

HARVEST

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2010

Focusing on "Commitment"

There is a popular song by *Casting Crowns* titled "Slow Fade," which was featured in the movie *Fireproof* . The song has beautiful music and some incredibly thought-provoking lyrics. It speaks about how easy it is to stray from our values and beliefs just one little step at a time, and as the chorus of the song reminds us,

*"...It's a slow fade when you give yourself away
It's a slow fade when black and white have turned to gray
Thoughts invade, choices are made, a price will be paid
When you give yourself away
People never crumble in a day
It's a slow fade..."*

Mission and Ministry

As a result of our recent Advent Conspiracy, many of us were able to spend the 2009 Christmas season better focused on keeping Jesus Christ at the center of Christmas.

One aspect of this conspiracy was to provide opportunities to "give more" to various ministries and missionaries by "spending less" on traditional gift giving. It was exciting to see the incredible participation of our congregation!

Our youth kicked off the conspiracy by hosting an Operation Christmas Child Shoebox-Filling Event.

As we move together as a congregation into the 2010 calendar year, we desire to be a people who do not succumb to this "slow fade." Therefore, Harvest plans to be intentional in focusing on an important and relevant biblical theme: **commitment**. Our goal is to extend the emphasis of our Advent Conspiracy in what could be called a **"Commitment Conspiracy."**

Commitment expresses itself in our willingness to share regularly and even sacrificially of our resources of time, money, and talents.

While some of our congregation members grew up

during times when talk about **commitment** was as common as the air we breathe, many did not, and the Elders of Harvest believe it is important to highlight this positive and important character trait.

In light of this desire, let's encourage one another to watch and listen carefully in the coming weeks and months as we explore God's call to **commitment** and seek to find our place in His Story.



give above and beyond

to the churches in Zaragoza and Wakpala, area ministries, many of our missionaries, and also those in need within our congregation!

It was an incredible blessing to many, and we are thankful for the loving and selfless response of our congregation to this call to focus on the real meaning of the Christmas season.



During the Advent Conspiracy, we also saw members of our congregation step up and

If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

Romans 12:7-9

LOOKING AHEAD:

- February 8:
Staff/Leadership Planning Meeting
- February 14, 21 & 28:
Harvest Information and Membership Class during Equipping Hour
- February 14:
Mio Amore—6 PM
Valentines' Dinner
- February 17:
Ash Wednesday Service—7 PM
- February 21:
Harvest Serves at Loaves & Fishes
- February 24:
Ladies' Night Out Bowling at Millennium Lanes in Branson West
- March 7:
Souper Sunday

EQUIPPING HOUR

Join us for our Equipping Hour on Sunday mornings from 10:45-11:45.

We offer two adult classes: Barnabas, where we pray for one another and discuss what was taught in the morning's sermon; and Timothy, which includes teaching and discussion on important biblical, theological and cultural topics.

Also, Feb. 14, 21 & 28 we will have a membership class available.



Treat your Sweet!

This Valentine's Day, treat your sweet to a fantastic dinner with live music and even the chance to win some amazing prizes!

Purchase your tickets by Feb 7th at the incredibly low price of only \$25 per couple for our February 14th MIO AMORE EVENT!

Thanks to our incredible chefs, musicians, and coordinator Kristin Hanley, your entire \$25 will be donated to either Options (pregnancy center) or Faith Community Health (new reduced-cost medical clinic).

You won't want to miss out on this great evening...so purchase your ticket on Sunday, Feb. 7, or contact Kristin Hanley to make arrangements before the 7th so that our chefs can properly prepare.

We look forward to seeing you and your sweetheart at this fun event.



Children's Ministry

Harvest was blessed this past year with the addition of an amazing intern who served our children.

Lindsay Wisely, a C of O student completing an internship for her college degree, played an important role in the success of our Vacation Bible School (Rome: Paul and the Underground Church), assisted Jodi Stone in many areas of Children's Ministries throughout the summer and fall, and ended her Harvest internship with the great success of our Children's Christmas play.

We are thankful the Lord brought Lindsay to us, along with her dynamic personality and love for Jesus Christ. We wish her (and her new husband Ryan) God's richest blessings. Thank you, Lindsay!

The Christmas County Spelling Bee



A huge THANK YOU goes out to the many volunteers who helped with our Christmas play. We also appreciate the parents of our cast, who supported our efforts by allowing their children to participate.



