



HARVEST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2009

Fill 'er Up with the Good Stuff

Have you ever been driving along in the car or working around the house with the radio playing and found yourself singing along, surprised that you actually knew the words to the song? Or, have you one day listened to a song you've often heard only to find out that you never realized "what" the words were really saying?!

It's a common enough occurrence, but when I experienced it recently, it made me think about how we daily fill our minds with all sorts of "stuff" we don't even think about. Sometimes it's great

"stuff"—other times, not!

Some of you have children in school. When you ask during dinner what they learned that day, they will often tell you about their classes or lessons. However, sometimes you'll hear surprising words come out of their mouths, and you're pretty sure they learned that at school, too!

All this to say, it's important that we take time to evaluate what kind of "stuff" we're allowing to fill our hearts and minds.

As we go through the days ahead, I hope you will join me

in considering what Paul wrote in Philippians 4:7-9, *"And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."*

Children's Ministry

What's new with the kids ministry? Starting this month, your kids will be taught by the same team of teachers during first hour and second hour. In the past, we've had a separate group for both hours. Having the same teachers first and second hour will enable the teachers to focus on specific lessons and goals for their classes. The teachers will be able to further disciple the kids, and the kids will be able to get to know their teachers better. Teachers will meet on the 27th to discuss goals for each class.

We also would like to start collecting an offering during Sunday School. Since the children are dismissed before the offering is taken, they miss being able to worship in this way. There will be an offering bag passed in each class, and children who would like to give will be able to do so. The offer-

ing will then be added to the congregational offering.

On **September 13**, the church will have a **baptism at Moonshine Beach**. We have been discussing baptism in the older classes and are excited to see people step out to follow Jesus in this way. Drew Stone will be baptized that evening. Lindsay Wisley and I will be at Moonshine beach at 4:00 p.m. *If there are any kids who want to come early and hang out with us to swim or play frisbee and volleyball, please bring your parents and join us.*

September 26th will be a girls day out. We will be loading up 4th - 6th grade girls at the church at 10:00 a.m. to go to Springfield for the day. We will eat lunch, shop, and either paint pottery or see a movie. Please sign up with Lindsay Wisley or Jodi Stone for a day of fun!!!!

September 27th there will be a **teacher's meeting at Jodi Stone's house at 5:00 PM.**

Bring your spouse, fiancé, and something to add to a potluck supper. We will play yard games, eat, and then have a short meeting for the teachers. Spouses can continue to visit while we meet. It will be a good time of fellowship.

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Parents: Please mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- **October 18** - Christmas play practice 6:15 - 7:30
- **October 24** - Fall Harvest Party
- **November 15** - Christmas play practice 6:15 - 7:30
- **December 12** - Christmas play practice 6:15 - 7:30
- **December 13** - Christmas play at 7:00 p.m.

LOOKING AHEAD:

- 9/13 – Community Group Sunday
- 9/13 – Harvest Info/ Membership Class Begins
- 9/13 – 7:30 PM – Baptism at Moonshine Beach (feel free to come early...bring your own picnic supper) \$4 per car
- 9/20 – Membership/ Info Class Continues
- 9/26 – Girls Day Out (4th-6th Grade)
- 9/27 – Membership/ Info Class Concludes
- 9/27 - Children's Teachers Meeting at Jodi Stone's 5 PM
- 9/29 – Ladies' Game Night – 6:30 PM
- 10/3 – Worship Team Retreat
- 10/4 – Souper Sunday & Work Day
- 10/25 - Congregational meeting-10:45 AM

Children's Ministry Needs:

- 2 Nursery Helpers First Hour
- 2 Nursery Helpers Second Hour
- 1 teacher for pre-K and K

Contact Jodi Stone for more info.

ALL-CHURCH WORK DAY



**Sunday,
October
4th**

Following Souper Sunday on October 4th, we hope you will stick around and participate in our All-Church Work Day! This is a day set aside to do some major cleaning, landscaping, and maintenance of the Branson Hills Ministry Center.

