

Word Of Hope
The Amazing
Grace
Place

AUGUST 2009

"WELCOME BACK" WEEKEND

...it's a weekend of celebration! We begin with the KNO Campout on Saturday, August 15 and continue on Sunday with Worship in Brin's Garden at 8:15, a smorgasbord of delicious breakfast items at our Brunch Potluck at 9:30, some spectacular outdoor activities to start off our True North and then wrapping things up with our 10:45 Celebration Worship!

Come join us! - Sunday, August 16



FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH POTLUCKS

We have one more brunch potluck before summer ends and the fall schedules begin! Bring your favorite breakfast item to share with the group (breakfast casseroles, muffins, pastries, fruit, breakfast meat, breads, etc). We will share in the bounty of good food and great fellowship with our Word of Hope family! Join us between worship services (9:30 - 10:30) on Sunday morning August 16.

WORSHIP IN BRIN'S GARDEN

AND in coordination with our Summer Brunches, we're having worship in Brin's Garden for the 8:15 service, also on August 16. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy this special place - you may even catch a little something extra from our KNO campout gang!

KID'S NITE OUT CAMPOUT

It's time for our most popular KNO Event - The Annual Campout Saturday, August 15th - We'll pitch our tents, roast some hot dogs, play some AWESOME outdoor games and enjoy a campfire and s'mores!! DON'T MISS IT!!!! You'll need your sleeping bag, tent AND FRIENDS! We'll need plenty of adult chaperones for this event!



(Children Kindergarten age and below are welcome to join us from 5-9pm for the usual KNO games and fun and may remain for the campout if accompanied by a parent).

SUMMER SUNDAY NIGHT WORSHIP



If you haven't tried it out yet there's still time! Our Sunday evening worship at 5:30 continues through Aug 16. Each service is exactly one half hour in length. Returning late from a long weekend or vacation? This is a great time to connect with the community of faith and start the new week in worship. (This is in addition to our usual Sunday morning schedule.)

SHARING THE LOVE OF JESUS WITH ALL OTHERS
AND GROWING DISCIPLES

FROM THE PASTOR



(Curious about the roots? See below)

There is an ancient legend about a monk who found a precious stone, a marvelous jewel. A short time later, the monk met a traveler, who said he was hungry and asked the monk if he would share some of his provisions. When the monk opened his bag to get some food, the traveler saw the precious stone and, on an impulse, asked the monk if he could have it. Amazingly, the monk gave the traveler the stone.

The traveler departed quickly, overjoyed with his new possession. However, a few days later, he came back, searching for the monk. He returned the stone to the monk and made a request: "Please give me something more valuable, more precious than this stone. Please give me that which enabled you to give this precious stone away!"

I suspect that for the vast majority of us, this story has to be a "legend" because only in a story would anyone behave this way. Give up a precious jewel for some philosophical mumbo-jumbo about an attitude of giving? What planet are you from? Or maybe this could happen if someone was particularly "holy"—but that certainly wouldn't be me, we say to ourselves.

And yet I find it striking that when Jesus spoke of such things, he always spoke to the ordinary individual as if his radical understanding of life with God and our response of generosity might actually ADD something of surpassing value to the daily life of Joe and Mary Everyday. Might actually ADD something that was vital to figuring out how to REALLY live:

"If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers—most of which are never even seen—don't you think he'll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you? What I'm trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with *getting*, so you can respond to God's *giving*. People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. **Matthew 6:30-33 (The Message)**

That leads me to tinker with that legend in my mind. I wonder about the traveler; how the jewel might have changed his life if he would have kept it/used it? Certainly if the jewel was valuable enough he might have been able to afford all his heart's desires. Maybe way beyond the basics of food, shelter, and clothing he'd have had gourmet, palace, and finery. But what else might have

come? The fear that someone might steal something? That he would lose it in a market crash? That people would only love him for his money?

Course we say that if it would have been us, WE could have kept it all in healthy balance. But I wonder if honestly doesn't compel us toward that other self-insight noted above: (... "maybe this could happen if someone was particularly "holy"—but that certainly wouldn't be me...")

Find yourself worrying a bit these days? Does that worry have at least some connection to your stuff, to the things you have or would like to have? Have you ever noticed that the folks who truly are the most calm, joyous, content, and full of life are also the most generous?

The simple fact is, Jesus came for ordinary folks like you and me. And his insights, wisdom, guidance, teachings, TRUTH are for our lives. "I came that you might have life and have it abundantly," he said. I think the real question is, are we willing to see and accept him for who he is and trust his Way?

