

The Newsleaf

Odessa Community of Christ

May 2009

From our pastor's desk . . .

I'm driving home. It's dark, I'm bleeding from dozens of scratches on my legs, bug bites cover my body and my right shoe feels and smells like a swamp. Worst of all I was supposed to be home a while ago and I am probably in trouble with my wife (movie night). Yep, I had been fishing. Why would a person put themselves through such pain and suffering? Bugs, thorn trees and snakes ... Oh my! I step in the door of the house and I hear, "Did you catch any." And then, "Take your shoes off." Let the stories begin.

I like to fish. It's an excuse to get outside and enjoy nature and, if you're lucky, share some time with a good friend. I've had many fishing buddies throughout my life: my dad, sometimes mom, my sister was just a target for me to throw worms on, my cousin, my co-workers, often my uncle (ask Paul about some stories), my wife and my favorite fishing buddies, my children.

"Hello, Bruce" "Yeah" "Did you see the sun was out today? You know ..." it was Jeff and he wanted to go fishing in one of our favorite places. He said he has had a really tough week and just needed to get away for a couple of hours. Thank you God for sending someone, my week had been stressful too. "I'm headed home to get my pole and I'll pick you up."

We got to the pond and unloaded, left our cell phones in the jeep and got to fishing. We don't have any rules on what you can talk about or not. Only that a bit of trash talking will happen when somebody's not catching any. On that particular day I can remember saying that I hoped God would give us something awesome today. I just needed it. And God was listening.

I don't remember how many fish we caught that day, but I do remember the day very well. Standing about 30 or so feet from each other, Jeff and I talked and released some of the world's stressors. Still casting out and reeling in, Jeff drew my attention to a hawk circling overhead. "Wouldn't that be awesome for that hawk to swoop down and snatch a fish?" The hawk picked up speed, dove down, skimmed above the water for a moment and ... got it! Totally amazing as God showed His presence to a couple of buddies who needed something different that day. We needed something more.

More than once I have called upon Jeff to respond as "a fisher of men". We have stood side by side and shared our hearts to wanted hearts. We have bled together and sweat together to lift others in need.

I need fishing buddies. God gave me fishing buddies and I know He is in control in all things. We have been given the comforter, the Holy Spirit, to be with us and lift us. My God, your God, is awesome.

I remember that day and the hawk and saying out loud, "Thanks for that one, Lord." We all need those times of repose and refreshment. I have found many lessons in fishing. I have found people I love. And I have found the Lord. *Bruce*



J.O.Y. BREAKFAST CLUB
50+ Breakfast Club
Saturday, May 16th
8:30 a.m. @ Morgan's Restaurant

WORK DAY PLANNED FOR SATURDAY, MAY 9TH 8 A.M.

At the church
Bring tools for painting, and cleaning
Come enjoy a work day with friends!



JUNIOR CHURCH IS FOR "KIDS"!

Grades 1-6 on May 17th
At 11 AM

BREAKFAST SERVERS FOR MAY

May 3rd	Communion
May 10th	David & Pauline
May 17th	Harold & Patty
May 24th	Donn & Dena
May 30th	Dennis & Kathy

NEW MINISTRIES ON THE WEB

www.odessacofchrist.org

Exciting additions to bring greater ministry to you and your neighbor. Scripture Study, Ladies Ministry and Men's Ministry, Media and Photos. Updated calendar and Ministry Schedule for quick reference. Check it out!

SENIOR NIGHT
Wednesday, May 27th
7:00 pm at the church

Our Family Night this month will honor our graduating high school Seniors! Our grads are: Karlee Cole and Elizabeth Watson. Watch bulletin for further information

WOMEN SPRING FLING WAS EXCEPTIONAL!

24 Ladies gathered for a long anticipated evening of fun and fellowship, laughter and bonding with great friends! All ladies! All ages! Super!

Sami Slater led "The Supermarket Bouquet Challenge" stirring hidden



talent and storage room surprises! Dust it off! Add flowers! A cup! Old cracked bowl! A shoe?!? Add flowers! Ladies creative juices began to flow and what fun and pretty arrangements created!