Most of all, we applaud all the children for the great job they did! It was a wonderful eve-



Community Groups

Community Groups are alive and thriving at Harvest. Don't know what a community group is??? Well, it looks a little different with each group, but in a nutshell, Community Groups are small groups that meet together to share life, love and God's light!

We have groups that meet on a variety of dates and times. We have groups that cover all ages and stages of life from youth to young married, college to seniors, families to empty-nesters, and the list goes on. One thing that all groups have in common is that they are intentionally spending time together building community.

Recently the youth group has been taking time to meet with different community groups in order to get to know them better. This last month, the Young Married Group joined the youth for an evening of themed bowling, which was a great night of fun and laughter! If your group is contacted to join in the fun, don't hesi-

tate and miss out--our youth group is filled with incredible kids! If you don't want to wait for them to invite you...just invite them.

Most recently, Kristin Hanley has started a new Ladies' Bible Study group which meets on Tuesday evenings, and Rob & Erica Marshall have a College group that meets at their home on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.

Another new opportunity is also available--Richard & Janice Williams are currently meeting on Sunday evenings at 6:00pm but have not yet begun a new study, so this is a good time to gauge additional interest. For more information on the Williams' group, folks can contact Richard directly at 334-7991 or at rev_65@peoplepc.com.

If you have an interest in any of our other groups, just hop onto the web at www.harvestefc.org for more information about the various opportunities, or contact the church office (339-4038 or office@harvestefc.org).



Youth & Young Married "Villain Bowling"

I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from?
My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. Psalm 121:1,2

An Update on our Capital Campaign

Harvest is approaching the close of Year 2 in our 3-year Capital Campaign. The primary goal of the campaign is to pay down a portion of our mortgage in order to give Harvest the financial freedom to devote a greater percentage of our financial resources to local, regional and global ministry.

At that onset of this campaign, we asked the congregation to consider making pledges toward this goal to be paid on March 1st of each successive

year. As an added benefit, we also had someone offer to match any pledges up to \$25,000 per year during the 3-year period.

By the end of March 2009, we received \$19,500, and to date in Year 2, we've received \$10,445, with additional pledges for Year 2 due in March. With these gifts, we've paid down a portion of our mortgage and we're looking forward to being able to do so again in the coming months.

It has been amazing to see God's faithfulness in provision

amidst the strains of the current economic climate!

We are so very thankful for the faithfulness of our congregation in this endeavor and welcome anyone who has not yet participated to join us.

If you would like to contribute or obtain more information, please contact Amy Wescott or Eric Bolger. Whether it's a small annual gift, a large one, or something in between, your investment in the life of our church would be a blessing.

Women's Ministries

The close of 2009 included two excellent events for Harvest women—the Ladies' Retreat and a Christmas Dessert.

The Fall Women's Retreat, attended by more than 25 women, was a great success and loads of fun! The weekend provided much needed relaxation and "girl time" for the women of Harvest. Some of the major highlights included: speakers Lee Gaar and Susan Parry sharing about their walk with the Lord, beautiful music led by Casey Chambers, fun games and mixers, praying together, making "encouragement journals," perfect weather, beautiful accommodations, and amazing food from Chefs Donna and Kristin Hanley.

Sound like fun? Well, it's never too early to start planning

on attending the next retreat. Mark your calendars for the first weekend in November, ladies. If you save just \$10-\$15 a month, you'll be all set to go! This year we will be heading to a new location just south of Branson, and you won't want to miss out!



Our Christmas event was hosted by Jennifer Freeman and included delicious desserts provided by the WM Team, some

crazy games, and (in the spirit of the Advent Conspiracy) a "needs basket," where women shared with one another a prayer request or practical need. It was amazing to see God at work—with just the right "needs" being matched up with just the right "providers" to remind us of God's constant goodness, grace, and provision!

We look forward to you joining us in our next adventure on Wednesday, February 24th, at Millennium Lanes for Ladies' Bowling. It should be a great time, and even if you're not a bowler, you can come build friendships and share a few laughs. For more information contact Ann Victoria Kuenzle or the church office.

Men's Ministries

The men of Harvest also closed out 2009 with a "manly" retreat! Steve Hamm shares,



"The Fall 2009 Men's Retreat was a huge success! We camped on the Buffalo River near Ponca, Arkansas, and were blessed to have Chris Zervas join us as our speaker. We camped, hiked,

played thought-provoking games, and ate delicious food prepared by Joe Baker, earning ourselves the label 'the guys with the wood-stove!' We also had the opportunity to share with other campers who we were and what we were doing. It was a great time of fellowship with each other in the presence of the Lord."

