

*Word Of Hope*  
*The Amazing*  
*Grace*  
*Place*

SEPTEMBER 2009

*BLOOD MOBILE AT WOH*



It's a fact that only 5% of the population gives blood, yet 90% of us will be in need of blood by the time we're 60 years old. What other activity can you do that can save 3 lives in 30 minutes?? **Take the time on September 20<sup>th</sup>** – it's quality time! The Blood Mobile will be at Word of Hope from 8:45-Noon - plan now to give of yourself.

**GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE!**

*HOME COMING WEEKEND*

**WELCOME BACK!** On the weekend of October 3-4, we'll gather together in fellowship and worship to celebrate our community of faith here at Word of Hope. On Saturday afternoon, October 3 we'll gather together for our annual Oktoberfest. The festivities will start at 4:30 so the whole family can participate and enjoy the meal and activities. The event will take place rain or shine right here at Word of Hope! (In the event of bad weather, we'll switch to the fellowship hall so that the activities can go on as planned.) Then on Sunday morning, Oct 4, we'll gather for worship at a single service at 9:30 am.



We are trying to get in touch with former members who have moved from the area so that they can also be invited to the weekend. If you know of any addresses for former WOH folks, please let us know so that we can send them a note. Plan to bring your favorite Oktoberfest dish to share ~ feel free to invite your friends and neighbors to join in the fun! **BY ALL MEANS, MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR THIS GREAT EVENT.**

*BIBLE BASICS*

As with our confirmation program in previous years, 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.

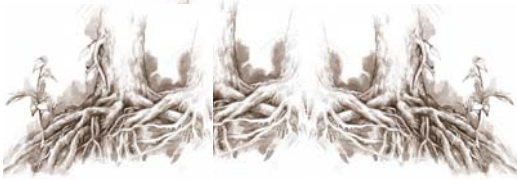
*FAMILY FEUD*

For a few special TRUE NORTH events, our children are going to play "Family Feud—Bible-style" which means we'll need some help with "the survey says." So...each week you'll be asked to answer a question that will help us do the set-up for the game. "What's your favorite Bible story? Bible character? etc. There are no "right" answers; just fun for everyone.



*Patience is life on god's time*

## FROM THE PASTOR



(Curious about the roots? See below)

A phrase I've kept running into lately has got me to thinking. Seems like everywhere I look there's "delight in the Lord" staring me in the face. It often shows up in the psalms but it's also elsewhere in the Bible as words to the same effect: "delight in the Lord."

I wonder if it grabs me because I know that "delight" is not exactly what many folks are experiencing these days. I'm blessed that as I write this I'm freshly returned from a week of family vacation which really was a delight. But I'm thinking of those for whom any kind of a break was out of reach this year; of those for whom a job/good health/some STABILITY would be a pretty good deal long about now.

Delight in the Lord? "Delight" at all may be a pretty far stretch but what would delight IN THE LORD even feel or look like? Then again, just because we may not know doesn't mean we can't learn from those who have gone before us. Or do we simply give up?

So I'm asking: when was the last time life in Christ really brought a sense of delight to you? When have you felt his peace which surpasses all understanding and disappointment? When was the last time you had a genuine sense of fulfillment, warmth, JOY in him? Have you recently looked at the people around you in worship and smiled to know that these people really are on your side / really are there for you if you will but ask? In short, when was the last time you roared out loud at the great, outrageously improbable good news that you are a child of God, the apple of God's eye, and that nothing can possibly happen to you that will go beyond God's loving, tender care?

I've always been struck by another phrase—this one from Tom Cahill's book, *Desire Of The Everlasting Hills*. Cahill talks about the early Jesus people and sums up that impossibly minuscule community by saying "They lived in a dangerous time under many strictures and disabilities—legal, social, economic, political—none of their own making. But it is hard to escape the impression that in their day they *lived buoyantly*." (Emphasis mine.) Lived buoyantly? Are you kidding? In the face of persecutions and betrayals, they lived buoyantly? We may wonder at

that but the indications from their track record are pretty unmistakable. They lived buoyantly!