"Cowgirl Wii Fit led by Jenny Kramer! WE WERE NOT! Fit that is! Hilariously challenging! Winners of the spotted cow were Pam Corn and Elizabeth Watson!

The infamous "PJ Fashion Show" brought the backstage group onto the runway as Pam got the shivers while Elaine got the winning prize in her Hawaiian kimono.

LATE movie goes on the big screen, found our breakfast group surpris-

ingly ready to continue where they left off the night before. Great time for sharing! (Ladies, check out our website for pictures)

A RED CARNATION OCCASION!

Bryan and Shelly Coffey announce the birth of a son, Brylly Paul-Wayne Coffey, born Friday, April 10th, weighed 8 lb. 13 oz and 21 inches long. The extra proud grandparents are Rick and Pam Corn. A bouquet was presented from the congregation to the new parents.

CHINA MCMEX DINNER MAKES A RAINY DAY GREAT!

A walk in the tulips and a wonderful warm meal can bring sunshine to any rainy day! And we did! And they did! In love and fellowship we took in over \$860 with a sizeable donation from one of our visitors! We are looking to order our much needed chairs for the fellowship hall with your donations! Thanks for sharing in His glorious day!

MEN'S LOOKING TO A WINNING SEASON!

Our men gathered for the first "kick off" of the season with a Men's Chili Dinner meeting, Sunday, April 19th. John



Billings scored with his great chili dinner and fellowship! He warmed the team up with great food and scripture lessons— definitely two ways to a man's heart!

Looks like a winning season ahead!

CONGREGATION SHARES IN BAPTISM & BABY BLESSING



Vic Dutel was baptized Sunday, April 19th in a spirit led worship service, by Elder Bruce Watson and Confirmed by Elder Tracy Dyer and Evangelist David Watson.

We are so happy for Vic and the commitment he has made and feel blessed to have he and his family sharing with us in fellowship here in Odessa.



__Brylly Paul Wayne Coffey was blessed Sunday, April 19th by Elders Phil Meyer and Bruce Watson.

YOUNG ADULTS

Young Adults found each other for fellowship early Easter morning for Sunrise Service, breakfast and great sharing in SS Class session.



Mini-golf had a last minute change indoors due to weather. Weather was sunny and bright inside as our Young Adults found creative ways to enjoy great fun and fellowship with friends!

Y.O.U. (Youth Onward & Upward)

On April 26th, Y.O.U. carpooled to Pleasant Hill to watch Ashley Meyer in her Hillside performance.

Watch bulletin for upcoming activities!

*Jeff & Jenny Kramer,
Jr High/Sr High Leaders*

2009 YOUTH CAMPS BEGIN

May 29-May 31	Children's Camp
@ Farwesta	Grades K-1-2
June 13-17	Junior Camp
@ Farwesta	Grades 3-4-5
June 26-30	Family Camp
@ Camp Doniphan	
June 30-July 5	Sr Hi Camp
@ Farwesta	Grades 9-10-11-12
July 5-10	Jr Hi Camp
@ Farwesta	Grades 6-7-8
July 21-24	IYF 2009—Indep
	Grades 9-10-11-12
July 25-Aug 11	Spectacular
@ Graceland	Grades 10-11-12
	Grade Completed

EASTER WORSHIP OUTSTANDING AT ALL SERVICES

- Odessa congregation hosted the Maundy Thursday service with Bates City, Richmond and Oak Grove. Special service was a portrayal of the Lord's Supper in the Upper Room with the foot washing of the disciples and sharing in communion.
- Palm Sunday found an array of children and Palm leaves in worship and praise.
- Easter Morning—Sunrise Service, Breakfast and Easter Worship to a record breaking crowd! Stimulating Easter message in-

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dpwatson@embarqmail.com or
Phone 816-633-3250

spired and motivated! Enhancing that spirit the Adult Choir offered special reflection and ministry in song. The dynamic closing by the brass quartet truly defined praise! Awesome spirit of worship and praise throughout this Easter season!

Take a moment to reflect on some of our time spent together in photo and slide show posted on our website.

www.odessacofchrist.org

SQUARE DANCING DISCONTINUED

Our winter exercise has been discontinued for the summer and into gardens and summer activities!

