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United News™

News of the United Church of God, an International Association

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July 2009

News At a Glance

10th Class of ABC Graduates

May 24 saw the graduation of the 10th class from Ambassador Bible Center. It seems incredible that ABC has been educating members and young adults in biblical studies for the past 10 years! The class of 2009 was a small class in numbers—only 20. But it was an excellent class in terms of attitude and balance. The students bonded well and worked together on several projects as a single unit. They demonstrated a synergy that is difficult to describe in words. They were a great class!

This year's student body president, Alex Henderson, delivered the president's address at the graduation ceremonies and talked about the



Alex Henderson delivers the president's address at graduation

unique and positive "chemistry" this class showed throughout the year. Jim Franks, Ministerial Services operation manager, addressed the students, family, alumni and guests and talked about the importance of our "education tradition" of passing the truth of God on to the next generation.

The ABC Ambassador Award of Excellence, which is given to the male and female students who best demonstrate the mission, goals and ideals of

See "News at a Glance," page 2

United Statistics

10 years of ABC Attendees

2000.....	24
2001.....	39
2002.....	50
2003.....	41
2004.....	38
2005.....	42
2006.....	53
2007.....	50
2008.....	31
2009.....	20
2010 (projected)....	40

ABC Seminar Welcomes 59 Students



by Elizabeth Cannon

The home office was filled to capacity June 8 to 12 for the ABC Continuing Education Seminar. A total of 59 students took part in five days of biblical instruction with classes on the seven last sayings of Jesus, Philippians, temperaments and personalities, Genesis, the resurrections, Confucianism, the Greek educational tour, 2 and 3 John, the early Sabbatarians, the 13 apostles of relativism and self-esteem.

"This is the first time we've reached capacity and have had to turn people away," said ABC instructor David Johnson.

The students, who hail from various parts of the United States, showed an enthusiastic response to instruction.

"You've got an older, more mature crowd here. They typically like to talk about the things covered... These are

people already locked into the truth. They come here to get pumped up, to get that shot in the arm," said ABC alumnus Jeff Cox. "One of the most helpful classes probably is Mr. Johnson's class on Philippians, because it deals with practical matters of the Church, how to get along and how to have Christ's mind."

Joseph and Janet Jacoby have gone to ABC Continuing Education seminars for five years. "Each one is stand-alone," Mr. Jacoby said. "One year we had Dr. Levy's Job class, which was phenomenal. This time Mr. Franks' one on the resurrections was paramount."

Tina Rupp and her husband, Dan, have also attended the seminars for five years. "We love coming to learn, but the fellowship is supreme. This year with almost 60 students, it was just overwhelming."

"The surprise is the fellowship. The depth of the fellowship is one reason to come," added first-time attendee Carole Gholson who was able to attend classes with her husband, Lloyd.

"Because I audited a few classes last year, I knew I had to come," Mrs. Gholson continued. "It has enhanced my own study."

Mrs. Rupp agreed, "We get such a broad perspective."

ABC will be offering Continuing Education Seminars in Rochester, Minnesota, July 11 to 12; in Omaha, Nebraska, July 25 to 26; and in Columbia, Maryland, Aug. 1 to 2. Members from other church areas are welcome to attend as space permits. There is no charge for the weekend seminars. Anyone interested should contact the local pastors (Steve Myers in Rochester, Mitch Knapp in Omaha and Tim Waddle in Columbia) for more information. **UN**

New Local Congregation Web Sites Go Live

by Jeremy Lallier

The Media and Communications Services department has recently begun the initial launch phase of new local congregation Web sites. These new sites are an essential next step in developing United Church of God's Web presence by creating a unified interface and by providing a streamlined experience for any user on any local congregation Web page.

"We're going to make them live as quickly as we can," said senior Web developer Tom Disher. "It's really exciting."

Up until now, each individual congregation was responsible for constructing and maintaining its own site—a difficult task that requires both the annual cost of renting server space and owning a domain name as well as the time and effort of dedicated volunteer webmasters.