Do you long to live buoyantly? Do you yearn to know a sense of delight which NO circumstances can crush? I simply point you toward him who has powered God's people through so many tribulations. It is the promise and invitation of Jesus: "Come to me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Mt 11:28-30)

Make no mistake; this is a leap. We'll have to be willing to learn from Jesus. We'll have to be open to his directing, to what he lays on us. But I do utterly believe that in Jesus we learn to laugh again. We learn to let go and let down. We learn that we were never meant to go it alone but rather enfolded within a community of Christ's own imperfect souls. We learn a delight in the Lord which no thing can take away from us.

Here's to laughing out loud. Again. Or maybe for the very first time.

### HOUSE-OF-GOD KEEPING

#### "SEEKING GOD'S CONTENTMENT"

"A devout life does bring wealth, but it's the rich simplicity of being yourself before God."

1 Tim 6:6 (The Message)

"Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that you have received ... but only what you have given: a full heart, enriched by honest service, love, sacrifice, and courage"

- St. Francis of Assisi

### PRAYER

Lord, educate us for a higher life, and let that life be begun here. May we be always in the school, always disciples, and when we are out in the world may we be trying to put into practice what we have learned at Jesus' feet. What he tells us in darkness may we proclaim in the light, and what he whispers in our ear in the closets, may we sound forth upon the housetops. Amen —  
Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892)

(**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*.)

**TRUE NORTH**

Our Sunday morning faith development time between worship got off to a great start on Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup> with a fantastic family event ~ great food, terrific games and an abundance of friends and fellowship!

Our True North students and mentors/teachers are using a curriculum called "IT." The stories/lessons focus on Bible Basics – stories which strike a familiar chord with many of us. This ties in well with the Bible Based series of our confirmation program, which will also emphasize "Bible Basics" this year. In addition to teaching the Bible stories, we will also help our younger members become more familiar with using their Bibles and learning key elements of our worship (Lord's Prayer, the Creeds, etc). Continue to watch the Kid's Newsletter for ideas you can use at home with your children. As always, if you have any spark of interest in working with our youth--please feel free to contact **JENNIFER POLNISCH**. We are always happy to have folks share in the passion we all have for children's ministry here at WOH.

**FIRST COMMUNION CLASS**

We're putting together a class of instruction for children who would like to receive Holy Communion for the first time. If you believe your child is ready for this next step in his or her journey of faith, please contact Pr Duval. He can also provide some material that will answer questions that parents and children often have.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST**

**ATTENTION GOLFERS !!!!!** After a much needed respite the WOH Men's Group will reconvene on **Saturday, September 8th** at White Dove Driving Range. Join us at 9am! Plan to bring your favorite fast food breakfast & golf clubs and invite a friend or two! Contact **FRANK ADAMS** at Daddo99@hotmail.com for more information.

**WALK AS YET BY FAITH**

Our two small care groups—"Live the Faith" Wednesdays, 7-8 pm and "Lifeline" Sundays 9:30 am—are shaping up. Check the weekly sheet for topics. No preparation necessary! Walk-ins are always welcome.

**PARENTWEEN GROUP (PTG)**

Mark your calendars - Our first Parents' get together for the fall will be **Sunday, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm**. (First Sunday evening of the month.) New to the teens & tweens parenting thing? It does provide some unique twists and challenges but there's no need to go it alone! This is an excellent group for all parents, neighbors and friends of Middle School & High School youth to get to know each other as we look into parenting joys and challenges. Hope to see you there! For more information: Call Church Office/Darlene 272-8515.

**FRIENDS: FINE FOOD & LIVELY****CONVERSATION**

This fall we're continuing our series of "Friends" gatherings. It's a "diners night" that joins folks together for food and conversation. Adults can sign up as "hosts" or as simply "participants." Hosts will be responsible for setting a time and date for their gathering, providing a main dish, and contacting their list of participants who will in turn bring to the event a side dish as assigned by the host. (Dessert, bread, salad, etc.) The gathering can be anything ~ a picnic, BBQ, game night or formal dinner. If not enough "participants" can make it, the host is then free to invite anyone else—friend, neighbor, relative, co-worker, whoever. The object is simply to get folks together for a pleasant meal and opportunity for fellowship. Gatherings will be in Sept or Oct, Nov or Dec & Jan or Feb. Questions? See **DARLENE TAYLOR** or check out the **CLIPBOARDS**.