Keep up the exercise!

PRESIDENT VEAZEY ADDRESS TO THE CHURCH APRIL 5, 2009

This address, in its entirety as printed in May 2009 Herald, can be found online at the World Church website: www.cofchrist.org. Within that address, as a church we are reminded—*“What matters most is for us to become who God is calling us to become so the restoring ministry of Christ can be shared in every possible way in every possible place.”*

“On several occasions, I sensed the impress of the Spirit. In response, I want to give voice to what I sensed through the following words to the church:

Fear not! Do not be afraid to become who God is calling you to become. God, the Eternal One, has been with you in your past, continues with you in the present, and already is waiting patiently for you in the future. Through your lives the sacred story of the Restoration still is being written.

Engage the current challenges and opportunities before you with commitment and hope worthy of the dedication and sacrifices of those who went before you. Creatively build on the faith foundations they laid. Open windows and doors to the future.

Beloved community, God has chosen you to assist in accomplishing divine purposes if you will choose to live out of your better natures and potential. Deepen your faith. Refine your sensitivity to the guidance of the Spirit so that you are not distracted by other influences. Explore your scriptures with openness to new insights that will come. Increase your compassion and generosity. Strengthen your relationships so the peace of Christ may be magnified through you.

Have courage and hope. Gather in the gifts of all ages and cultures so the ministries of the body can become whole and fully alive. Others are being prepared around the world to join their efforts with yours, if you will move ahead according to the direction offered to you by the Spirit. Amen.

Brothers and sisters, there is a way into the future that holds the promise that our best days are yet before us.

May we choose it is my fervent hope and prayer.”

—*excerpts from Steve M. Veazey's April 5, 2009, Address to the Church*

May Birthdays!



- 01- Lily Anthony
- 05- Doug Green
- 07- Jane Matney
- 11- Ron Mills
- 13- Sunny Day
- 14- Shelly Coffey
- 14- Andy Oakes
- 15- Harold Watson
- 20- Phyllis Christensen
- 22- Alicia Hudson
- 24- Mark Gustafson
- 25- Allen Twilligear
- 27- Jacob Quick
- 28- Christina Ramsey
- 29- Melissa Lindsey
- 29- Jennifer Smith
- 30- Elaine Smith



Community of Christ



515 S First
Odessa, MO 64076

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday:

9:15 AM Breakfast Gathering
9:45 AM Sunday School Classes
10:45 AM Worship Service
2:00 PM Young Adult Meeting
5:30 PM Youth Meeting
7:00 PM Choir Practice

1st Sunday of the Month:

8:45 AM Family Prayer Service
9:30 AM Preparation
9:45 AM Sunday School Classes

Wednesday:

7:00 PM Prayer Service
Family Night last Wednesday

Pastor: Bruce Watson 816-520-7493

Mission Statement — "We proclaim Jesus Christ and promote Communities of Joy, hope, love and peace."

Church Website:
www.odessacofchrist.org

Come! Worship Our Risen Lord!

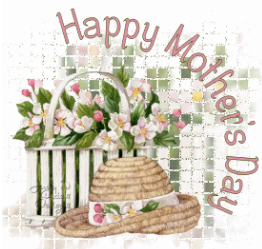


CENTRAL MO MISSION CENTER CONFERENCE

SUNDAY, MAY 3
WARRENSBURG CHURCH
3 P.M.

FELLOWSHIP ~ BUSINESS ~ WORSHIP
ORDINATIONS

Former Apostle Linda Booth will be with us for this conference along with President of Seventy Robert Kyser and Karin Peter, Field Missionary Coordinator



May 2009

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8:45 am Prayer Ser Mission Ctr Conf	4 Scouts Leader Mtg	5	6 7pm Prayer Ser	7 Brownies 5:30-7pm	8	9 8 am Work Day at the church
10 Mother's Day No Potluck Baccalaureate	11	12 OHS Sr Awards	13 7pm Worship	14	15 OHS Graduation	16
17	18	19	20 7pm Prayer Ser	21	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day	26	27 7pm Senior/ Family Night	28	29 Children's Camp May 29--30th	30
31 Temple Event						