Since the previous local sites were each developed independently, each congregation's Web site was designed with different graphics and features. It is the goal of this new project to create a unified appearance while offering content-relevant pages that will link back to our publications and to the UCG home page. With every local site built on the same template, users will experience a sense of continuity across all local congregation Web pages.

The new local sites require less effort from each congregation's webmaster but still allow for significant customization. Each site is designed with a section for archiving local sermons, announcements, calendar events and even a blog where the pastor or assigned members can post news and thoughts. They also feature an improved search engine that allows visitors to sort search results by date, speaker or topic.

Other helpful features include a "Sunset This Friday" feature, which

See "Local Web Sites," page 4

Director Named for New Good Works Program

Larry Greider has been named to direct the new and expanded Good Works Program, which was approved by the Council of Elders on May 6, 2009 (for additional information, you can read a detailed report under the Council of Elders section on the members' Web site). In addition, the Council clarified the working relationship between the Church and LifeNets, a humanitarian charity founded by Victor Kubik that, while separate from the United Church of God, involves and benefits numerous United Church of God members.

The Good Works program originally targeted only emergency needs, but the new structure will broaden its focus to provide help in three primary areas:

1. **International Scholarships.** Many of our young people in developing countries desperately need help to fund their education, without which they face ongoing poverty.

2. **Youth Corps Projects.** These projects provide opportunities for qualified young people to serve and develop leadership through humanitarian projects around the world.

3. **Church/Member Needs.** Unusual situations often arise where congregations or individual members need emergency or specialized assistance.

Mr. Greider, who pastors the Los Angeles, California, congregation, successfully directed the United Youth Camps program for 10 years. "He brings a lot of energy to any project—he is a builder, not a maintainer," said President Clyde Kilough.

"Due to his history of being involved with both the camp and Youth Corps programs, he is very familiar with the goals, needs and challenges, and how the support of Good Works could serve to further the aims of the scholarship and Youth Corps activities. As a longtime church pastor, he is obviously aware of the various types of member needs."

He also has extensive travel experience, "giving him a good understanding of factors affecting international areas. He will work well with international ministers on various projects to meet their needs."



Larry and Bonnie Greider

In addition, his wife, Bonnie, has a professional background in fundraising due to her work with The Downtown St. Louis Partnership from 1997 through 2005. "Together they will make a great team in building this program."

In addition to developing the fundraising projects for international scholarships, Youth Corps projects and church/member needs, Mr. Greider will act as the liaison with LifeNets and the administration to determine who will handle each project as it is proposed.

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News At a Glance

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ABC over the course of the year, was awarded to Melody Schmidt and Jeremy Lallier. The Council of Elders Service Award was presented to Tom and Jody Adams for all the service they gave over the year to ABC students and the various charitable events the class supported. The awards were presented by UCG President Clyde Kilough and Council representative Roy Holladay.

We are now beginning to plan for the class of 2010. We have already accepted 40 students to begin classes in August. Anyone wishing to attend ABC this fall should apply soon. The deadline for applications is July 15.

David Register

D.C. Postal Forum Offers Cost-Saving Ideas

Connie Seelig and Chris Stewart traveled to Washington, D.C., to attend the National Postal Forum May 17 to 20. The National Postal Forum is the annual conference and trade show for mail professionals in the United States and the top event where the home office mail processing department learns about new technology and cost-saving ideas.

Mrs. Seelig noted the overall focus was on the current global economic crisis that has caused the U.S. Postal Service to suffer sharp revenue losses. "It's kind of a downward spiral," she remarked. "As they raise rates, volumes are driven down, which results in more revenue losses." She also noted the reduction in the number of people attending the forum. In years past the USPS would host between 5,000 and 7,000 attendees. This year Mrs. Seelig estimated that only 3,000 to 4,000 were in attendance.

One of the main focuses of the forum was a new technology called Intelligent Mail Barcode (IMB), which the USPS intends to implement in September of this year. Because of the complexity of the technology, however, it will not be a requirement for another two years.

