is incredible and it is like we have this tremendous bond and brotherhood like you cannot imagine.

My only regret is my fellow church brothers are missing out. But, we pray that God will fill more empty seats. What power you receive when another man is praying for same things that God puts in your heart. We all look for growth in our Christian walk. I see no other way to grow spiritually and to be challenged by our Lord than to pray with each other and for one another. We are taught in scriptures to carry each others burdens. How are we suppose to do that when we do not know or share our thoughts or struggles, our pain with one another?

I challenge the men in our church to show their personal schedules to the Lord and see how many justifications they can come up with why and how they don't want more spiritual power in their lives. "When two or more are present I am there". By the way, who is the one that allows us our schedules? Who is the one in charge and in control?Just Asking.

John Fougery

Community Vegetable Garden

We are thrilled that our vegetable garden, planted by our kids and maintained by volunteers, provided radishes, zucchini, cucumbers, eggplants, tomatoes, and peppers to several local families this summer!

Janine Fleming

Congregational Life Team

The Congregational Life Team (CLT) was formed approximately two years ago and meets once per month. The goal of the CLT is to help our congregation and guests connect in ways they might not otherwise. We plan the more social events of the church including the Sweetheart Banquet, Annual Church Picnic, Look Who's Coming to Dinner, and Ballroom Dancing. We are in the process of planning a game night for the fall. Events such as these are great ways to introduce your friends and family members to our church in a non-intimidating setting. The greater ministry and guest bag ministry for Sunday guests also fall within the CLT.

If you are interested in helping CLT plan an event or if you have suggestions about future events, please contact Michelle Williams at MTheresaWilliams@aol.com or (856) 252-0086 or contact the church office at (856) 429-8844.

Michelle Williams

Men's Ministry

As men, God has given us the responsibility to lead and provide for our families, mentor our children, love, respect, and honor our wives, but most importantly, we are called to serve our families as Christ served the Church. The Men's Ministry is here simply to serve and mentor the men of Ashland Church and to create an environment where men can encourage each other in their walk with the Lord and to challenge and equip them to fulfill the God-given responsibilities he has entrusted to them. To that end, I would like to offer a personal invitation to you to come out and join in our various events and ministries that will be coming this year starting with our Kick-Off-Barbeque which will be held on September 13th (watch your bulletin for more info).

Eph 5:25-33 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by washing of water with the word that He might present Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body.

Barry Campbell

Women in Ministry

The "Women in Ministry" (our new name) will be celebrating 100 years of serving Ashland Church in December of 2008. The organization was started by a group of women from Ashland Presbyterian Church. The purpose was to promote sociability, to raise funds, and to be charitable to the town. Their name at that time was the "Ladies Guild". For many years the women raised money to meet the utility needs of the early church and held various activities for fun and fellowship.

When Ashland Church joined the Evangelical Presbyterian Church denomination, the name was changed to the "Women's Ministry". The purpose has changed to caring for the needs of women of all ages and reaching out to them with the Gospel message of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We also raise money through our Rumage Sales, which supports our own youth and greeting card ministries, as well as, various missionaries in the field who grew up in Ashland Church.

At the present time, we encourage all women to join us in our meetings and activities. We need your ideas and suggestions and, maybe, you'll find the "Women in Ministry" to be just the place where our Lord is leading you to serve Him!

Elynor Smith

From the Basement....

Youth News

This fall we are kicking things off with a Youth Service September 7th. This means that the youth and their stories are going to be featured in both worship services. We will be highlighting our summer trips (Velocity, G. Hope Street Camp and Urban Promise Workgroups) as well as what God is doing in the lives of our church's next generation.

Our Youth Programs are keeping their same schedule this next school year. Sunday evenings are for youth group. At "The Five" we have the program geared for students who are in Middle School (6th - 8th grades). *The Five* starts at 5 PM (thus the highly creative name) and ends at 7 PM. Our program for Sr. high students, "The Seven", begins immediately after at 7 PM and goes until 9 PM, although we have been known to ask parents for permission to grab a bite at the Starview Diner afterwards.

