

HARVEST

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

APRIL 2010

Watering

What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe - as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. - 1 Corinthians 3.5-9

I've been thinking over the last few days about how Paul uses this analogy of watering as part of the process of spiritual growth. Thinking about it while I stand there and spray water on my fertile-looking but nonetheless naked dirt, and the hose annoyingly drips and splashes mud on my feet. Thinking about it while I wonder how much longer it's going to take before anything hap-

pens to the barrenness that's neatly labeled "Broccoli." Thinking about how much more watering I'll have to do before the feeble little seedlings that wilt every afternoon will be strong, fruitful plants.

Now don't get me wrong - I really do like the monotony of going out to water my seeds every day, scrutinizing the dirt to see if anybody has dared to pop its head up yet. I like that there's only one thing that possibly needs doing: watering. No harvesting, no weed-pulling, no bug spraying. Makes it simple. But the monotony itself has made me



realize that the simple, 3-step system I tend to picture from Paul's analogy - 1) plant, 2) water, 3) harvest! - tends to linger on step 2 longer than I might anticipate. Plant. Water. Water again. Water the next day. And the day after that, and the day after that... I water, it gets dry, same thing, over and over. Hmm.

Funny that I should be more patient with the seeds I'm watering than the people in my life who need watering. Funny that it's so hard for me to be gracious with myself when I've decided it's time to be more fruitful, regardless of the fact that what I really might need is to drink and soak. Funny how everything around us - spring, birth, death, dawn - happens without our input and entirely on God's schedule, yet we still think we can control and manipulate spiritual growth in ourselves and others.

Funny.

Allison Hamm

"Apologetics" is never having to say you are sorry

The term *apologetics* is, unfortunately, often misunderstood. We tend to think of an 'apology' as an admission of fault or error along with a request for forgiveness.

But the Greek term *apologia* (from which our English word is derived) does not denote this sense. Rather, an *apologia* is a defense of a point of view (or an action) that one thinks is right. It is not an admission of fault or

error. It is saying "I am not wrong and here are my reasons for saying this."

In 1 Peter 3:15 he instructs his readers: "but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense (*apologia*) to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you." (NRSV) Apologetics is the discipline that equips believers to offer this defense.

Beginning Sunday, April 11th, the Timothy class will be engaged in clarifying, examining, studying, discussing and learning to respond to the questions and objections that contemporary people are raising against Christian belief. The class meets upstairs near the office during the Equipping Hour.

You are invited to join us.

LOOKING

AHEAD:

- April 11:
Justin & Shelbi (Ketchum) Brammer visiting
- April 20:
WTTH—Ladies at Ann Victoria's—6:30
- April 25:
Recognition of our Graduates
- May 1:
Women's Salad Supper Gathering—6:30
- May 2:
Super Souper Sunday Children's Dessert Fundraiser Semi-Annual Meeting
- June 4-13:
Wakpala Mission Trip *Start making plans to join us as we head to South Dakota!*

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.



YOUTH EVENTS

Jr. & Sr. High Students - Be sure to mark your calendar so you don't miss these great events:

April 11
Thunderstorm

April 18
Hiking after Church

April 25
Barn-swinging after Church

May 2
Ultimate Frisbee at C of O—6 PM

Also, don't forget Wednesday evening Discovery Study and alternating Thursday Guys' Night & Girls' Night!

Questions? Contact Bill, Hillary, Brendon or Marcia

To Wakpala and Beyond!!

This year's Mission Trip to the Standing Rock Reservation in South Dakota is being planned for June 4th - 13th and signup forms are now available.

The team will leave the Harvest parking lot at 7am on Friday, June 4th, and will return on Sunday, June 13th.



Some of the activities the team will be involved with in the commu-

nities of Wakpala and McLaughlin include :

- leading "VBS" type activities for children
- sharing meals with the local people
- completing any necessary building improvement and maintenance tasks
- leading adult worship services
- spending individual and group time praying and studying the Bible.

There will be a mandatory orientation session on Sunday, May 23rd, during the Equipping Hour that will provide more detailed information about the trip as well as some background information about the people of the Standing Rock Reservation and the Wakpala area.

The cost of this year's trip is \$390 if you sleep in a sleeping bag on the floor and \$425 for those who prefer a

bed. Some scholarships are available as well as assistance in raising your support if necessary. The deadline for signing up is Monday, May 17th. So, be sure to get your forms in soon!

Also, if you would like to serve but cannot go on the trip, there are many ways for you to be involved. For more information on the Wakpala trip or other ways that you can take part, talk to Bill Gebhart or Wayne Newcome.



Short-Term Mission Plans??

Every year the Harvest Mission Board budgets money to help support Harvest members / regular attenders go on short term mission trips.

In 2009 we supported Isaac Hatton who went to Nepal with

"Projects Abroad" to do volunteer medical work, as well as Michelle Newcome who went to Haiti with Teen Missions.

Anyone interested in this opportunity may contact Joanna Hubbard at hubbard86@centurytel.net or 417-

561-5324 for details on how to apply to the Mission Board for possible funding.

The Youth - Out and About and That's No Foolin'

The youth group at Harvest is going stronger than ever with a core group of about 20 youth.

Currently, the youth are continuing through the Bible Study Discovery. Deep discussions pervade both our Sunday and Wednesday night sessions about God, pillars of faith, and the response that we should have.

There have also been a lot of fun activities as well--Sardines in the Dark, Video Scavenger Hunt and many others. Our recent Party of Fools (POF) event was a huge success! Not a single person left

without some sort of gunk all over them ☺ From popping whipped cream-filled balloons to cracking raw eggs on our heads, the youth had a great time at the POF.

You may also not be aware that youth activities aren't limited to just our youth.

