

**Chalmers
Presbyterian
Church**

Youth Spirit

Volume 2, Issue 9

May, 2010

Coming in May: Retreat, Retreat!

Next Saturday, May 1st is the Chalmers' One-Day Spring Retreat. If you have not already registered, please contact me today to see if there is space still available. This promises to be a WONDERFUL day. We will be spending the day (9am-9pm) at Pearce-Williams Christian Centre which is about 1/2 an hour from London. There will be activities for all ages from the very young (my daughter Isla will be there, 21 months old) to the very old—I won't mention any names, but if you saw our

drama at church last week, you'll know that even "Old Fred" is considering coming.

The theme of the day is "Sabbath is..." Many of us think of Sunday (or the Sabbath) as the day to go to church. Some of us may even still try to "keep it holy" by avoiding shopping but Sabbath is so much more! God wants us to rest, certainly, but what about "delighting in God"? When's the last time you took time to purposely delight in

God. And what does that even mean, anyway?

Please consider coming and joining us, even for just part of the day, to rest, renew and learn how to delight in God!

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Contact me!

- Ideas, suggestions, comments, new emails? Let me know: lizzt@rogers.com



Want to make new friends? Just bring out a balloon and soon everyone wants to play! (I was too slow with my camera for some of the best pictures, but trust me: a little girl and a balloon are infectious and she had all sorts of people playing chase!)



From the Editor

I read a book recently called Family-Based Youth Ministry by Mark DeVries. For those of you in my “inner circle”, yes, this is THE BOOK. I’ve talked about it incessantly since then, to the point of driving several people to the brink of insanity. That aside, if you are at all interested in children, teens, youth, church, relationships or how to encourage faith development, you really MUST read this book (I have four copies available if you’re interested!)

There are literally hundreds of fascinating passages that I could include here for your perusal, but I don’t have enough space. I’m not even sure where I should begin, but page 41 was a good one. On it Mark writes, “Without question, the most damaging isolation that teenagers in our culture experience is within their own families. American parents spend less time with their children than do parents in any other country in

the world, according to Harvard psychiatrist Armand Nicholi. Fifty years ago, families worked and ate together by necessity. Teenagers and parents had little choice but to spend hours and hours together. In the process, young people couldn’t avoid observing and listening in on the adult world, giving youth exposure that laid a natural track into adulthood.

As families prospered, they no longer found it necessary to work and eat together. The natural bridge from childhood to adulthood was severely weakened, and in some homes, removed altogether. With one in four young people now indicating that they have *never* had a meaningful conversation with their father, is it any wonder that 76 percent of the 1200 teens surveyed in *USA Today* actually *want* their parents to spend more time with them?

Andree Aelion Brooks, in her eye-opening book *Children of Fast-Track Parents*, describes her interviews with scores of children and parents who seemed to have it all: “If there was one theme that constantly emerged from my conversations with the children it was a surprising undercurrent of aloneness—feelings of isolation from peers as well as parents despite their busy lives.”

Mark continues on throughout the book to discuss how the church needs to address this situation. Based on observations and suggestions from this book, Rev. John, Judy Steward and I are working on an exciting plan for September for the teens at Chalmers. Stay tuned!

Have a Laugh!

Here’s another excerpt from Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader Institute, page 31. These are 100% honest-to-goodness headlines. Can you figure out what they were trying to say?

- Raleigh, N.C., Lays Down Law: Two Pigs Per Household
- Dr. Tackett Gives Talk on Moon
- Chou Remains Cremated
- Robber Holds Up Albert’s Hosiery
- New housing for elderly not yet dead
- Federal Agents Raid Gun Shop, Find Weapons



- Tuna Biting Off Washington Coast
- Shouting match ends teacher’s hearing
- Toxic Diapers Found in Wash.
- Policeman Shot in Basque Area
- City Outlaws Giving Out Phone Numbers, Addresses of Police
- Yellow Snow Studied to Test Nutrition
- April Slated as Child Abuse Month

What a Picture!



What a Quote!

- “It’s an outrage how grown-ups have polluted the Earth! I refuse to inherit a spoiled planet. I’m leaving!” Calvin (of Calvin & Hobbs)

Grab a Book!