There will be jobs for all ages and interests, indoors and out. So, wear your grubby clothes and plan to stay for a while to help us out!



WELCOME, GIRLS!

Congratulations to: Stephen & Amy Hobson on the addition of **Karis Noelle** to their family, born 9/4. 7 lb, 2 oz, 19 3/4 inches

AND

Mathew & Diane Vroman & Family on their new baby, **Marie Sevim** (means "my love" in Turkish), also born 9/4!

Calling all Musicians!

Whether you're a long-standing member of the Worship Team or looking for a way to get involved, here's the news:

Current Worship Team Members

Mark your calendars for our **Worship Team Retreat** on Saturday, October 3rd, noon-5 pm. We'll be gathering at the lovely home of the Gaar family for lunch and a time of

fellowship, encouragement, and renewal.

"Prospective" Worship Team Members

Now is the time to find out more about how you can use your gifts to serve the body of Harvest; we are looking for any and all instrumentalists, male vocalists, or those interested in learning about the technical

aspects of the service. To help us get to know you better, you're invited to join us on Sundays for an **Equipping Hour Class** during the second hour, beginning October 11th.

Contact Allison Hamm for more information!

Community Group Kick-Off

Our Community Group year will kick off on **Sunday, September 13th**.

Our desire at Harvest is to be a Christ-like community — a community that is made up of individuals but that glorifies God best by its function as a group.

One of the best ways to live out this community is by getting involved regularly in the lives of others, especially in a small, consistent group of people, where being

known is encouraged and where, in Christ, we can serve one another by meeting each other's needs.

If you've been wanting to get involved in a Community Group, or would simply like more information about what groups we have to offer, this will be the day for you!

During the service, we will introduce the Community Groups that will be meeting this year, and during our fellowship time, you will have the

opportunity to sign up to try one or more groups.

If you will not be at church on September 13th and would like more information, or if you have any questions about the Community Group Ministry, please contact the church office at 339-4038 or Amy Wescott at amywescott@trilakes.net.

A Great Read

Book: **Crazy Love**

Author: Francis Chan

Reviewed by: Greg Stone

This is a book that was recommended to me this summer by Dennis Fuller, who directs the Discipleship Focus program in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

The book, written by a pastor of a church in the San Francisco area, is a challenge for Christians to live a radical life for Christ in light of His awesome love for us.

Bill Gebhart is having the youth of the church read this book for their Wednesday study, so I would encourage parents and other adults

in the church to read this book as well.

After reading the book myself, I have decided to use it this semester with our discipleship groups in Lead-Time where I work.

Chan starts the book by looking at how awesome and big God is through examining the universe. From there he goes on to challenge American Christians of today with our lukewarmness toward Christ.

It's at times blistering and blunt, but Chan pulls no punches in love for a wake-up call for us as followers of Jesus to "count the cost" and live lives of total abandonment to Christ.

Chan is very open and vulnerable

about his own pilgrimage as a believer, and the wounds he encountered growing up. Throughout the book, Chan acknowledges the ease of living a Christian life that is self-focused and without cost. His challenge, however, is to step out in faith to give all to the One who gave all for us.

I'm encouraged Bill is using this book with the youth. It will bring much good discussion, I'm sure. My prayer and hope is that it will also stimulate action to live more for Christ, and less for self. My prayer for us as adults in the church is the same.



**MEN'S RETREAT
OCTOBER 16-18
on the Buffalo River
Join the fun!**

Contact Steve Hamm for details.



God's Mission in Haiti

This summer, Michelle Newcome spent several weeks in Haiti with Teen Missions. Following is a note from Michelle to summarize her visit and thank her supporters:

"Arriving in Haiti, we were surprised because, while it was hot in Port Au Prince, the air up in the mountains was quite cool, and at night, some of us were found wishing for extra blankets.



