



BRIGHT HORIZONS

Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, Executive Director

Angie Brown, Newsletter Editor



The Economy of God

I love the economy of God. We have the image of the Great Shepherd leaving the ninety-nine sheep to search for the one lost sheep. We have the owner of the Vineyard paying the workers the same, even though some worked longer than others. God's grace, goodness and generosity are the themes of these texts. If they were oriented a little more toward the human beings involved, the stories would change.

For example, the numbers would change dramatically in the Shepherd and Sheep story. That Shepherd would likely be leaving one to find the ninety-nine strays. Did you know that in your community on any given Sunday it is highly likely that more people are at home rather than in worship? Recently, I learned that 82% of one community does not have any church affiliation? I am certain that God has not changed. The heart of Jesus Christ aches for his people. Anyone out there want to help Jesus round up some strays to love?

The folks were mad at the owner of the Vineyard for paying the same to everyone. We Christians are sticklers for fairness. We like to think of ourselves as harder working, and therefore better than others. Today one of the early arriving workers would sue the owner for more money on TV. One of those TV judges would likely find the owner guilty. Other workers would form a union so that everyone got fair pay. We like to think that our view of Christianity and the Scripture is the right one and everybody else has it all wrong. We can find a thousand ways to take the right to judge, demote, put down and ignore those who are not like us. All the while assume that we are closer to Jesus than anyone else. It is tough for us to learn that God chooses to love all, save all and serve all.

Christian freedom is different than the freedom we have as citizens of the United States of America. Christian freedom from the law and sin is a gift given us by the life and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are freed from condemnation and death to love God and our neighbors. We are freed to serve. As citizens our nation gives us rights, or certain freedoms. These rights have not always been applied to all citizens. Following 9-11, the nation experienced an erosion of some freedoms for the sake of security. Not everyone is comfortable with the change. Hate speech has also come under close observation. At one time almost any kind of speech was protected under the freedom of expression law. Now, some forms of political speech and hate speech are considered crimes.

Our civil rights and freedoms can disappear at the stroke of a pen, or the passing of time. Our freedom in Christ remains no matter what. The love of God is the basis of Christian freedom. "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, not anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39.


-Love, Pastor Bruce

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Math Excellence Games/Workshop
Play: Deal or No Deal

Tuesday
July 24, 2007
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Harding Middle School



Open to all Elementary school students.

Call 282-8010 for more information or to register your child for a fun filled day of learning!

UM Awards Scholarships

On June 7, 2007, the Robert E. Hutton Scholarship Committee awarded the 2007 Memorial Scholarships. Four \$650 scholarships were distributed to local students to assist in furthering their education.



Awardees pictured left to right: Celina Maria Gomez, Anthony Cerrato, Della Mazingo. Not pictured: Jalil Harvey

About the Winners:

Anthony Cerrato: Anthony is a 2007 graduate of a certified home schooling program. He will be attending Franciscan University in Steubenville, OH, studying Computer Information Science and Business. He also desires to further his studies in the future at the Vancouver Film School and be a positive Christian example in the film industry to those who do not know Christ.

Celina Maria Gomez: Celina is a 2007 graduation of Steubenville High School. She has been accepted into several Universities including Youngstown State, University of Akron and Xavier University. She plans to become a registered nurse.

Jalil D. Harvey: Jalil is currently attending Jefferson Community College. He will be attending the University of Akron in Akron, OH this fall, studying Computer Science. He plans to work for the United States government in Washington, DC.

Della Mazingo: Della is 2007 graduate of Brook High School. She will be attending Pittsburgh Technical Institute in Pittsburgh, PA studying Hospitality Management. She plans to one day own her own hotel chain.

Congratulations to these deserving students. We pray God's blessings upon each of them as they continue on to greater things!

City God

Written by **Kim L. Gladding**

(Based on Psalm 46:5)

City God out on the street
Shuffling down the trashy alley
Dark-skinned rebel talking crazy
Love mistaken for stupidity, foolishness and insanity
Unrecognized in the well-groomed, refurbished urban paradises.
Are we watching for him?

City of the vacant lot
Grieving over aimlessly wandering children
Unattended little ones, hemmed in only by broken glass and thorns
Hoping someone loving, someone safe will call her name
Provide for his needs and offer a place where hope can grow...
Have we seen God's precious little ones?

City God, lover of the unseen, the unsightly, the uninvited
Friend of all wandering without purpose and direction
Courageous Love warrior stands firm against all manner of violence,
Directs unrelenting screams in the direction of every injustice
Will we take her command to love seriously?

City God weeps like a foundation
When people are sacrificed for prosperity
When eviction notices are dealt out like cards in a game
When elders, left alone, forget they have something to give
When children at an early age learn not to trust
Is God our refuge and strength, out hope in trouble?