Solomon and Friends Learn About

Ages 2 - 5

- 1 – Prayer
- 2 – Forgiveness
- 3 – Being Wonderfully Made
- 4 – Trusting God

This is a series of four books – and we have them all in the library. So once you get to know the Nehemiah family in the first book – you can enjoy reading more about them in the rest of the series. Solomon is a young bear – and he asks his dad a question. Dad suggests they ask God and so Mr Nehemiah teaches Solomon how to pray to God. Solomon is very excited about this whole business and can't wait to hear God's answer. His answer comes – not in any of the ways that Solomon expects – but powerfully and magnificently from a loving God who cares for all His children and wants to have them talk to Him every day.

The Book of The King by Jerry B. Jenkins & Chris Fabry

Ages 10 – 12

Owen Reeder is a very ordinary young man – not popular – not athletic – not good at anything in particular – but an avid reader. Not the kind to fight dragons and fling creatures. His father owns a bookstore, so is it any wonder that Owen is a bookworm? But then he is given a very special book. Enjoy this passage from this book – then be prepared to read the rest:

“Do you have a book you call your own, one that speaks to you as nothing else can? It may be fiction or non-fiction, and each time you look at it something within you stirs and you wonder how such a perfect thing can be held between two covers and be constructed of simple strings and letters. Others may scoff at your chosen book or criticize its simplicity or humor, or even the sound of the author's name. But if your heart has truly been touched by it, any criticism of it is lost on you. It has genuinely and irrevocably changed you forever. That is what happened to Owen that night on the decrepit couch next to the fire in Petrov's hovel. The book had been etched by hand in a long, flowing motion by a master craftsman. The thick pages crinkled richly as they were turned.” This is the first book in a series. We have the second book..... and if any interest is shown in reading them – I will be very glad to buy some more in this series. It's all up to you!!

Sister to the Wolf by Maxine Trottier

Ages 13+

I read this book a couple of years ago – and really enjoyed it. Filled with adventure and romance, it is a perfect novel for young and all! It takes place in Quebec in 1703 in a rough town where Indian slaves are routinely mistreated. Cecile Chesne watches a young Indian boy being branded and decides that this is just not right. Defying convention, the headstrong girl buys the slave's freedom and treats him as an equal. The boy, Lesharo, is Pawnee – the People of the Wolf. Now sworn to protect Cecile, he accompanies her and her father as they depart on a perilous journey to the new fort at Detroit. One terrible night, Cecile is forced to make a dreadful choice

Reviewed by Christine Hunter

Happy to See You

Our preschool class:

Naomi Julie Katelyn
Isla Lily Leah
Sarah

Our Primary Class:

Alyson Rebecca Hunter
Morgan Taylor Mariah
Rieley Torry Hailee
Josiah Aly



Our Junior Class:

Crissy Colin Ben
Brynn Cyndi Carson
Kenneth Jacqueline Reece
Joycelina Lauren Sarah
Tyler

Our Senior Class:

Sam Jackie Alex
Sydney Abbey P. Zack
Charleen Tom Jessie
Spencer Allyson Abby M.

We had a wonderful turn out this month and saw an average of 23 children and youth each week. Thank you to everyone who made the effort to join us. It truly is “the more, the merrier!”

Children & Youth Ministries at Chalmers

May 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Chalmers ONE-DAY Retreat! 9-9 Camp Kintail opening
2 Happy 3 rd Birthday Charlotte 10:30am SMY 5:30 Young Adults Dinner 7pm Contemporary Service	3	4	5 Camp Kintail staff go to Malawi 7:30 pm Reach Out rehearsal	6	7	8 9-12 Sell Your Stuff Sale
9 - Happy Mother's Day Happy 10 th Birthday Tyler 10:30am NO SMY Ascension Sunday Christian Family Sunday	10 Happy 6 th Birthday Logan D. Happy 19 th Birthday Heather McT.	11	12 7:30 pm Reach Out rehearsal	13 Ascension Day	14	15 Happy 15 th Birthday Tom Happy 23 rd Birthday Lindsay
16 10:30am SMY 7pm Contemporary Service	17 - Victoria Day	18	19 7:30 pm Reach Out rehearsal	20	21	22
23 10:30am SMY Pentecost National Day of Healing & Reconciliation Men's Mission Service	24	25 Happy 10 th Birthday Joyceline	26 7:30 pm Reach Out rehearsal	27	28 Happy 21 st Birthday Craig Happy 25 th Birthday Lauren	29
30 10:30am SMY Trinity Sunday Holy Communion	31					

For a calendar of all Chalmers activities, go to www.chalmerslondon.com/year_calendar.htm