Some of our kitchen equipment didn't arrive until several days later, and the area we were at

was so remote that we had to hike a mile after the 4-wheel drive vehicle took us as far as it could go. We also had to hike down the mountain every morning to bring up water for drinking, cooking, and mixing concrete.



Our main task was to help continue construction on an orphanage. While there, we dug out and completed a cistern, leveled ground for a storage room, and dug out and leveled a field for a basketball court.

We were also involved in evangelistic activities by going to several churches and doing presentations. A group from our

team hiked to the village of Kenscoff and did a presentation using puppets, skits, and songs to minister to the kids and even some of the adults there. The group took with them 300 tracts of verses written in Haitian Creole to hand out and came back with none. When one of our leaders told them, 'Jesu reme ou' (Jesus loves you), and then 'Comprend' (understand), they all understood.



I had never realized what poverty actually was until I went to Haiti, and I never realized how blessed I am. The trip was amazing, and thank you again for helping me to experience it."

Women's Ministries

Ladies Game Night

Tuesday, September 29
@ 6:30 p.m.
Carissa Lilly's home
909 Cliff Dr., Branson

Ladies of Harvest: Come and enjoy food, fellowship, and games. We'll also discuss ways to connect with and pray for

missionaries supported by Harvest. Please bring yourself and a friend. You won't want to miss it!

Directions: From Hwy. 76, turn south onto S. Sunshine St., jog left on Lee St., and then right again on S. Sunshine St., and make a right on Cliff Dr. to house on right side of street.



Ladies Fall Retreat November 6-8

Beginning mid-October, registration forms will be available for the women's retreat being held at the Hamms' Ranch in Alpena, Arkansas. This is a great time of rest, relaxation, and renewal. Be sure to save the date!!!

HARVEST TEACHING SCHEDULE

Sept. 13 - Jesus Warns of Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit
Matthew 12:22-32
(Mark Rapinchuk)

Sept. 20 - Jesus Teaches a Tree is Known by its Fruit
Matthew 12:33-37
(Gary Hiebsch)

Sept. 27 - Jesus Gives the Sign of Jonah
Matthew 12:38-50
(Eric Bolger)

Please consider reading through these Scriptures each week and praying for the individual who will be sharing God's Word with our congregation.

BEHIND THE SCENES...

Harvest staff & board members are hard at work behind the scenes. Staff evaluations are being conducted; boards are preparing proposed budgets; Fellowship Hall painting is underway; a creative worship team is being formed; new volunteers are being recruited to serve in various areas of ministry; community groups are preparing to gather; and the list goes on.

Please remember to pray for our leadership as they seek to make decisions that reflect Harvest's love for the Lord and desire to serve Him. Pray, too, that our congregation will serve one another with love, care, and compassion that brings glory to God.

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:14-16 (NIV)

Harvest Staff:

Staff Elder	Eric Bolger
Worship	Allison Hamm
	<i>(Brandon Bliss currently on leave)</i>
Youth	Bill Gebhart
Children's Min.	Jodi Stone
Admin. Asst.	Julie Marine
Church Admin.	Dori Rapinchuk

**WE'RE ON THE WEB AT
WWW.HARVESTFC.ORG**



Harvest Youth Group

JUMP is back in the groove...They've held another successful Back to School Bash and are now returning to the routine of the school year. Wednesday evenings they can be found at Bible Study, alternating Thursday nights they'll be enjoying Guys' Night & Girls' Night, weekend events are ongoing, and a fall retreat is being planned! So, if you are in junior or senior high, watch the bulletin for details. Contact Bill Gebhart, Brendon Rapinchuk, Hillary Bargman, or Marcia Emsheimer for more info.



Come join the fun...

If you have suggestions for the next newsletter, or if you have questions regarding any information contained in this newsletter, please contact Dori Rapinchuk at drapinchuk@yahoo.com or 417-598-0541.