**FALL WORK DAY**

It's time for a little fall cleanup ~ time to trim the bushes spruce things up a bit! Darlene & Bob Taylor would like to invite folks to a little 'fall cleanup party' in Brin's Garden on **Saturday, October 3** in preparation for their daughter's upcoming. They'd appreciate any help you can offer ~ and we'll enjoy the joy of some great fellowship along the way. And if you can't make it feel free to stop by anytime and lend a hand at one of the islands or whatever you see that needs a little attention. Contact **JASON LAMBIRTH** at Jason@Lambirth.com.



## WOH FOLKS ...



**OUR THANKS TO GLENDA EARNEST** for her work on the window treatments in the sanctuary. The added dowel rods help keep them in place and prevent further damage to the walls. It looks great Glenda!

### CONGRATULATIONS TO PASTOR DUVAL

upon the anniversary of his ordination. We are deeply grateful for your many years of faithful service to this congregation. May God continue to bless you and uplift you.

**OUR THANKS** to the people of **AA (Alcoholic Anonymous)** and **SUE & PASTOR DUVAL** for the carpet cleaning at church. It really looks great. Thanks much.

**SPECIAL THANKS** to **BOB LIPINSKI & JOHN POLNISCH** for their exceptional effort in restoring WOH's curb appeal. They, along with Pr Duval, have spent several hours battling those weeds! And many **THANKS TO ALL** who have helped out over the past few months with lawn care – mowing, trimming and all that keeps this place looking its best! Your time & efforts are most appreciated!

**OUR THANKS** to the many faithful servants who work quietly behind the scenes at WOH. These folks subtly care for this congregation in many and thoughtful ways and in grateful response to the ONE who has called them.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO ZACK EARNEST

who recently passed the National Fire Fighters Fitness Test! He's been through several qualifications tests, including one of the major hurdles, the physical agility or CPAT. It is a continuous sequence of eight events, during which the participant wears a weighted vest while climbing a tower and performing several manipulative skills prior to descending the tower. It's a pass/fail test in which all events must be completed in 10 minutes and 20 seconds or less and participants have only one chance to pass in order to move onto the next step in the hiring process and gaining their badge. Zack is in the final testing phase for the Frankfort Fire Dept. Way to go Zack!!



To my Word of Hope family,  
Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that you have done to help me during my recovery since my fall. Your generous outpouring of love, kindness and support have meant the world to me. I am humbled, amazed and will always be grateful for the gracious friendship that you have given me ... recently and throughout the years.

~ Your sister in faith, *Julie McEwen*

## BOOKS AT WORD OF HOPE

We've changed some things around in terms of our book use at Word of Hope. Please note the following:

**THE ROLLING USED BOOK SALE.** The books on the shelf in the entryway are now part of an ongoing used book sale. See something you like? Drop a donation in the box and take your new found treasure home. Like to get rid of some books? Bring them in and add them to the shelves. They'll become part of the on-going sale.

**BIBLE REFERENCE LIBRARY** We continue to have a pretty impressive collection of reference books on the Bible and basic theology. That's now on the shelf in the back classroom and is available to all on a simple honor system. If you find something helpful, simply borrow it and then bring it back. The only thing we ask is that you don't return it to the shelves in the entryway.

### *AS THROUGH A GLASS DIMLY...*

A miserly man once visited a minister and complained about everything in his life. The pastor led him to a window. "Look out there," he said, "and tell me what you see."

"I see nothing but some people," replied the rich man somewhat disdainfully.

Then the clergyman led the miser to a full-length mirror. "And now what do you see?" he asked.

"I see myself," answered the rich man as he puffed up his chest and admired his reflection.

