

The View from Aldersgate

The “view” from Camp Aldersgate this year was HOT! On June 24, 68 teens and 25 adult leaders headed back to the familiar setting in Carrollton, Ohio. This year’s theme was “Ordinary Lives ... Extraordinary Results.”

The leaders had crafted lessons that brought out the truth that God has created us and gifted us to live right now, and that our personalities and our gifts fit into the plan that God has for us right now. When we accept Jesus’ leadership in our lives, we transform our ordinary lives into extraordinary ones that make a difference in the world around us.

Another theme of this camp was the weather. The first three days were in the high 90s, so everyone had to work hard to stay hydrated and healthy. We talked about Jesus being living water for us, and that when we take in H₂O, we do not need to instruct it where to go in our bodies to keep us going. It is similar with accepting Christ: We must allow him to fill us and take over all aspects of our lives. Jesus does not need our instruction as to what

parts of us need him.

We had a good number of new campers this year. Not only were there sixth-graders who received their first chance to come to camp, there also were friends of teens and kids that joined the youth ministry this year. It was wonderful to have so many new faces. We also had a number of new leaders. Some of these leaders were college students who had the chance to see the week from a planning/implementation side for the first time



The gang was all in blue at this year’s Camp Aldersgate.

after being a camper for years. We also had some parents become involved. Thanks to the leaders for their time, their sacrifice and their love for the teens.

All of these elements helped to make for a great camp that saw a dozen or so teens accept Jesus into their lives and many others recommit their hearts. We look forward to another super year at MUMC, and then the planning for next summer’s camp, June 22-28, 2008.

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Mayfield Church Update

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Ten Travel to Pinetown, South Africa

Early on the sunny morning of Sunday, Aug. 5, a sleepy but excited group of 10 Mayfield Church members gathered to begin a journey that would change our hearts in ways we could not imagine and impact our lives profoundly. We ranged in age from 11 to 60-plus years, and included every decade.

South Africa is half a world away geographically and many worlds away culturally. Our mission was organized by our director of youth ministries, Bruce Becker, and the Pinetown Methodist Church pastor, Ian France. Our work project was to renovate a building in the township of Mariannridge for a small but faith-filled congregation that had been



South Africa team members stand at the entrance to the Mariannridge building.

praying for its own place for 30 years.

The building was in serious disrepair, and we swarmed over it like ants at a picnic! People from the congregation who were able also came to scrape, clean,

paint, and organize alongside us. By the time we were done, we had scrubbed, sanded and painted everything in sight, installed a new oven and microwave, repaired the hot [cont’d on page 3]

Choir Begins Season with Retreat



Mayfield's Choir is off to a running start. With 22 singers at the retreat on Saturday, Sept. 15, and several more in the wings, the music is already flowing and sweet. The retreat was

a three-hour workshop of choral technique, donuts and coffee, Christmas music, fellowship, fresh fruit snacks and time for spiritual renewal. The morning concluded with Communion, led by Senior Pastor Don Cummings.

The choir is committed to helping lead worship on Sunday mornings, as well as being a group of people that nurtures one another, for the glory of God. The weekly anthems and other worship music will aim to reflect these goals.

Looking ahead to Christmas, the choir is practicing a Nigerian carol called Betelehemu, plus a wonderful assortment of familiar [cont’d on page 3]

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End of Summer 2007

Stewardship Facts:

- Operating fund contributions for August are \$40,464.
- Operating fund contributions total year-to-date are \$545,966 through the end of August.
- Building fund contributions for August are \$14,239.
- Building Fund contributions total year-to-date are \$252,496 through the end of August.

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God's Caring Community Welcomes 38

The first meeting of God's Caring Community on Tuesday, Sept. 11, was a huge success, with 38 attending. The new ministry group, organized by Jim Morgan and Boris Bubnow, is designed to help people remain in their homes as they grow older. It is especially for people age 50 and older, and the ages of those attending ranged from the 50s to over 90.

Master of Ceremonies Fred Suppes kept everyone amused with his sharp wit and kept the program running smoothly and on time. God's Caring Community Chairman Jim Morgan explained the concept of the organization. Then Parish Nurse, Betsy Virmelson deftly steered the group through "Meet a New Friend, One on One," which was the hit of the gathering. She told the group what information to share and what questions to ask, thus breaking the ice and eliminating any nervousness.

After this segment, the group divided into groups of six or seven, with a member of the executive committee of God's Caring Community serving as moderator for each group. The groups discussed age-related topics, as well as completed a survey of future meeting topics and personal needs and capabilities. The moderators then reported back to the entire group about the concerns and conclusions discussed by their group. Polly Mollenkopf and The United Methodist Women served a nice lunch, topped off by Patterson Pie a la mode.

The next meeting will be at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 11. Steve Sereby, chief of the Gates Mills Police Department, will speak on "Scams, Identity Theft, Being Overcharged or Cheated." For the location of this meeting and more information, call Jim Morgan at 440-951-3589.

Families Visit the Zoo and the Pool

Families-On-The-Move, a ministry begun last November, lets families join with other families from the church and be "on the move" in our community, beyond the walls of the church. Families-On-The-Move is a ministry that is open to our entire church because we are all members of the family of God.

