

The Newsleaf

Odessa Community of Christ

May 2008

Handed Down From The Cross

What is a hand-me-down? My children couldn't properly describe the meaning, but my wife can. My son surely would never have accepted a hand-me-down "girls" bicycle.... but I did.

I lived a childhood of outdoors and smiles. Dad worked in the city as a mailman, and mom was a stay at home mom. Mom knew how to make the very most of the money we had. Always busy with the garden, canning (another term my children cannot describe), garage sale shopping and a bunch of other things that I cannot to this day understand, all to make ends meet. Don't let the cat out of the bag, but I really never went without anything I needed (and very few things I wanted).

The one thing I remember the most, was that I seemed to always get my sister's hand-me-down bikes. Now think for a moment. Boys bike – cool! Girls bike – NOT cool. After a brief frown I jumped on that bike with excitement and a yell. Jumping ramps, plowing through brush and my favorite, mud puddle splashing. All done on a girls bicycle.

Looking back, I had a lot of things handed down to me. I got jeans from my cousin and hot wheels from a kid at church. But I also was given imagination from my mother and an ornery streak from my grandpa'. I was handed a passion of the outdoors from my aunt and a love of the parables of Jesus from my Sunday school teacher. I am grateful for what has been given to me.

What has been handed down to me has made me stronger, more creative, more appreciative, more humble... better. Dear Lord, I pray you would hand me down Your grace. I ask you give me Your ability to forgive. You have sent down Your Holy Spirit to be with us through our struggles. Thank you Lord for those things we do not understand. All handed down from the cross.

How else can you receive love, than it be given from one to another? I have lived in a hand-me-down world, and I smile at the thought of the joys and the wonderment of it all. Handed down from the cross.

Bruce Watson

Central Mission Center Conference
May 4th 3 PM
Warrensburg Church

Apostle Linda Booth, Seventy Karin Peter, and Bob Kyser will be present to share in ministry

CENTRAL MISSOURI MISSION CENTER
FAMILY CAMP 2008!

June 20-24th

Registration Forms available online @

www.cmcofchrist.com

Registration by June 5th to avoid a \$25 late ch

__Kids Choir__

We skipped April choir practice, but we will have choir practice on May 25th at 5pm before Peacemakers.

Junior Church is Sunday, May 18th
at 11 am

Kids, you won't want to miss our campfire!

Junior Church, if the weather is nice, we are going to go outside and have our own campfire" (without fire). That's Sunday, May 18th. See you there!

__Peacemakers__

Sunday, May 25th 5:30 pm

Last week we talked about what it means to be a "Peacemaker". We talked about how Jesus wants each of us to be kind to one another not just in church but also at home and school. Each of us promised to show kindness this week and here are some examples on how they were going to do this.

- *I am going to tell my teacher, "Good Morning" every day.*



- *If someone in my class drops a pencil, I am going to pick it up for them.*
- *If someone is playing by themselves at recess, I am going to play with them.*
- *If I hear someone saying bad things to someone, I am going to tell them " Stop saying that, it's not very nice".*
- *I am going to do what my mommy tells me.*

We always look forward to snack time. It is wonderful to see the children help and work together by passing out snacks, drinks and actually clean up after themselves!! They look forward to being with one another and it is wonderful for me to see the friendships they all have made with one another. Each of them are very caring children. It is obvious that they are proud of their "Peacemaker" get-togethers and have brought friends of theirs to joins us on several occasions.

Hopefully the weather will be nice for special outside activity in May!!

Thank you to all the parents and grandparents for bringing your children to Peacemakers. I hope your children enjoy the time as much as Eric does. He can't wait for the next one!! Mindy

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

The youth will be serving lunch at the garage sale on Saturday as a fundraiser for the camping fund.

Let me know if you are interested in attending "Rock The Light" over Labor Day weekend with other youth from the mission. The cost will be around \$35 for both days. We will need the money in June to get the best price.