Recently the youth teamed up with the Cohan's small group for a great round of Bill Rules Mini-Golf! Bill Rules isn't your regular game of golf, and everyone had a great time jumping on one leg, laying on the ground, and playing leap frog—all while mini-golfing!

Are you curious about Bill Rules Mini-Golf (or Bill Rules anything, for that matter) or maybe spending some time with our amazing youth? If so, talk to Bill or any other member of the D-Team (Brendon,

Marcia, Hillary) and get yourself invited to one of our many events! You'll be glad you did!



Creative Worship Team

Late last summer, an informal group of people interested in incorporating the arts in our worship and other activities began to meet.

If you've been at Harvest in the past several months, you've seen some of the results of these meetings: the wonderful Advent

paintings hung in the foyer; the Advent Conspiracy; the additional use of video in our worship services; and Lenten poetry, to name a few.

If you are interested in seeing beauty in the church and in how we can express God's love and character through the arts,

please let Eric Bolger know so he can help you get involved with this great group of people.

Also, you can find this group on Facebook as the *Harvest Creative Worship Team*. You are encouraged to take a few minutes and check it out.

Super-Souper Sunday—May 2nd

May 2nd will be a busy Sunday at Harvest!

Following our worship service, we will head downstairs for a three-part event! During the normal "Equipping Hour," we will hold a short semi-annual meeting, where we will provide a brief update of board /staff activities over the past few months

and welcome new members. We will share a great meal together served by our Mission Board members.



We will conclude the morning with our annual Children's Dessert Fundraiser, which

will benefit the upcoming Wakpala trip.

Be sure to plan on joining in on the fun and excitement of this tasty and action-packed morning with your church family!



Women's Ministries Upcoming Opportunities

Our Women's Third Tuesday Hangout (WTH) began in March, and we had a great time drinking coffee, eating sweets, and just enjoying one another's company in a relaxed atmosphere. Our next WTH will be at **6:30 PM on Tuesday, April 20th**, at Ann-Victoria's place (the Montgomery Home). Ladies of all ages are welcome and encouraged to attend!

~~~~ Women's Spring Salad Gathering May 1st

Janet Bolger's home
6:30 PM

Ladies are welcome to bring a salad to share as well as a garage sale item donation for our garage sale to benefit Options Pregnancy Clinic..
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Finally, the Women's Retreat is coming in November. If you haven't gotten your "Save the Date" retreat magnet, be sure to see Ann-Victoria.



For more info on any event, contact Ann-Victoria at 230-9495.

## Children's Ministries

The "Eggstravaganza" held March 27th was an incredibly fun night!

The kids enjoyed competing on teams to win prizes. They had an egg toss, threw eggs at a target, strung eggs on a string, ate wonderful snacks, and had a lot of laughs. Rob Marshall showed them how to blow eggs and color them in a new way.

We are so blessed to have such fun kids.

We would love to share some pictures with you; however, we don't have a camera. If you know of someone that might like to donate a camera or be our event photographer, please don't hesitate to contact Jodi Stone with that info!

### Children's Ministry Needs:

1 teacher for the 1st - 3rd grade

Teachers & helpers for Bible School (tentatively scheduled for the second week in July)

Contact Jodi or the church office.

## HARVEST TEACHING SCHEDULE

**April 11**

*Matt. 18:15-20*

Jesus Teaches on Dealing with a Sinning Brother  
*Justin Carswell*

**April 18**

*Matt. 18:21-35*

Parable of the Unforgiving Servant  
*Justin Carswell*

**April 25**

Congregational Sharing Service  
*Eric Bolger*

**May 2**

*Matt. 19:13-15*

Jesus Uses Children to Illustrate His Kingdom  
*Eric Bolger*

### DID YOU KNOW???

You can listen to each week's sermon on the web. Just log on to [www.harvestefc.org](http://www.harvestefc.org) and click on Download Sermon.

## Community Groups

Looking to connect more deeply with others at Harvest? Consider joining a Community Group!

Do you have administrative gifts to share or great ideas on how to better promote community groups at Harvest? Consider serving in the Community Group Ministry!

Contact Amy Wescott at [amywescott@tri-lakes.net](mailto:amywescott@tri-lakes.net) or the church office for more information.

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus. Romans 15:5

## 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](http://www.harvestefc.org)

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](mailto:office@harvestefc.org) (or fill out a pew card next Sunday) so we can keep in contact with you.

## Congratulations to our Graduates!

On Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate this year's graduates! Below is an incredible list of students that attend Harvest who are scheduled to graduate. If you know of someone missing from this list of grads, please let us know by contacting the church office or Dori Rapinchuk.

### High School Graduates:

*Laura Lingner*                      *Cody Gaar*                      *Rand Youngblood*

### College Graduates:

*Dan Bolger*                      *Jodi Dunnam*                      *Corey Ashley*  
*Adrienne Forster*                      *Isaac Hatton*                      *Brandon Hall*  
*Lindsay Wisley*                      *Levi Gage*                      *Jonathan Willis*  
*Seth Rehmert*                      *Sandra Clemons*                      *Allen Green*  
*Nathan Caldwell*                      *Chandler Holt*                      *Valerie Wilson*  
*Derik Grove*                      *Candice Gage*                      *Sam Porter*  
*Greg Lilley*                      *Curtis Gill*                      *Annie Unruh*  
*Talitha Ellis*                      *Mandy Boswell*                      *Amanda Grimwood*  
*Carrie Clark*                      *Mallory Groesbeck*                      *Jonathan Patterson*

## Easter Baptism

On Easter Sunday, we were excited and thankful to see four young ladies from our congregation acknowledge their faith in Jesus Christ and step out in obedience by entering the waters of baptism. Join us in praising God for these young ladies: Jessica McKnight, Ashleigh Williams, Claire Wescott, and Jennifer Newcome.