Wednesday nights are still for Bible Study. We will still hold the FOCUS study for 6th-12th grades in the youth room. The Bible studies run from 7- 8:15 PM.

Our Youth Christian Education program will also continue with only a slight adjustment. The Youth Christian Education class will be held on Sunday mornings in the Youth room at 9:30 AM. The class is for grades 7-9 and will again be taught by the team of Eric Holmes, Robin Ciervo, and Matt Thompson. The Sr. high students in grades 10-12 are strongly encouraged to attend one of our Adult Christian Ed. Classes.

Again I say, I **STRONGLY** recommend that the students are encouraged to attend an Adult class with their parents. Today's Youth and Young Adults are struggling to cross the bridge into adulthood. More and more we are seeing young people even in their late 20's feeling disconnected from the broader "adult world" as well as the "adult" church. Churches today are seeing their youth leave the church in shockingly high numbers. This has several factors, but one I believe we can do something about is to introduce our students to the adults and the adult's faith instead of simply quarantining them off in their own exclusive programs. This is the reason that we want to encourage the attendance of our Sr. High students in our Adult Christian Ed. Classes.

As always, our youth program has two goals: to make disciples of Jesus Christ and to help the youth enter adulthood successfully. If you have any questions please feel free to ask me and know that we covet your prayers and continued support for our teens.

Ken Buck

Youth Ministries Director

Worship Arts Program

One of summer's great blessings is the sight and the aroma of the beautiful flower garden that greets us as we enter Ashland Church. How God must love us to give us such beautiful gifts! Now, as the flowers are in full bloom I wish that they could last all year; however, I don't think that even Walt and Linda could make that happen. Soon summer flowers will fade; but as we enter a new season, our faithful God will shower us with His love in fresh and new ways.

As fall approaches, I look forward to experiencing the arts that God has created for His glory. I am excited to announce several new opportunities that will be available for us to worship God specifically through music and dance. Along with "Wee Worship" choir and bell choir for children preschool age through second grade, and "Kid's Worship" choir for third through fifth grade, our "Youth Worship Choir" will now include older children, grades six through eight. Rehearsals for Youth Worship Choir actually began late spring, and I look forward to the continuation of this ministry. Also, please be on the lookout for announcements from Megan Tahan, our worship dance leader. She and her assistants plan to begin dance workshops in early fall.

Anyone interested in working with our sound or video teams would be welcomed and immediately put to work. Art and drama would also be wonderful additions to our worship arts program: please let me know if you have talent and interest in serving in this capacity. If anyone accomplished in playing a musical instrument or singing, please consider volunteering your time and talents. We wish to serve and worship our Lord with all of our skills and talents.

Fall choir rehearsals will begin September 10th. I hope to see many new faces, and look forward to once again meeting with returning friends.

Blessings,

Carol Holmes

Music Director



Recently, Caroline and I had a chance to visit the birthplace of John Calvin (one of Europe's foremost Reformers) in NOTON, France. He was born in that three-story home back in 1509. Although they have turned his home into a museum, there is no protestant church in that town to this day. Hard to believe isn't it?

Our World Team missionaries are working to open up this territory for church planting. Between now and 2020 we trust that God will send workers into the harvest field and allow us to plant a new Protestant Evangelical church in that town. Please join us in praying for the people of Noyon.

In the grip of Jesus

Carl A. Kishbaugh

World Team (France)

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African Book Challenge



During the past 18 months, the African Book Challenge (ABC), an outreach ministry of Ashland Church, received several donations to be shipped to the beneficiaries of the ministry - the kids in the rural village of Kwabeng, Ghana. The bulk of the donations came from our Ashland Church family and also from the local community and beyond. The items included large quantities of school supplies, children's books, Bibles, Sunday school materials, encyclopedias, library books, sports equipment, used computers, clothes, toys, etc. In addition, the congregation and the Children's Ministries (VBS Service Projects) raised and donated over \$6000.00 to cover the shipping cost and, most importantly, to provide modern restrooms for over 250 kids (ages 3-5 years) who attend the Presbyterian pre-school and kindergarten. Since it's establishment about 20 years ago, the kids have been using outhouses. Hard to imagine or believe, isn't it? Actually, none of the five schools in the township has modern restrooms because they simply cannot afford it.