2008 Youth Camps!

May 22 *Children's Camp Registration Deadline*
May 29 *Early Registration date Youth Camps & Spec*

June 13-15 *Children's Camp @ Heit's Point*
June 28-July 3 *Sr High Camp @ Camp Farwesta*
July 6-11 *Jr High Camp @ Camp Farwesta*
July 19-26 *Spectacular @ Graceland University*
August 3-7 *Junior Camp @ Camp Farwesta*

There are camp registration forms available in the foyer or online at www.cmcofchrist.org.

Breakfast for May__

May 4th
 May 11th Patty Watson
 May 18th John Billings
 May 25th Bruce & Sarah Watson

Ordinations__Dena Quick was ordained to the office of Priest, by Evangelist David Quick and High Priest Donn Quick.



Ilene Sheets was ordained to the office of Priest by Elders Bruce Watson and Tracy Dyer.

Cell Phones at Morning Worship!

Someone's cell phone just went off Our pastor's!?? But we're having announcements! . . . "Can you hold? (Can you hold? You've got to be kidding!) . . . They could! Announcements continue. . . Taking longer than expected . . . "Can I call you right back?" . . . Announcements end, and as he said he would, our pastor redials the strange caller!! Whoever it was answered!! (Had our pastor lost it? We were holding Sunday morning service here!)

Then our pastor put his cell phone on the micwe could hear voices breaking up on the other end so we listened closely to see what was going on and who it was that was interrupting our service! Cody? Luke? Our Young Adults, in a pre-arranged call, were on the line on retreat from Florida, wanting to share in the special service of ordination with us that day! They shared the great time they were having and Cody sharing with his grandmother on her ordination, offered the opening prayer for our service!



A unique opportunity for all, no matter the miles or the place, sharing the spirit of love and God's riches blessings with one another __ definitely a special moment shared together in worship!

Women's Ministry__Women Rock! On Saturday, April 12th, our group of women had breakfast out at Golden Corral. We sat at the back so we could laugh, talk, and have a good time. And boy, did we ever. We missed those who could not come but ate our hearts out at the food buffet to make up for anyone who wasn't with us. Although our meetings are suspended until Fall, we intend to be hard at work this Summer at all the Congregational activities.

LADIES, remember our City-wide Garage Sale this Saturday!

Norma Ewbank is welcomed home from hospital to a beautiful flower garden planted by our youth group! We are so glad she is home and doing great after such a long stay! Thanks youth for such a special gift!



China-Mex Fundraiser

Last Sunday a wonderful buffet dinner was spread to a capacity crowd! No waiting for a table! No long lines! No extra gas burned! Lots of food and visiting! Food cooked by the ever famous Lou Green, Dena Quick and Pauline Watson.



We would like to thank the great response from the congregation at our Building Fund dinner! Total proceeds to be announced Sunday.

On the count of three . . . "Buy That Car!"



Dena Quick, our Fundraiser Chairman, led us in an exciting chant Sunday, April 27th! On the count of three, shouts of joy, celebration and commitment "BUY THAT CAR!" came from the congregation!

We had raised the needed money to purchase our first car! We are on our way raising those figures higher and higher in our Building Fund account!! The rapid response of our investors was awesome with funds still coming in! A special thanks to all of you!

Tracy Dyer will get back with us soon with his successful purchase of that car!

We ask for your prayers for the success of our new fundraiser as we move forward in our Building project!

May Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 01- Lily Anthony | 22- Alicia Hudson |
| 07- Jane Matney | 24- Doug Green |
| 11- Ron Mills | 25- Allen Twilligear |
| 13- Ed Day | 27- Jacob Quick |
| 14- Shelly Coffey | 28- Christina Ramsey |
| 14- Andy Oakes | 29- Melissa Lindsey |
| 15- Hal Watson | 29- Jennifer Smith |
| 19- Duane Hayward | 30- Elaine Smith |
| 20- Phyllis Christensen | |

Building Committee met Sunday evening, April 27th continuing their research on our building plans we have on the table. Our pastor shared hard-copy updates of building progress thus far, opening discussion and planning from the committee. This week the group unites in prayer each morning in preparation for their May 5th meeting.