PRAYER

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve...

I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey.

I asked for health, that I might do great things...

I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.

I asked for riches, that I might be happy...

I was given poverty, that I might be wise.

I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men...

I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.

I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life...

I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.

I got nothing that I asked for...

But everything that I hoped for.

Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered...I am among all men most richly blessed. Amen

(Found in the clothing of an unknown dead, Confederate Civil War soldier.)

(**Getting to the roots:** while on sabbatical last year I was in northern California among the giant redwoods and read a plaque which noted a rather astonishing fact. Those massive trees can grow to a height of 360 feet but because of the abundant rain readily available at the surface, their roots only go down about 6-10 feet into the soil. That, of course, makes them very vulnerable to high winds—of which that coastal region experiences plenty. The trees survive though because their roots are intertwined and the roots of one reinforce the weakness of another. That and the fact that they can lean on each other. It seems like nature's way of confirming that we only make it through tough times *together*.)

I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and want. I can do all things in him who strengthens me.

Philippians 4: 12-13

ALL ABOUT OUR KIDS....



The first Sunday of True North is August 16th. We will have fun and games for children of all ages to kick-off the beginning of a new year! We set aside this weekly time of faith development for everyone as a reminder of our need to guide our lives by Jesus Christ the One who guides us—our TRUE NORTH. We're looking forward to kicking things off with a BANG this year!! We'll begin each Sunday with an opening for all ages in the Fellowship Hall. During this time we will share a brief message, prayer and an occasional song. There will be classes available for Preschool & Kindergarten, 1st – 5th grade, Middle School and Senior High. Adults are invited to join the "Live the Faith" group where there's always a lively discussion on topics we can all relate to. We're always looking for folks who are interested in sharing in our Youth/Children's Ministry at Word of Hope. The Kid's Summit team is looking for energetic people who would be interested in team-teaching, substituting, or doing something special with the children during opening. If you have an inkling that God is leading you in this direction or you just have a love for kids let us know! We will give you all the help and guidance you might need. Please contact **JENNIFER POLNISCH** at jap_signs@insightbb.com. We thank all for their leadership and we encourage everyone to invite your friends and neighbors to join us on Sunday morning. We'll look forward to seeing you!

OUR KIDS ARE
FRONT PAGE NEWS

Children are valued and respected in the Word of Hope community
Help & support of Children's Ministry comes from everyone at WOH.

Interactive (hands-on) and fun learning active
Learning the faith is a life-long journey

Driven by faith journeys, our personal experience and expertise

Relationships with Jesus get family support

Environments for learning are open, caring and supportive

Number one priority is our kids!



TRY _____ING SUNDAY

In our worship on Sunday, August 23, we're having a special emphasis—which we'll be talking more about in our services leading up to that day. In the meantime though, all we're willing to say is that the worship will follow our usual formats but the emphasis will be on finding joy and contentment in life. Set aside the date, we think you'll be glad you did.

PARENTS, YOUTH & WOH FOLKS

As with our confirmation program last year, we are inviting adults to join us as mentors AND co-explorers in "BIBLE BASICS". We meet on Sunday evenings from 6:30-8 pm. If it's been a while since you've gone back to the basics, this may well be God's nudge and invitation. Explore, mentor, and go deeper in your life with God. We begin Sunday, August 23.



WOMEN'S SERVICE GROUP

Thanks to all who participated in our RMH outings in July! In the month of August we will concentrate our efforts on collecting school supplies for kids at Surry Elementary as well as a Fayette County School. We are planning a return trip to God's Pantry - watch for details. Our monthly Bible Study/Discussion Group, "Daily Discipleship" will meet on Tuesday, August 25th at 6:30pm. Invite your friends and neighbors and join us. Contact **JANICE HAMPTON** or **DARLENE TAYLOR** for details.

HOUSE-OF-GOD KEEPING

"REMEMBER TOGETHER"

It was on the night of his betrayal, an end-of-life time when people focus on those things which really matter, that Jesus said to the gathering of disciples: "**Do this in remembrance of me.**"

And so we gather in worship each Sunday as people have gathered in the name of Jesus for 2,000 years. We gather and celebrate **THE MEAL**

- which connects us to Jesus who died & rose for us,
- which connects us to one another in forgiveness and in community AND
- strengthens us for service in the name of Jesus.