City God, melt the chains of oppression that keep the poor, poor,
Warm the hearts of those who trust more in money than in You
Shake the foundations that prop up the powerful
Cool the blistering hot city with streams of your grace
City God is in the midst of the city and it shall not be moved.

Kim Gladding is a pastor who has served struggling inner-city congregations within the Phoenix area for the past eight years. Kim is a musician, a singer, a songwriter and a potter.

(Submitted by Linda Smith, Program Director)

Thanksgiving Challenge

This years challenge is underway and we have already received cans of chicken noodle soup! The item for July is **cranberry sauce (1,200 cans)**. If you have any questions, give Linda a call at 740-282-8010.

Vacation Bible School

July 9-13, 2007
6:00 PM-8:30 PM



Wintersville UMC
702 Main Street, Wintersville
Theme: "Holy Land Adventure:
Catch Jesus in Action"

Open to children ages 4 - 8th grade
Call Ann or Susan at 740-264-1676 for more information.

Mission Rejoice Picnic

**Saturday,
July 28, 2007
2:00-6:00 PM**

Jefferson State Lake Park

PICNIC

**Join us for free food,
games, fellowship and fun!**

15th Annual Street Carnival

**Saturday, August 11, 2007
12:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.
Urban Mission Parking Lot**

The **annual street carnival** is quickly approaching. This **free** community event requires a lot of preparations to host the hundreds of families that will attend. We are still in need of donations and volunteers to help with the event. We also need food and game vendors as well as entertainers.



If you, your family, church group or civic organization would like to volunteer or provide a donation for the event, please contact Urban Mission at 740-282-8010.

Parish Nurse News: Pool Safety

Because of the increasing cost of gasoline, many families are vacationing in their back yards by installing swimming pools. Along with the convenience and fun of having your own pool, there are many factors to consider when owning or installing a swimming pool. Lets take a look at three basic areas of pool safety.

Physical safety: Protecting people and the pool from potential dangers. The first consideration should be an effective and lockable fence for the pool area. Controlling access to the pool can reduce the possibility of accidental drowning of children and pets. Pool alarms are available that monitor disturbances of the water surface that sound an alarm if someone falls into an unattended pool.

Along with the obvious dangers of drowning, there are also falling dangers. Wet feet stepping onto a smooth surface can increase the risk of slipping. Areas around the pool should be kept free of excessive clutter and equipment that can worsen a fall. Every year there are people who dive into shallow pools and receive head, neck, and back injuries. Some injuries result in permanent paralysis. All swimmers should be cautioned about diving and jumping into pools and warning signs should be posted around the pool area.

Electrical safety: The old adage about electricity and water not mixing holds true, but there are electrical safety factors that must be addressed to eliminate or minimize hazards. Most electrical safety issues are dealt with by local and national building codes. The first and most obvious item is the actual electrical circuit. There is an item called a “Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter” (GFCI), which is a specialized circuit breaker that immediately shuts off the power if there is a short circuit, in this case, caused by water. You already may be familiar with such a safety device because all home hair dryers are required to have an inline GFCI breaker. There are two ways to add GCFI devices for your pool. One is to replace the electrical outlet/receptacle with a GCFI outlet and the other is to have a GCFI breaker installed into your home’s main breaker box. The primary uses of electricity in and around pools are for running the filter and for lighting. When choosing filtration and lighting equipment, look for the Underwriter’s Laboratory (UL®) sticker/label, to be assured that the devices meet safety standards.



The final area of pool safety is **chemical safety**. Chemicals are used to sanitize the pool water and to burn out or-

ganic compounds. The most common chemical used in pools is chlorine. Chlorine is available in gas, liquid, powder and pellet forms. The gas form of chlorine is extremely dangerous and is used for large commercial pools and in heavy industry, not for residential use. It is extremely dangerous because the gas can be inhaled and even absorbed through the skin. So the other forms of chlorine are available for home use. The most familiar form of chlorine in the home is laundry bleach, but it is not used in swimming pools. There are other chemicals used in pools, such as bromine and biguanide (Baquacil® and Soft Swim®). Biguanide is becoming popular because it is less dangerous than chlorine and it does not irritate the eyes or fade swimwear. Pools using biguanide only need chemical maintenance every week or two. Its main drawback is the fact that it is more expensive and the monthly shock treatment is comprised of 27% hydrogen peroxide, which, if it makes contact with the skin or eyes, will cause an immediate chemical burn. Therefore, all pool chemicals should be stored in a secured area and when using pool chemicals, always wear gloves and eye protection. *Have a safe and fun pool season!*

By: George King
(Husband of Parish Nurse, Michalene King)