Progress is being made to bring additional information soon to the congregation for further consideration.

Young Adults I will be passing out a calendar for May-September this Sunday. In May, our activities are:

- May 9th- Mini Golf @ Cool Crest
- May 13th @ 8:00pm- Campfire@ Tracy's
- May 23-24 girls/guy's split for separate activities

James 1:19,20 *My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.*

Have you ever become angry over something you misunderstood? I had an experience with this in Florida with the guys. It was just Odessa guys playing 4-square, and I don't have much experience with the game, so they're telling me rules as I go along. As we're playing, they tell me that I did something wrong, but I didn't understand what they were saying I did. I thought they were starting to make up rules, so I quit playing and sat down, very mad that they made rules up when I'm trying to play an honest game of 4-square. As I sat and thought about what had happened, I realized that I hit the ball wrong, and they were the ones who were right. I left soon after that, and went to our room to sit and think about how stupid that was; that I got so mad over a little game. My first lesson learned was that you look like a fool when you sweat the small stuff.

Not long after I laid down, they came in to let me know that they still loved me even though I was being dumb, and I apologized for being dumb. Even after I acted the way I did, they still claimed me as a friend. I learned a lot from them that day. Sometimes, you need to be still and listen before you take action. It can save you a great deal of shame. Scott

Potluck Dinner Shared Great Fellowship

Potluck dinner was enjoyed with John Corn and his bride-to-be, Lindsey Pippin and family, sharing great food, fellowship and our best wishes!



A wedding shower found our groom blindfolded and *accidentally* opening his bride's suitcase. Figuring what it was and how to wear it was hilarious! Thanks John, for being such a good sport!

Please turn in Newsleaf info by 25th of the month to Pauline Watson:
dpwatson@embarqmail.com or Phone 816-633-3250



Church Camp! Let's Go!

I have a dear friend whom I met at Graceland when we were both

students there, many, many years ago. We bonded instantly, mostly because we both knew all of the same crazy campfire songs. As our friendship grew, so did our depth of sharing. We began talking about our camp experiences - those experiences of unconditional acceptance as we realized that, perhaps, we had been making poor choices throughout the year. My friend received a message intended only for her, as the guest minister spoke to her in tongue. We learned to pray and share our testimonies. We garnered enough inner-strength to make it in the "real world" when we came back home. We both made life-long friends, and developed a firm foundation for our faith journey.

To the adults of our congregation, I ask, "Where did your faith journey begin?" It is easy to say that your faith journey began when you were baptized, and maybe it did. But, where did you first feel the inner stirrings of Christ working in your life? When did that overwhelming feeling of the holy spirit welling up inside you first occur? For many, I would bet that those experiences first occurred at church camp.

For the last seven years, we have attended church in Odessa, and I have often heard the "old-timers" reflect on the wonderful experiences of Odessa Hills Campgrounds. The remark has been made that those campgrounds were, indeed, a special, sacred place. While I don't doubt that, I would suggest to some degree that these campgrounds became a special, sacred place because of the things you experienced while there. My first campgrounds were Camp Farwesta - and those campgrounds are, still today, the most special to me. If asked, I would bet that my children would grant that same title to Camp Doniphan. It is not the place, but the experiences that we associate with the place.

The point I am trying to get at is that no matter what, our children NEED to go to church camp. My mother often tells the story that my sister and I never had a choice about whether or not we were going to camp. My father died when I was in the first grade, and as a single mother, mom needed the break for one or two weeks every summer. So, although a week or two without your kids may seem like a very attractive reason to send them off to camp, it is my opinion that your kids need to go to camp every summer to develop a firm foundation for their faith journeys.

It is very difficult to be in touch with Christ when you are surrounded by technology, peer pressure and a normal routine. Remove the graphic video games, the I-Pods, the cell phones, the televisions, the pressure to use alcohol or drugs, the couch potato life-styles and surround yourself with nature, campfire songs and a beautiful place to meet your Savior, and guess what happens more often than not? You can hear, feel and experience God working in your life.



"And they just had to pray for rain!"

I lost touch with my friend from Graceland for several years after graduation.