We **REMEMBER TOGETHER** because in the middle of difficult times it's too hard to remember, really remember, really deep down in the pit of our soul remember God's love and his promises of life in Jesus. If you've found the light of Christ flickering dimly in your life, come **REMEMBER TOGETHER**.

HEALING SERVICE

We will have a Service of Healing at both our worship times on Sunday, August 30th. This is a unique and special worship that includes the laying on of hands and prayers of healing. We all yearn for wholeness in our lives, which the healing power of the Holy Spirit brings to us. If you have a friend or neighbor who would especially benefit from this meaningful service, please invite them to worship with us that day. All are welcome to the Amazing Grace Place.

CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES



Church Council met on Tuesday, July 14 and reviewed the summer initiatives that are underway. Our "Surprise July" worship seems to be going well as has the Sunday evening worship services. We have maintenance/housekeeping issues of note - Dave Earnest is helping out with replacement of the shingles on the shed roof and our riding lawn more has broken down. Jason has recruited our "mower guru", John Polnisch to see what may need to be done with that.

The financial situation remains tight and there was considerable discussion by the Council regarding our operations and budget. Currently, our deficit is about \$4,000 but we are just getting by, week to week. With several quarterly bills due, Marjorie is quite concerned about the lack of resources to pay operational bills. We have appointed a team of Charlotte Wong, Jason Lambirth and Marjorie Floro to look at our year-to-date revenue and expenses and our current budget. The team has been charged with bringing recommendations back to the Council in August. With that information we hope to be able to set a reasonable plan for the remainder of the year. If there are any major deviations from the budget, a congregational meeting may be quickly convened. As always, we ask for your continued prayers and support for the Church Council, as well as our congregation.

—John McMullen

"...We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us"

KROGER BENEFITS

As you may know, each time Word of Hope members reload their Kroger gift cards, we receive a 4% check once those reloads total \$5,000. In February 2009 we received a check in the amount of \$232.44; in April we received a check in the amount of \$268.28; and in June we received a check in the amount of \$273.20 for a total of \$773.92. Let's consider that there are 50 family units at WOH each spending @\$100/week for gas/groceries at Kroger. In one month that would total \$5000, which means that every month WOH would receive a check in the amount of \$200 and over 12 months that would kick an extra \$2400 (or more) into our budget. What an incredibly easy way to give back to WOH on a regular basis!! Gift Cards are available in the church office for just \$5.

THANK YOU....

To **ROB MOORE** and **JOHN POLNISCH** for their time and effort in repairing our lawn mower! It is GREATLY appreciated!!

PRAISE BAND TIME

We'll be kicking up some new tunes as we begin practice in August (watch the Weekly Sheet)! If you've been thinking about playing or singing along - come join us!! Practice is Wednesday at 8:00pm. Or maybe you have some ideas or special pieces you'd like to hear. See **CHUCK** or **DAWN WEBB**.



WE WANT YOU!

Wanted: A few good people who are willing to do 5-minute or less tasks! We need a few more people willing to take the garbage and recycling cans down to the curb on Thursday night and bring them back up on Friday night. We also need a few people willing to change the furnace filters every few months. Interested? E-mail **JASON LAMBIRTH** at Jason@Lambirth.com, or call 502-867-0726.

OUTREACH AT WORD OF HOPE

Over the past months WOH folks have spent many hours helping in our community: Preparing meals at Ronald McDonald House and sorting food at God's Pantry. In the process we have learned much about the problem of hunger, the lives and challenges of our neighbors and, most importantly, more about ourselves. We have been awakened to the reality that there are so many more areas in which we can be of help - to be His hands and feet. It is in that hope that we are looking to reach out once again. In the coming months we look forward to bringing to light the many opportunities that are before us to serve right where we are.



Over the past few years we have collected and provided school supplies for the children at Surry Elementary in Surry, Virginia. **KATHERINE TIGHE**, daughter of **DON & COLLEEN BLACK**, has been a teacher in this school for a number of years.

She and her fellow teachers are most grateful for the generous outpouring from this congregation.

This year we have another opportunity right in our own backyard. In addition to collecting supplies for Surry, we will be collecting supplies for Tates Creek Middle & High School.

Supply lists are available in church entry but the needs are basic: pencils, notebook paper (both wide and narrow ruled), notebooks, backpacks, crayons, washable markers, index cards, construction paper, computer paper, school glue, scissors. So as you shop for your kid's school supplies at those bargain prices, why not pick up a few extras - the cost will be minimal but the benefit will be invaluable.

WOH FOLKS ...