The good news is that, with your generous donations, construction of the new restrooms will begin in late fall. In addition, ABC has purchased and shipped a wooden swing set to replace the dilapidated and unsafe metal swing at the school. The shipment arrived safely late July in Ghana and all the charitable goods have been delivered to the beneficiaries.

In addition, the "penny drive" service project for this year's Kid's Summer programs aims at raising at least \$500.00 for ABC to provide electricity in a couple of classrooms for the Kwabeng Presbyterian school. The project, when completed, will enable many of the kids who do not have electricity in their homes to go to the school and do their homework assignments in the evenings and study under the supervision of their teachers. This is another invaluable service that Ashland Church is providing the kids in Kwabeng to help enhance teaching and learning. Your donation in support of this project will be most welcomed.

The ABC committee wishes to express its sincere thanks to everyone who has donated and continues to support this worthy ministry. Without your prayers, financial and material support, ABC cannot accomplish our goals. Your generous support of ABC's programs is considered God-sent and a huge blessing to the kids! Please, continue to reach out in love and touch those kids in your own special way. Your donation is truly making a **big** difference in the life of the kids. Let us keep it up and "let us not become weary doing good..." (Gal 6:9)

Thank-you all and blessings always!

Fred Twum-Acheampong

On behalf of the ABC Committee



ASHLAND YOUTH

Velocity

This week was an amazing opportunity to meet new people and see new places. Most of all, worshipping and praising God with fellow Christians was the best part of this experience.

I've also had many other experiences I took back with me. I went canoeing with Lauren and her mom. Our canoe almost tipped over, but a lot of others did! We did get stuck a few times and Dana kept yelling "paddle, paddle" to keep us calm. We all panicked on the inside.

I also participated in two "Buck Wild's". In the first "BUCK WILD" everyone went down a giant slip and slide and the second was the "Battle of Helm's Deep", where we played capture the diamonds and used water balloons, flour bombs, and noodles as swords.

This week was so much fun, and what made it better was the sermons I listened to. The speaker for middle school was very funny, which made the sermons more exciting. He would use real stories of things he had done to get his message out.

On the last day of camp, we had extra worshipping time with the "Phil Wing Band" where everyone at the camp was dancing, singing, and praising God. I met lots of new friends there: I do want to "Come Back" to Velocity next year!

Victoria Z.

It started out with a long, 6 hour drive to Pittsburg. We stopped a few times to eat and for gas. When we got to our destination in a building right next to the church, we had a lot of fun. We also slept in there. We had a barbeque and for dessert we went to a nearby Dairy Queen.

The next day we left around 11 in the morning. We got to Kenyon around 2 in the afternoon. We unpacked, got Velocity shirts, and went to dinner. The meals there were amazing and you felt like you were in a five-star restaurant. The rooms were a lot of space and the beds were very comfortable. When you had late night options, they were held in a gym. They had an Olympic size pool and all different game rooms.

On Sunday and Tuesday we had Buck Wild. Finally, on the last day, we packed up and headed down to breakfast and left, only to wait a whole year to see it again.

Lauren H.

The Can Drive

It was a really hot Sunday afternoon when the Jr. High kids got together to go door to door collecting food for the local food pantry. They decided to split into groups of three and then divided the area as well. Being so hot, it was agreed that we would go no longer than an hour and that I would drive around gathering their donations and delivering water.

They were off and with a purpose, not only to collect food but to see which team would out do the other. Good to have a little competition every now and again! Time flew, tired and exhausted kids returned and we were treated to the testimony of Matt Thompson.

