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The Boys & Girls Club (Sonny Callahan Branch) are Going to the Bayou

by Andy King
Seminary Intern

This week is the fifth week of Urban Mission Camps for the summer, and our campers have been having valuable experiences and fun. Many have left changed forever, knowing a little more about the struggles of urban life, and witnessing the ministries that tend to them. One of the organizations the campers work with during the week is the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama. We have sent campers to six of their Mobile branches, as well as the Boys & Girls Club day camp at Camp Tonsmeire. Much of our positive feedback for the summer has been related to experiences campers have had with the children at the Boys & Girls Clubs.

The goal of these clubs is to nurture young people and help them become productive, caring, and responsible people. The children who come to the clubs are often the ones who need this nurturing most. For some, their parents work long hours at multiple jobs to make ends meet. For others, the environment provided by the clubs is safer than their homes or the streets of their neighborhoods. Whatever the case is, the Boys & Girls Clubs provide experienced, caring staff and opportunities that these children need to excel in life.

Our Urban Mission campers have had the chance to touch the lives of the children at the clubs, showing interest in them and interacting with them in healthy ways. Many of the club members remembered specific campers from earlier in the week and greeted them warmly when they returned. These experiences are only one way Government Street Presbyterian Church and the Boys & Girls Clubs work together to improve the lives of our city's children.

From July 7-10, GSPC will reach out in another

way to help the children who go to Boys & Girls Clubs. We will host 24 children from the Sonny Callahan Boys & Girls Club at Baytreat for our annual Richard Mighell Camp. Made possible by the generosity of Alice Inge, the camp provides these children with four days of Vacation Bible School. Like our own children at GSPC, these kids will be headed down to the Bayou for the first full week of July, enjoying this year's theme of *Crocodile Dock: Where Fearless Kids Shine God's Light!* They will learn important Bible stories about courage, sing fun songs, make some awesome crafts, play games, and enjoy the beauty of Baytreat.

We have a great group of volunteers leading Richard Mighell Camp this summer. I will be directing the camp, as well as being the official photographer and lifeguard for the week. Charlotte Crockett will be running our crafts. Julia Simmons will be teaching the campers Bible stories. Brian and Charlotte Naylor are providing their talents by leading music time. Sage Wyatt is going to head up our recreation time with the kids. Gail Headrick is lending us her expertise in the kitchen, making sure our campers are well fed. We also have a group of committed young volunteers who will be helping our leaders and our campers to have a great experience. So, please keep us in your prayers as we care for and nurture the children who will join us this next week. If you would like to volunteer to help, please email or call me at 434-9328!

*** **You are invited** to attend the "decorating party" for Richard Mighell Camp on Monday, July 6, at 9 a.m. at Baytreat!

Christian Education

Kara Olson, Director of Youth and Christian Education

- **PYC Urban Mission Campers**—Meet in the GSPC parking lot at 4 p.m. on July 18th. You will then head over the bay with Ryan and Laura Jensen. “What to bring” letters will go out this week.
- **PYC Sunday School Schedule:**
 - July 4th- Meet in the tent room to help with the kids!
 - July 12th- Jade and Eddie Bishop will be teaching in the youth room.
 - July 19th- Ryan Jensen will be leading the lesson.
 - July 26th- Ryan Jensen will be leading the lesson again.
 - Aug 2- Jade and Eddie Bishop will be teaching in the youth room.

To the Congregation:

Thank you so much for the reception and love offering yesterday. I greatly appreciate it. It was wonderful seeing all of you, and I can't thank you enough for all your support these past 2 years. Please keep in touch! You can send mail to this address for the time being:

118 Tremont Ave., Ft. Thomas, KY 41075. My personal email address is karamolson@gmail.com.

Thank you again, keep doing Christ's work in the heart of the city; you do it well! Peace! Kara

Amanda N. Murray, Director of Children's Ministries

- **Summer Sunday School** with Mrs. Charlotte. Join us for a combined Sunday school (ages 3 years old ~ rising 5th grade) this summer. We will watch movies on the Greatest Heroes and Legends of the Bible. If you have graduated 5th grade it is time for you to head upstairs to join the youth for Sunday School.
- Children's Ministries extends its sympathy to Mrs. Charlotte on the passing of her aunt, Evelyn Shriner. Our prayers and thoughts are with Mrs. Charlotte and her family, whom we love so very much.