OUR THANKS TO the KDRT Dance Ministry Team "LAUS DEO" (photo insert) and to NENA SWIGERT, Lexington Singers, for being part of our "Surprise July" Worship. Your giftedness was a joy to behold.

WE GREATLY APPRECIATE all who played a part in our "Surprise July" worship services. A special thanks to our planning team: LAURIE JOHNSON; DAWN WEBB; PASTOR DUVAL; SHANNON & KENNY HOLBROOK and JANICE HAMPTON to our guests: and to all who helped make these a uniquely distinctive part of Word of Hope Ministry.

THANKS TO DIANE WARD for her work in spot cleaning the carpet in the sanctuary. It really looks great!

THANKS TO BOB TAYLOR for his work each month in assembling the newsletter. We really appreciate your effort.

CONGRATULATIONS to RYAN & LAUREN CAMPBELL, who were married on Saturday, June 27th. Ryan is the son of MARIE CAMPBELL. May God's richest blessings be bestowed upon this couple in their new life together.

IT WAS A PLEASURE to have your group from Word of Hope come to the RMH. Our dinner groups are an integral part of all we do to ease the burdens on our guest families. Thank you so much for your time and effort on their behalf!

~Sincerely, Kelly Hamilton (Ronald McDonald House)

WE GRIEVE WITH

- JOHN & SHERRY POPP at the death STACI KELTS (Sherry's sister).
- WAYNE & ANNETTE FRAZIER and their family at the death of KEITH FRAZIER (Wayne's nephew)
- SUZANNE & TOM FEDORKA and their family at the death of GEORGE ROBERTS (Suzanne's stepfather)

Rest eternal grant them, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them.



MANY THANKS to STEVE JOHNSON and JULIE McEWEN for their work on the new WOH shirts! What a GREAT look! Thanks for your diligence in creating such a top notch product for all!



THE FOLLOWING NOTES OF THANKS have been received in regard to the Youth Mission Trip to Cleveland –

The kids and all had a great time and we hope that you did as well. Your donation was a definite surprise and very much appreciated. We desperately needed some art supplies so your donation is going to allow us to get quite a bit. Thank you again very much for taking the time with our kids and club and know that your dedication is greatly appreciated. We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors, and if you ever want to come back, feel free anytime.
~ Jeff Haynes

The church group from Word of Hope had a great time with our club members. Our cadet members are still asking when the group is coming back. Upon their exit, younger members were telling them they had so much fun and asked when they could come back. That says a lot about this group. I will welcome them back anytime to our club!
~ Elliot Lanier

Thank you again for all you did for Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland. I hope you enjoyed your time and I hope you'll visit us again sometime. God bless all of you!
~ Sherri Buehl

Thank you for volunteering at the Cleveland Food Bank. We appreciate your help in fulfilling our mission to alleviate hunger by providing food and support to community organizations that feed the hungry. Your support has made a big difference. Thank you for your time and effort. WE hope you will continue to volunteer.
Yours truly ~ Kristin W. and Alan Fratus

GAME NITE-WOH FOLKS & FRIENDS



As we wrap up the summer vacations, ballgames, summer camps and all that summer brings why not set aside a night to relax with friends and enjoy a fun fall night of games, food and good conversation. Bring your favorite snacks and beverage and come ready to play – corn hole, horse shoes – an evening full of fun and entertainment! Mark your calendar for **Saturday, August 28th at 7pm.**

REGULAR GATHERINGS:

Church Council; Tuesday August 11, 7pm at WOH

Care Team meets monthly at 7pm. Watch the Weekly Sheet for details.

Prayer & Conversation, Monday, August 24 7-8pm. Come and join other followers who continue to learn to pray.

Vision & Stewardship meets Monday, August 13th, 7pm at WOH.

Women's Bible Study/Discussion Group Tuesday, August 28th at 6:30pm at WOH.

"PARDONING LOVE"

BY ADINA PAUL

The sinner bowed before the throne, with tears and sorrow on his face,
"I am not worthy to be called Thy son, Thy law of love, I have disgraced."

"Oh Lord, I've done so many things, I've killed, I've stolen from the poor,
I've persecuted the ones that love Thy law and now, my punishment is death, I'm sure."

"My family and friends, I've hurt beyond repair, Have mercy on me oh Lord," The sinner cried in despair.

"Forgiveness, peace and love, I long to obtain from Thee,
For you alone can do this work, to save and pardon me."

"My words are too feeble, my strength is almost gone,
Have mercy on me, O Son of David, Have mercy on me, O Holy One."