When we were reunited, I was surprised to discover that her kids had not been attending church camp. She had the usual reasons - boy scout camp, soccer clinics, summer school, family vacations, finances. I asked her the simple question, "where did your faith journey begin?" She looked at me sheepishly, and admitted that it was at church camp. But, she was quick to add that Camp Doniphan just isn't the same as her campgrounds back home. "No," I told her, "to you, they probably aren't."

As a youth leader for this congregation, I am asking you to please reflect on summer camps. Please make it a priority for our children. Ten years from now, will it matter if your child missed a day or two of summer school? Will it matter if they didn't get to start the first football game because they missed a summer football camp? For most of our children, I would doubt it. Ten years from now, will the \$5, \$10 or \$20 you donate to send a kid to camp effect your 401K or your ability to maintain the lifestyle to which you have become accustomed? For most of us, I would doubt it.

Is there potential for profound personal and spiritual growth at camp, even if your child doesn't want to go? Yes. Are there finances available to assist if money is really what is keeping you from sending your child to camp? Absolutely. We have a wonderful, giving congregation who donate every week to a pitcher so that our kids can go to camp. We have car-washes and food events scheduled so our youth can earn their way to camp.

Please continue to encourage our youth as they make their faith journeys.

Jenny Kramer



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
- 5:30 PM Youth Meeting
- 5:30 PM Peacemakers- last Sunday
- 7:00 PM Choir Practice

1st Sunday of the Month:

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

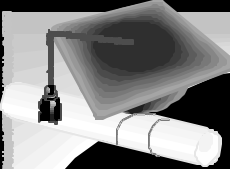
Wednesday:

- 7:00 PM Prayer Service

Pastor: Bruce Watson 816-230-8813

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

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



**Honoring
our
Graduates**

Wednesday, May 21st

2008 Honorees!
Caleb Meyer, Dani Winfrey
Arielle Kramer

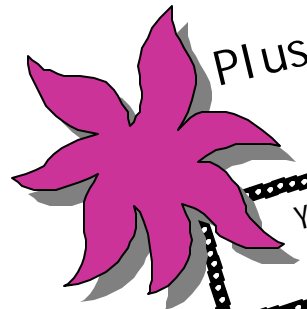
Check bulletin for further information

CITY WIDE GARAGE SALE

SALE SATURDAY

MAY 3

At the church



Youth serving food

Baked Good

- Youth Group will be selling food that day.
- Women will be working sale tables.
- Please bring your items to the church Friday evening, May 2nd, or early Saturday Morning.
- Items arriving before that time should be carried down to the storage room.
- If you can mark items ahead of time please do. Multiples of 25 cents works the best for those taking money.
- Besides garage sale items, baked goods also go good if they are ones that do not spoil in the sun.

Thank You for all your donations. Any questions, please call Ilene Sheets, 816-616-5697.



May 2008

Odessa Community of Christ

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 8:45 am Prayer Ser 3 pm Mission Center Conference	5 6 pm Bldg Com Mtg	6	7 7 PM Prayer Service	8	9	10
11 <i>Mother's Day</i> <i>No Potluck</i>	12	13	14 7 PM Prayer Service	15	16	17 Pastor's Retreat Heit's Point 9am-4pm
18 11 am Jr Church Graceland Graduation	19	20	21 7 pm Honor Seniors	22 Children's Camp Registration Deadline	23	24
25 5 pm Kids Choir 5:30 pm Peacemakers	26 <i>Memorial Day</i>	27	28 7 PM Family Night	29 <i>Last day of School</i> Early RE deadline for all youth camps & SPEC	30	31

COME & WORSHIP—Sunday Morning Worship Services

Song Service - 10:45 A.M.

Worship Service - 11:00 A.M.

May 4th—

"Wait Faithfully"
Speaker, Dena Quick

May 18th—

"Discipline the World"
Speaker, David Watson

May 11th—

"Filled with the Spirit"
Speaker, Pauline & Sarah Watson

May 25th—

"Who Do You Serve?"
Speaker, Local