"That's the problem!" said the preacher. "The window and mirror are both made of glass. But the mirror is covered with a fine layer of silver and that's the problem. A little silver is added and we cease to see others and our opportunities to serve them; we only see ourselves and think about what more we must have."

### *SURPRISE JULY FEEDBACK*

Our special, single services in "Surprise July" were quite different from our usual fare. If you have some feedback from your participation, we'd love to hear it. It will be very helpful for anything that might be planned for the future. And thanks again to all who helped with planning and worship.

### REGULAR GATHERINGS

**Women's Bible Study: Tues, Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 pm at WOH.**

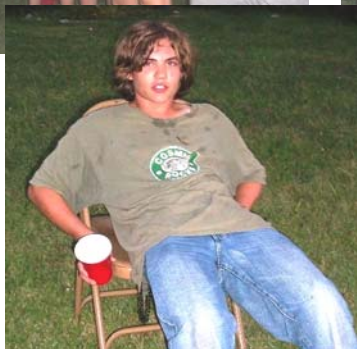
**Church Council; Tues, September 8, 7 pm at WOH**

**Care Team meets monthly at 7pm. Watch for details.**

**Vision & Stewardship: Tues, Sept 15<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm at WOH.**

**Prayer & Conversation: Mon, Sept 21<sup>st</sup> 7-8 pm.**

# KIDS' NITE OUT FAMILY CAMPOUT



## WORSHIP IN BRIN'S GARDEN/SUMMER BRUNCH POTLUCK



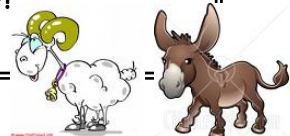
### CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES

Church Council met on Tuesday, August 11th and reviewed comments regarding "Suprise July" and Sunday evening worship. Of the "Suprise July" themes, the 2nd service focusing on creativity seems to have received the most positive feedback. Everyone felt it was interesting to utilize different worship styles and some may reappear throughout the year. Sunday evening worship throughout the summer seems to have been a hit and also may return. Those services used a short, spoken liturgy and used *Nooma* videos for proclamation and discussion.

Finances remain a concern for Church Council and, as cash flow issues continue in August, Council decided a special meeting will be held on August 25th to keep closer tabs on this. We may be faced with the difficult reality of cutting expenses for the last quarter of 2009. In the meantime, ministries continue forward with the kickoff of True North and confirmation, a RAMP build being scheduled, a fellowship event being planned for the fall, etc. The Council is looking forward to the fall with hopeful anticipation of what God has in store for Word of Hope and we hope you are too...It should be an exciting time!  
—John McMullen

### KID'S DAY OUT - 'DOWN AT THE FARM'

We're planning a special outing for September! We're heading to the farm in Richmond where the kids will meet all the animals – goats, llamas, horses....and we'll do a little pre-Christmas video. (What better setting to act out the Christmas story??) **Watch for details – and plan to make it a fun family day!**  
**We'll need plenty of adults!!!**



## LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE.....



The group we call 'Women's Service Group' was started as a way for WOH folks & friends to get involved in regular outreach opportunities. At the root of the group is a monthly Study/Discussion that provides focus and direction. We have had

a tremendous response to our recent outings to God's Pantry and Ronald McDonald House as well as to the collection of school supplies for Surry Elementary & Tates Creek. Some of the folks who have participated in these projects were asked to share their reflections. *Here's what they had to say.....*

"In July I was able to participate with others in preparing meals for those staying at RMH. Even though we were "working" we had a wonderful time. There were enough people that cooking for 40 people was a breeze. Everyone pitched in to complete the meal quickly. It was fun visiting with people and getting to know them beyond what Sunday morning church time allows. The best part was sitting down afterwards with the people staying there and the WOH folks and "breaking bread" - enjoying the fellowship that a meal offers. Afterwards many people came by to thank us for coming and to tell us how much they had enjoyed the food.

At first, I had another reason for participating. I wanted to give back to the organization of RMH house for all the help we received while Makenzie was in the hospital in June. Being able to stay there at a minimal cost along with the meals that people prepared helped financially. But it was more than the financial help that they provided, it was the support & love that we felt from the many different volunteers that made us not feel so alone in a big city far away from friends and loved ones.