Honor your loved one with a Sunday Sanctuary Flower arrangement. Contact Binky Oswald, 478-3087, to reserve a date. July 5 & 12 are currently available.

Music & Fine Arts

Compact Disks (CD's) of the “**Rutter Requiem**” on May 17 and the “**Patriotic Concert**” on June 23 are available for sale. If you would like to purchase one, they are \$25 each. Please make your check payable to Nomad Productions.

To purchase a CD please make a note of which program you would like, attach your check to the note and place the note and check in the mailbox of Terry D. Maddox, M.M., Director of Music and Fine Arts Ministries, located in the GSPC office (by the copy machine.)

Taken from [Hungry Hearts](#), Spring 2009. [Hungry Hearts](#) is a quarterly Journal of Reformed Spirituality. Published by the Office of Theology and Worship, PC(USA)

Renewable Energy

by Tammy Wiens, Editor

Even without paying close attention to the media coverage it's nearly impossible to escape notice of all the consideration given to “being green.” From print to broadcast to Internet news, scarcely a day goes by without mention of clean energy, greenhouse gasses, buying organic, eating local, recycling, or some new plan to reduce our carbon footprint. Every publication...is writing about being green.

As people of faith we can enter into the conversation from a perspective that is spiritually motivated even if we don't fully comprehend or appreciate the rhetoric of big business and oil companies, environmentalists and conservationists, celebrities and heads of state. Being overwhelmed by the politics or economics—or, for that matter, the science—of being green, does not need to diminish our imagination for all the ways we might green up our spiritual practices. Not that we should choose ignorance over a more serious effort to understand global warming, mountaintop removal, nonrenewable fossil fuels, and the like. But if none of these “inconvenient truths” has claimed your attention, then consider going green for purely spiritual reasons.

The best strategy for finding the point at which green practices and spiritual practices intersect is to begin at the beginning. Begin with Genesis—with the goodness of all God created. The politicians, scientists, and journalists who promote support for this or that solution often begin by looking at the problems. Then they startle us with the clear and present danger that will result should we refuse to curb our uses and abuses of the earth's resources. A spiritual approach, however, doesn't begin with the problem. It begins with the knowledge of, and love for, our Creator and all creation.

Genesis paints an exquisite portrait of all God breathed into being on each of the six days of creation. But the seventh day initiates a most astonishing creation. God creates shabat. Circadian rhythms, plant dormancy, life cycles, hibernation, the need for sleep...these are some of the outcomes of God's seventh day design. God creates “rest.”

Sabbath honors the necessary wisdom of dormancy. If certain plant species, for example, do not lie dormant for winter, they will not bear fruit in the spring. If this continues for more than a season, the plant begins to die. If dormancy continues to be prevented the entire species will die. A period of rest—in which nutrition and fertility most readily coalesce—is not simply a human psychological convenience; it is a spiritual and biological necessity.¹

Note: ¹ Wayne Muller, *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in Our Busy Lives* (New York: Bantam Books, 2000), 7.

This article will conclude in next week's newsletter.

Memorial Lecture Series

GSPC Memorial Lecture October 25, 2009

Professor Miroslav Volf will be lecturing on Muslim-Christian relations, in particular on the question: *Do Muslims and Christians believe in the same God and why does this matter?* He will be preaching on "Dancing for God," with the end of Romans 11 as his primary text.

"...from him and through him and to him are all things."

Urban Ministry

ADOPT-A-SCHOOL

In partnership with Mobile County Training School (MCTS), GSPC provides teaching materials, computers, printers, furniture, lawn equipment, hygiene kits, school supplies and uniform clothing to middle school students in support of their education. MCTS welcomes donations of goods and/or services to be used for student and teacher incentives. They also welcome volunteers.

Items needed for 2009-2010 school year:

- School supplies (pens, paper, pencils, dividers, 3" binders)
- Book bags (clear or mesh)
- Computers, printers, and accessories
- Office equipment
- Any items that could be useful in a Middle School

There is a donation box under the brochure rack outside the church office. To arrange pickup for large donations contact John Otts, 599-2311 or Julia Simmons, 343-0117.