When the Sr. High arrived, the already obtained food was hidden and a new challenge stated. Could they bring in more than the previous group? Again, there were three groups and again I drove around collecting donations and delivering water. This group didn't want to quit and pushed on through their entire sections and beyond.

Only God knows how their efforts will affect the lives of those in need. It was a pleasure and a privilege to witness the hard work of the Ashland Youth Group.

Dana Herman

Hope Street Camp

This year we made a new connection with the folks at Germantown Hope Community Church in Philadelphia. We came to discover that they run a street camp for the kids in the church's community. It can be describe as a community outreach that is like a VBS on steroids. The camp is 4 weeks long and runs from 9 AM until 3 PM every week-day. A team from Ashland Church was able to go to G. Hope Street Camp for the final two weeks of camp.

While helping the camp we got to see life as normal in an area of Philly that we would only know from the news reports otherwise. Is there poverty? Yes. Crime? Yes. Violence, drugs, gangs? Yes. But we also got to met kids, families and a church that show that hope, real hope does exist in the community. Amazingly, in God's beautiful providence, we got to become a part of the light of hope that is shining in Germantown. We are planning on returning next summer and any other time that we can be of service to join our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ who are being real bearers of the light of Jesus in their neighborhood. Next year, consider spending the week with us being challenged and changed by our loving God as we serve others. (PS G. Hope Street Camp runs all July if you need to plan out your calendar.)

Ken Buck

Youth Ministries Director

This summer, Ken took a few of the High School students to a church in Germantown to help run a camp for kids aged 4-12. The camp is very similar to our VBS. On the trip, I saw kids who come from what seemed to be a loveless area, showing more love than kids from the suburbs.

Sean C.

ASHLAND KIDS

An Essay on Children's Ministries

"Have you ever wondered if there was a program for kids where you learn about God and have fun at the same time?" Well, there's a program EXACTLY like that. It's called Children's Ministries. Lots of churches do it. We do fun things, help kids in need, and it brings more people to our church.

We've been working on this program called A.B.C. (African Book Challenge) for a while. We send old school supplies, toys, and books for the kids in need at Kwabeng, Ghana. We also raise money for their schools. The school's don't even have (bathrooms). We made alphabet books for them too. They speak English there.

Every year a man from our church called Mr. Fred who was raised there goes over there and takes pictures of what's happening since we started A.B.C. One time at Wednesday nights (we go to church on Wednesday nights) he showed us a slide show. The first few pictures were of how poor everybody was and how their schools hardly had any books, hardly any school supplies, horrible playgrounds, and NO bathrooms. But then the other pictures showed the kids reading the books, playing with the toys, and using the school supplies we sent them. The money helped their schools too. A little bit goes a long way over there.

Some friends from my school and my neighborhood come to my church because someone from the church tells their friend and invites them to Wednesday nights. So the friend has the lesson, plays the games, and has fun. After a while the friend will get more involved and go to V.B.S (Vacation Bible School) or other programs. Then they'll tell their brothers and/or sisters (if they have any) and they'll join our church. Then that family will tell their friends and invite them to church. Once those kids get involved they'll tell their family and they'll join our church. It's like a big circle, it goes on and on and on etc. So partly through Children's Ministries we get more people.

Children's Ministries has programs that everybody loves all year around. On Sundays we have Sunday school and kids church. On Wednesday nights we have games, lessons, and crafts. Around Christmas we have the Christmas play. It's a different one each year, and anyone can be in it and anyone can watch. Around Easter we have the Easter egg hunt. With tons of candy, prizes, and plastic eggs. We have V.B.S (Vacation Bible School) in the summer where we play games, make crafts, watch skits, and learn lessons. Last but not least we have the Halloween party with the box maze, candy, and crafts. The box maze is more awesome each year.

Children's Ministries is an important part of my life because we help kids in need, have fun, and it brings more people to our church. Also, my mom is the director of it for our church so I have to go. That's why it's so important to me.