Tears streaming down his face, his eyes are sunken to the ground,
And then a hand has touched his brow,

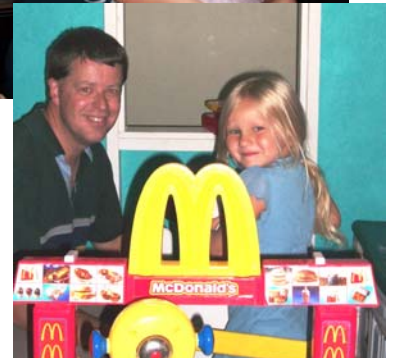
"Arise my son, for in thee favor I have found."

The sinner looked unto the Savior
"I pledge my life and all that I have to Thee, for I want the world to know it,
I serve the One who gave His life because of me."

Nothing is more precious than to serve Him,
The One who died for you and me, for love is only spelled in blood,
on the hill of Golgotha, the cross of Calvary.

*"I HAVE SET THE LORD ALWAYS BEFORE ME. BECAUSE HE IS AT MY RIGHT
HAND, I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN." (Psalm 16:8)*

In keeping with our Word of Hope Vision statement, we continue to pray for guidance toward the goal of glad and generous hearts. The Church Council is committed to sound financial stewardship and would encourage each person to include the church in your prayers: that we will be faithful stewards of all of the gifts with which God has blessed us so that this commitment is reflected in and throughout our entire congregation.



WOH Crew to Ronald McDonald House



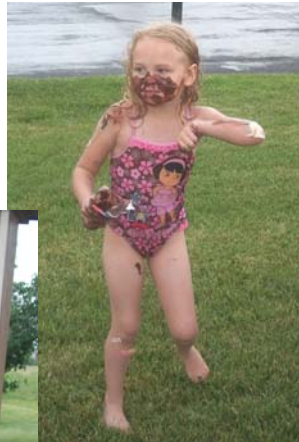
CH
Rag
Tie
Hat or Cap
Mitts

VEGETABLES
Canned Veggies
Including:
Green Veggies,
Assorted
Veggies and all
Tomato Product

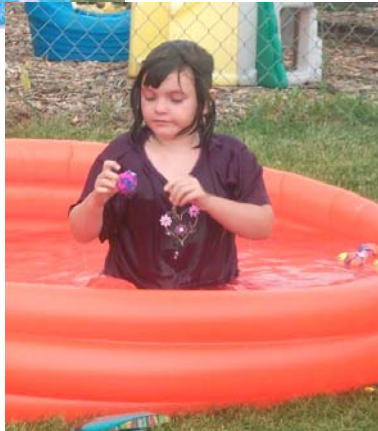


Word of Hope Folks at Work (God's Pantry)

And at play (Kid's Nite Out - Water Night)



Mr. Cook & Hannah get creamed!!





WOHLY-Word of Hope Lutheran Youth Activities

TUESDAY, AUG 4th KING'S ISLAND: We'll purchase tickets ahead of time. See **STEVE** or **DARLENE** if you'd like to go! We'll need plenty of adult chaperones to join in the fun! Watch for details!

TUESDAY, AUG 12th BACK TO SCHOOL!

SATURDAY, AUG 15th KID'S NITE OUT CAMPOUT – Bring your tent and sleeping bag and be ready to lead the kids in lots of fun games and a campfire with hot dogs & s'mores!

SUNDAY, AUG 16th KICKOFF TO TRUE NORTH – CELEBRATION SUNDAY!! We'll have Worship in Brin's Garden, a Potluck Brunch AND some KICKOFF SUPPRISES!! Don't miss it!!

THURSDAY, AUG 20th YOUTH TO SHRINER'S 6-7:30pm We'll join the patients in some games & activities then gather back at the church for some pizza and conversation about our experience. All are welcome!

SUNDAY, AUG 22 & 29 TRUE NORTH 9:30am. Come join in some interesting conversations based on the Nooma video series by Rob Bell. You'll want to see these!

SUNDAY, AUG 30th YOUTH TO LUNCH It's a chance for friends & family to gather with us, get to know each other and catch up on what's been happening – summer vacations, summer camp, mission trips, summer jobs, back to school – all that! Bring funds to cover your appetite and invite your friends to join us!

COMING IN SEPTEMBER: 'Wild & Wacky Wednesday' – Watch for Details!

**"CHILD OF GOD, MAY YOU BE FED AND STRENGTHENED IN WORSHIP,
THEN SENT TO SERVE IN JESUS NAME. AMEN"**