Thank you to Oren Hilton, Helen Ashbee, and Shafik Sadek for helping fill in with Meals on Wheels! Peace, Sally Pearsall

IN OUR PRAYERS AT NURSING HOMES AND IN THE HOSPITAL

Allen Memorial: Mary Marvin Anderson

Gordon Oaks: Thyrsa Jones (room 162),
Harriet Norville (skilled care)

Cogburn (Dauphin Connector):
Winnie Counts, and
David and Betty Mechler

To be added or removed from this list contact Denise at
432-1749 or denise@gspcmobile.org. Thank you!

GREEN NEWSLETTER OPTION NOW AVAILABLE!

GSPC now offers an on-line version of this weekly newsletter. If you would prefer an e-mailed version instead of a paper copy, please e-mail: laura@gspcmobile.org.

Congregational Life

Fun and Fellowship on the 4th of July!

Baytreat will be open for your enjoyment on Saturday, July 4! No formal plans or activities are planned—we'll just have some live coals on the grill and cold lemonade in the kitchen. Bring your picnic basket, blanket, swim suit, radio, and fishing poles, along with your friends and family. Doors will open at 5 p.m. Friday, July 3 and close at 8 a.m. Sunday, July 5. Come and go as you wish! For those wishing to stay overnight, please contact Ryan Jensen at 434-9329 or ryan@gspcmobile.org.

July Committee Meetings

July 14~ World Mission Com. will meet at 1212 Selma St.

Congratulations to Thomas Lee Wells, Jr. and Katherine Houck. Thomas and Katherine were married June 13, 2009 at Independent Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Alabama. Thomas grew up in GSPC and is the son of Tom and Julia Wells and brother of Elizabeth W. Smith.

Worship

Sunday, July 5: Rev. Ryan Jensen will be filling in at Providence Presbyterian Church in West Mobile. Al Reese will be preaching at GSPC. **The Lord's Supper will be observed on July 5th.**

Lectionary reading for July 5:

2 Sam. 5:1-5, 9-10; Ps. 48; 2 cor. 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women Directory

The PW directory is being updated. If you have **any changes** you would like to make to the directory please call the office, 432-1749, or email your changes to laura@gspcmobile.org. Thank you.

Join us at

www.pcusa.org/allwomen

AllWomen in the Church is a social network for women who are eager to explore their Presbyterian and Reformed identity with other women. The welcoming online community format is complemented by resources, devotionals, and stories of women working in ministry and the hidden corners of the church.

This new web site seeks to reach out to women, to aid them in their professional lives and faith journeys, and to deepen and widen their communities of faith.

Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries/PW



World Mission

Update from Dan and Elizabeth Turk in Madagascar

June 12, 2009

Dear Friends,

We are doing well. Our children finished the school year today and are excited about having time off...

There was an HIV/AIDS training for Ivato seminary students June 13-15. Elizabeth participated in the training. The FJKM (Church of Jesus Christ of Madagascar) AIDS Committee hopes to have a training for FJKM graduating seminary students at the Ambatonakanga seminary in July before graduation. The community health program, with malaria and safe drinking water as major components, is continuing. We will be starting an intensive program with two FJKM dispensaries and their community health villages. Training and village assessments will begin in July.

As a result of the coup d'état on March 17, Madagascar is suffering a deepening economic and humanitarian crisis. Many people have lost jobs. Prices of basic necessities are on the rise; more people are going hungry. Many people cannot pay school fees, purchase needed medicines, or pay rent. The continuation of the African

Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which is responsible for at least 150,000 jobs, especially in the textile sector, is in jeopardy. The coup government has cracked down on people advocating a return to democracy and constitutional order by shooting unarmed protesters on repeated occasions, arresting leaders of the movement to restore legality, denying people the right to assemble, and shutting down radio and TV stations. In addition, those protesting the coup are being terrorized by a special military unit set up expressly to arrest and interrogate political opponents. A number of the protest leaders are either in jail or in hiding. The coup government used tear gas on protesters again 12 June. There does not appear to be a solution for a just and durable peace in sight.

Thank you very much for your continued prayers for the country and people of Madagascar. May God's grace and power sustain the people and the church.

Peace in Christ,
Elizabeth and Dan Turk

To read the full letter, visit www.pcusa.org.