IMB is the new method of tracking mail items. Currently, postal information is stored on a number of barcodes that are affixed to an envelope or box. The new barcode will store all postal information on a single barcode, making it possible to track every piece of mail handled by the USPS.

Mrs. Seelig was also able to find out more information about a new feature called Commercial Plus for Priority Mail, which will save 15 cents per piece of priority mail that we process. "A lot of heavier weight mail we send to prisoners must be sent priority because the prisoners won't accept bulk," said Mrs. Seelig. The extra 15-cent savings per item will be appreciated.

Chris Stewart attended the forum in order to research updating our cur-

See "News at a Glance," page 20

Profile: Four Generations of Godly Women

by Linda LaBissoniere

We have often noticed how God works through families. On March 23, 2009, Jacqueline Evans, the 19-year-old daughter of Eric and Jeannie Evans, was baptized in Knoxville, Tennessee. With this commitment to God and His way, she became the fourth generation of women in her family to do so.

It all started with Evelyn (Mitchell) Marshall, who as a teen in the 1920s questioned Sunday-keeping and eating unclean meats. However, since she had no knowledge of the true Church, she continued to attend with the Methodist church and later married Leslie Marshall and had five children.

Several years later God began working with Evelyn's son Robert and daughter Judy. Even from a very young age, Judy had many questions about the Bible and the practices of the church that she attended at that time. Her brother Robert began receiving booklets from the Radio Church of God. While cleaning his room Judy discovered several booklets, which opened her eyes to God's truth.

Evelyn's son Robert wrote the Church's headquarters and requested a visit. The family received a visit from Dean Blackwell and John Bald. Evelyn, Robert and Judy spent five hours excitedly asking them questions. Evelyn and Robert were baptized in 1959, but Judy being only 16 years old was baptized later in April 1960. As time went on, Evelyn's husband, Leslie, another son and two younger daughters were also baptized.

Judy went on to Ambassador College in 1960 where she met her future husband, Bill Swanson. In 1963 they were sent out into the field to serve the brethren. To honor Loma Armstrong's request, they named their first child Loma Jean.

Loma Jean (Jeannie) also answered God's call. She reflected on her calling, "I was 10 years old and living in Huntsville, Alabama, when God called me. I mean that He virtu-

ally 'knocked on my door.' All of a sudden there was a real awareness of God and how I needed His protection and wanted Him to be my Father. . . I knew I wanted to be baptized into His family."

Now with Jacqueline, her daughter, being baptized, Jeannie stated, "Thirty plus years later, I have a better grasp of God and who He is. . . I've learned through many trials and tribulations that God loves us with a perfect love that is so merciful we can't totally understand it. How can anyone not want to be a part of a family like that? You can imagine my happiness now that my daughter has made that same commitment and now we have four generations in the family of God!"

Four generations of women have accepted God's call. Evelyn, at age 93, is now in a nursing home. Judy resides with her retired husband, Bill, in London, Kentucky. They are still very active, serving the brethren in London as well as Knoxville and Kingsport, Tennessee. Jeannie serves with her husband, Eric, who pastors the congregations mentioned above. And Jacqueline's spiritual journey has just begun. **UN**



Jacqueline Evans, Judy Swanson and Jeannie Evans



Evelyn Marshall

FORWARD! Align Your Values With God's Law

by Jason Lovelady



The Cleveland Cavaliers had the best record in the NBA this year. Cleveland was also home to the regular season MVP LeBron James, arguably the best player in the NBA. In the first two rounds of the play-offs, they swept their opponents—not losing a single game. It was generally assumed that Cleveland would be in the NBA finals.

Surprisingly though, despite the heroic efforts of LeBron James, the Orlando Magic beat the Cleveland Cavaliers in six games in the Eastern Conference Finals. Cleveland's fans were extremely disappointed, but perhaps no one was as disappointed as LeBron James. In fact, after the game he refused to shake the hands of Orlando Magic players, and he refused to speak to the

media. He instead went straight from the locker room to the team bus.