The men are currently plan-

ning a spring campout, but in the meantime, you are invited to join them on Tuesday mornings at 6:30 for breakfast and fellowship at Clucker's Restaurant. For more information on how you can be more involved, contact Greg Stone.



HARVEST TEACHING SCHEDULE

February 7:
Matt 16:21-28
Jesus Predicts His Death
Gary Hiebsch

February 14:
Matt 17:1-13
Jesus is Transfigured
Eric Bolger

February 21:
First Sunday of Lent
Congregational Sharing Service
Eric Bolger

February 28:
Matt 17:14-21
Jesus Heals a Demon-Possessed Boy
Justin Carswell

DID YOU KNOW???
You can listen to each week's sermon on the web. Just log on to www.harvestefc.org and click on Download Sermon.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

February 17th
at 7 PM

The aim of Ash Wednesday worship is threefold: to meditate on our mortality, sinfulness, and need of a savior; to renew our commitment to daily repentance in the Lenten season and in all of life; and to remember with confidence and gratitude that Christ has conquered death and sin. Ash Wednesday worship, then, is filled with gospel truth. It is a witness to the power and beauty of our union with Christ and to the daily dying and rising with Christ that this entails. Please join us as we worship together.

HARVEST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

Staff Members

Staff Elder	Eric Bolger
Worship	Allison Hamm
Youth	Bill Gebhart
Children's Min.	Jodi Stone
Admin. Asst.	Julie Marine
Church Admin.	Dori Rapinchuk

We're on the web
at:
www.harvestefc.org

Congratulations to
newlyweds
Ryan and Lindsay
(Wisely) Lee who were
married on December
19th.

Welcome
Gilbert Lynn
born
to George and Tiffany
Stevens on
January 6th!

If your phone, address,
name, etc. has changed in
the past several months, or
if you are not yet listed in
the Church Directory,
please submit your current
contact information to
office@harvestefc.org
so we can keep in contact
with you. New directories
will be printed later this
month, so a prompt reply
would be most appreciated!

Advent Artwork

For the season of Advent, the Creative Worship Team desired to incorporate visual arts into the services of Harvest as an aid to worship. So they decided to have a Project of Meditation on the five scenes from scripture historically called, "The Five Joyful Mysteries." These Mysteries are traditionally meditated on during the season of Advent and focus on the themes of Advent—of both the hope for restoration and the longing for Christ's coming. The goal for the artist was to meditate on the scripture and the historical emphasis associated with each Mystery and to create a painting that would not just depict the scene in itself, but rather the hope and the yearning behind them. One painting was hung each week throughout the season so as to mirror the anticipation of the season.

The first scene, The Annunciation, was depicted by Isaac Hattton in watercolor. This Mystery focuses on Gabriel's visit to Mary and her humble acceptance of her role in Christ's coming. Isaac's painting also portrayed themes of continued creation and the fulfillment of scriptures.



Casey Chambers painted the second scene, The Visitation, which centers on Mary's visit to Elizabeth, and the joy with which she was received, by both Elizabeth and the child she was carrying. Casey incorporated lines and music from *Ave Maria* into the background and scripture from the passage, giving the painting a sense of fullness and joy.

Kristen and Seth Leach did the third painting together. The third Mystery is the Nativity, which focuses on both the poverty of Christ's birth and of the world into which he was entering. Kristen and Seth also included a fresh shoot rising from the stump of Jesse, portraying Christ's fulfillment of the Davidic kingship and promises.



The fourth Mystery, The Presentation, was done by Ann-Victoria Kuenzle. This painting focuses on the obedience of Mary and Joseph in presenting Jesus at the temple for the traditional purification. Ann-Victoria also emphasizes Jesus' role as our atoning sacrifice, presented for our own purification.

The Finding in the Temple, the fifth Mystery, was designed and printed by Richard Williams. He showed the growth of the young Jesus, both physically and in his wisdom and knowledge of scripture. This mystery also compares Mary and Joseph's joy upon finding Jesus in the temple, with our joy in coming to him.



Special thanks go out to our talented Harvest artists for these beautiful and thoughtful works of art! As with all great art, it will be moving to a new location soon...the paintings will be displayed in the fellowship hall, and we encourage you to take time to view each piece in light of the descriptions/meditations above.