Being away from home and your normal support system can be lonely and financially challenging when you're experiencing a difficult bump in your child's life. Some of the families we met at the RMH house here had been there for not just a couple days or weeks but some even a couple of months. Being able to give them a home-cooked meal that they did not have to pay for might seem like little help and comfort in such difficult times. However, it is all the "little helps" added together which make you feel that maybe you can make it through that time period because, after all, you're not alone in this big city full of strangers. There is someone who cares enough to make you a meal, say a kind word, and donate things that you need for your stay. "

*~Dawn Webb*

"When I was asked to write about my experience at God's Pantry & Ronald McDonald House I said "yes". (Maybe I was too fast at saying that.) How does a person tell about his or her experience in a brief article, especially me, who likes to talk! For me, the experience was a feeling. I watched the youth have happy faces sorting food at God's Pantry and I wondered if they knew how they touched people's lives. Personally, for me, RMH was my smile. I talked with a young mother whose baby is a premie and a grandmother nurturing and caring for her grandson who was in a car accident. They had hope and love. I prayed for these people and thanked God for my blessings. Also, I thought of Mother Teresa's quote, "Give until it hurts, because real love hurts." You too can share in this experience. It's time for us to step up to the plate and hit the ball, toss it and strike the puck. Let your light shine for Jesus!"

*~Marilyn Washkkuhn*

"Serving dinner at RMH is fun and rewarding. Cooking (putting out grease fires, forgetting how much butter is in a stick...) is easy and we get to know each other better while helping people who are hurting. We've done it with anywhere from 3 to 15 people, but regardless the residents are always grateful that we take time to share an evening with them. Watch for upcoming times in the newsletter/announcements and join us!"

*~ Kelly & Kayla Metzler, Steve Adams*

In a land of plenty, it is difficult to imagine that there are children going hungry, working parents struggling, and elderly forced to choose between medication & groceries. There are numerous agencies that work to alleviate hunger in our community and in the month of September we'll have to opportunity to work alongside one of them. On Saturday, September 19th we're offering an opportunity to join together as God's hands and feet in His world as we prepare and serve breakfast for about 125-150 folks at Catholic Action Center. We'll be need PLENTY of volunteers! And we'll be seeking donations of pancake mix, sausage, juice, etc. **Watch for details and let God lead.....**

## DAILY LIFE...



We do not need the grace of God to withstand crises--human nature and pride are sufficient for us to face the stress and strain magnificently. But it does require the supernatural grace of God to live twenty-four hours of every day as a saint, going through drudgery, and living an ordinary, unnoticed, and ignored existence as a disciple of Jesus. It is ingrained in us that we have to do exceptional things for God--but we do not. We have to be exceptional in the ordinary things of life, and holy on the ordinary streets, among ordinary people--and that is not learned in five minutes. Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*

## **WOHLY-Word of Hope Lutheran Youth Activities**



**SUNDAY MORNINGS IT'S TRUE NORTH!!** Don't miss this opportunity to join in some conversation and get-to-know-you time! We have several interesting activities and discussion starters in mind – no two Sundays alike! Come and see! It begins at **9:30am!!**

**SR HIGH YOUTH - PAINT BALL** Coming up in September – cost will be @ \$25 person. Adult chaperones are welcome and encouraged to join in the fun! Watch for details!

**WILD & WACKY WEDNESDAY...** Wondering what it's all about?? Come find out Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> from 5-7pm. Bring a friend or two – there will be food, fun and some interesting activities!!

**YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT** Need some community service points for school?? Or maybe you just want to hang out with the WOHLY crew! For the month of September we'll be going to God's Pantry to help in sorting and packing food. Watch the weekly sheet and e-weekly for details!

**YOUTH TO LUNCH** We'll gather at noon on Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup> and head out to lunch! It's a great time to introduce friends to the group so bring them along! And don't forget funds to cover your appetite!

**Please Come and Join Us – All Are Welcome!!**