On the first Saturday in June, three families survived the blistering 90-degree

temperatures at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. The heat didn't stop the families from hiking the African Safari and the Northern Trek, where the children longingly watched the sting rays swim in the cool water. The heat kept the families from exploring the entire zoo, but they made plans to visit on another day to continue their exploration.

On Friday, Aug. 10, more than 60 people participated in the 2nd annual

Heartland Doubles in Size!

It's back to school, and Heartland Childcare Center is busy, busy, busy!

We've more than doubled the number of children since last fall, with 30 preschool and 18 after-school youngsters, and that keeps director Patty Jones on the run.

The children have already begun preparing for their Christmas program.

Every week, they practice the hand bells with "Mr. Dave" (Dave Malinowski of the kitchen). The hand bells are color-coded by note, and "Mr. Dave" holds up a piece of paper with the appropriate color to help the children learn the songs.

The preschoolers follow a daily schedule beginning at 6:45 a.m. and ending at 6 p.m. Special activities are sign language (Monday), Bible Story Time



More than 200 members and friends enjoyed food, fellowship and fun at Mayfield Church's annual picnic on Sunday, Sept. 16, at the Patterson Fruit Farm. The chilly morning turned into a beautiful, sunny day, with many people enjoying a wagon ride to the children's activities on the farm. Thanks to all who made the event possible, especially the Pattersons for the use of their lovely facility.

MUMC Pool Night at Parkview Pool in Mayfield Village. They gathered in the picnic pavilion to share great food and conversation. The air was cool, but that didn't stop the children and teens from jumping into the water. The swimming and splashing lasted for more than two hours. It was a great way to celebrate summer together before the start of school and fall activities.

(Tuesday), Music (Wednesday), the Bookmobile (Thursday) and Movie Day (Friday).

This month, MUMC member Lynn Woods joins the staff as a part-time teacher with the preschoolers. Heartland is looking for both full- and part-time preschool teachers. Contact Patty Jones at 440-729-4006 ext. 116 if you are interested.

190 Youngsters Take a Wild Ride at VBS

Wa-Hoo! Sixty volunteers took 190 children on a Wild Ride through God's Word at Avalanche Ranch, our Western-themed Vacation Bible School program. More than 250 people gathered in the worship center at the Sing & Play Stampede on Monday, July 30, and the celebrating continued through Sunday, Aug. 5, when the children shared their favorite songs and photographs from their exciting week during worship.

During VBS, the Prairie Dog preschoolers and other children up through the sixth grade shook the rafters of the worship center with their praises to God. The children also stopped at other stations, including the Chuck Wagon Chow for their snack, Cowpoke Crafts, Chadder's Wild West Theater and Horseplay Games. The children visited characters from the Bible while attending the Wild Bible Adventures.

The program wasn't just about the children having a great time. It also gave the youngsters an opportunity to give back. The children supported the Book Bag Ministry by collecting



At Avalanche Ranch, everyone enjoyed singing!

school supplies, books and book bags for an East Cleveland school. Among items collected were 3,000 sheets of notebook paper, 240 crayons, 123 folders and 140 erasers.

South Africa cont'd . . .

water pipes, cleared out mold and cockroaches, made and hung curtains, fixed a leak in the roof, cleaned the gutters, put in a handrail and transformed the playground into a brightly colored, inviting place where the children could play in relative safety.

The mission statement of Pinetown Methodist Church is "to be a sign of the Kingdom of God in a broken world." When we were not working at the

Mariannridge project, we learned about several of their outreach ministries that seek to bring hope into their world that is so saturated with disease, poverty and crime. We were privileged to see some of these in action and to meet some of the participants.

The best part of the two weeks was meeting the people of Pinetown Church, who are so mission-minded that they take serving "the least of these" as a serious,

everyday command, and the people of Mariannridge who are "poor in things but very rich in love." It was humbling to hear them say that our presence among them reminded them that God is faithful. We went to give ourselves in love and service to people we did not know, but as one in our group said with tears running down her cheeks, "I received so much more than I gave."

Choir cont'd . . .

tunes, and will soon begin work on the music for the Dec. 16th concert, "Gloria," by Antonio Vivaldi. If singing in the choir

is something you have thought about, please contact Betty-Ann Lynerd at the church

office. Rehearsals are Thursdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m., and Sundays at 10:15 a.m.

Work Team Builds Addition in Kentucky

An 83-year-old man was among the people helped when Mayfield Church sent a work team to the Henderson Settlement within the Red Bird Missionary Conference in southeastern Kentucky.

Adam Neff led the 13-member team, which left on Sunday, Aug. 5, and returned on Friday, Aug. 10. Members tackled several projects in Frakes. One

group, led by Patrick Sulzer, built a 12-by-16-foot addition on a house. The house had been a storage shed that the owner, 83-year-old Beth Partin, had turned into a home. The group designed and built the addition, from the 12 four-by-four-foot posts to the ceiling trusses to the metal roof.

Jerry Dickerson led the second group, which installed vinyl siding on a 12-by-

12-foot shed for a cousin of Partin's. The group also worked on a woman's house, removing rotted wood, which had become a magnet for wasps, and replacing the fascia and soffit.

Adam Neff, who floated between the projects, became close to Partin, a miner who fell on difficult times after the mine was closed. "He was crying when we left," Neff said. "He couldn't thank us enough."