Liam F. Age 9
(Written for his third
grade essay assignment)

A Wonderful Five Weeks

If you stopped by Ashland Church on Wednesday night in July you saw preschoolers playing, basketball & soccer balls being kicked or thrown, kids painting, theatrical productions, and children learning self defense through Tae Kwon Do. All this happened during our Sports & Arts Camp and Preschool Playgroup.

The kids learned to be strong and courageous, not afraid or discouraged because the Lord, their God, will be with them wherever they go (Joshua 1:9).

We ended with a lovely time of fellowship & food at our potluck dinner. The art class's decorations were on display, the preschoolers and elementary children shared their memory verses with their parents, the Tae Kwon Do (with special instructor Eric Holmes, a 3rd degree black belt from Holmes TKDo Martial Arts <http://www.holmestkdo.com>) demonstrated their self defense moves and the drama group did a creative presentation of the song "Indescribable" by Chris Tomlin using white gloves and black lights. Their moving song spoke of how God knows us to the depths of our hearts and loves us the same no matter where we've been. God's indescribable love sent his son, Jesus, to die for us so that we might be forgiven and live eternally with Him.

Thank-you to all our volunteers and families that supported this year's Sports & Arts Camp and Preschool Playgroup.

Janine Fleming
Children's Ministries Director

SonWorld VBS

What a BLAST! For five days around 135 kids learned to "choose Jesus" at our SonWorld VBS. Thanks to our talented, dedicated and wonderful volunteers we had worship, Bible lessons, games, crafts, snacks and whole lotta fun! Through the Bible stories of the blind man, ten sick men, the paralyzed man, the rich young ruler, and the disciple, our kids learned to choose to believe, to act, forgiveness, to obey, and to choose Jesus. They learned that Jesus is the Savior God promised to send, that Jesus cares about everyone, that Jesus will forgive us if we ask him, that he wants us to obey him in all our choices (not just when it's easy), and that Jesus died for us but lives again and guides us everyday.

It was a wonderful week and it was amazing to see God at work in the lives of our children. I hope we'll see everyone back next year and maybe even sooner:) Don't forget VBS Sunday is August 17 at 10 am and the youth focused service is Sept. 7 at 9:30 and 11 am with videos of the kids from SonWorld and Sports and Arts Camp.

Janine Fleming
Children's Ministries Director

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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.

A Note to VBS Parents

We were thrilled to have your children join us for SonWorld, Sports and Arts Camp and Preschool Playgroup this year. Not only did your kids have fun, they got to learn a bit about the Bible and understand better what a relationship with Jesus really means.

I want to commend you in bringing your children because what you have done is help them build a foundation for their life. I also want to encourage you to feel free to bring your children to any of our ministries - membership is not required and all are welcome.

Janine Fleming
Children's Ministries Director

Next Issue ...

Thank-you to all who contributed to this newsletter. Our next newsletter is scheduled to go out mid-November. 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, prior to November, 2008, for staff approval. We love to receive articles from people of ALL ages!

Thank-you and God Bless.

Getting to Know Our Trustees

1. I play base drum in an Alumni Drum and Bugle Corps.
2. Which Trustee recently turned the big 50?
3. Who played baritone horn in the marching band?
4. Which Trustee recently hiked the Grand Canyon?
5. Who owned and operated and Fish & Chip business?
6. Loves soccer and used to play well!
7. As a sophomore in high school, I ran the 220 yard dash against Carl Lewis and lost by 100 yards!!
8. He came to Ashland through The Oasis band nights and through the Ashland Skate Park ministry.
9. Times sure have changed around here, it seems that it wasn't that long ago that I used to drive my "Crosley" car to EIGHTH GRADE!
10. I'm much better with a computer than I am with a hammer.

9. Jim Spina 10. John Lopilato

Answers 1. Mark Purdin 2. Joe Bello 3. Rick Graham 4. Shamus Williams 5. Chris Dyck 6. Bill Buzard 7. John Fougeray 8. John Wither