While following LeBron James' career since he started playing for the NBA straight out of high school, I have admired how he has maturely handled the fame, the spotlight, the money and all the glitz and glamour that comes with being an NBA star. Needless to say, I was surprised by his actions.

On an ESPN sports radio talk show David Stern, the commissioner of the NBA, was asked what upset him more, LeBron not shaking the Orlando Magic players' hands or LeBron's refusal to speak to the media. Stern said that both equally upset him—one speaks to rules, and the other speaks to values. Both are highly important.

LeBron James let his emotions get the best of him, and it resulted with him compromising his values and violating NBA rules.

Have we ever done something similar? Have we ever let our emotions get the best of us and compromise our values? Elvis Presley said, "Values are like fingerprints. Nobody's are the same, but you leave 'em all over every-

thing you do." But just having values is not enough, is it? Even a band of thieves have values. We need to ask ourselves what our values should be based on.

Values, of course, should be based on God's laws and principles that are found in His Word. God's Word defines in absolute terms what is right and wrong. Just as there are natural laws that govern the universe, there are spiritual laws that govern how we are to act and relate to each other and with God.

The more we can align our values with God's laws and principles and then bring our actions and behaviors in line with that, the more joy, happiness and inner peace we will have in our lives.

Jesus Christ modeled this perfectly by fulfilling and magnifying the spiritual intent and purpose of God's law by how He lived (Matthew 5:17).

LeBron James was fined \$25,000 for his actions. He later apologized to everyone for his behavior. Yes, values and following rules are highly important in the NBA. But they are so much more important for all of us as Christians. **UN**

Jason Lovelady is treasurer of UCGIA.

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News From **Around the World**

Australia's Chairman Decides Against Serving Another Term

by Ruth Root

It was difficult to believe that the day would finally arrive when Bill Eddington would decide to not to be on the ballot for the Australian Board of Directors. That day did come, however, at the Board meeting in the Gold Coast in March 2009, when he confirmed that he had decided not to stand for the Board for the 2009-2011 term. This decision also meant that he would no longer hold the position of chairman of the Australian Board of Directors, which he has held since July 1, 1999.

After United Church of God was formed, Mr. Eddington was selected to the Board of Directors on July 1, 1997,

and later volunteered his services as chairman for a decade. Since July 2006, he has also been heavily involved as an international member of the Council of Elders of the United Church of God, an International Association. This is a position in which he still continues to serve, as he was chosen again to serve on the Council of Elders at the May 2009 General Conference of Elders in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Mr. Eddington is also currently chairman of the Council of Elders Roles and Rules Committee and a member of their Strategic Planning and Finance Committee. In order to serve in this capacity, Mr. Eddington and his wife, Rae, make the long flight to the United States four times a year.

In Australia, Mr. Eddington also serves as a member of the Pastoral Committee and during the formative years of the United Church of God—Australia, devoted valued time and energy to the Policy and Planning Committee. As a member of that committee, he was heavily involved in policy development and implementation

in the early days of the Church as well as being cowriter of UCG—Australia's constitution.

For the last three years Mr. Eddington has also been the pastor of the small, but vibrant, Albury/Wodonga congregation situated on the border of Victoria and New South Wales. His service to this congregation involves a six-hour round-trip, by car, at least once a month and on most Holy Days.

Mr. Eddington has also served on the Editorial Review Subcommittee for seven years. This subcommittee reviews all material published in the name of the United Church of God—Australia and also assists with the review of articles for *The Good News*, *World News and Prophecy* and *Vertical Thought*. As Board chairman he has also contributed his administrative know-how to the Australian operations center, working closely with the staff and advising on administrative matters.

The commitment both Bill and Rae Eddington have shown is an example to all of us. He has already indicated that, although he is not standing for nomination to the Board for the next term, he would still like to be involved behind the scenes. **UN**



Bill and Rae Eddington

European Young Adults Unite During Pentecost

by Michelle Mills

Surrounded by peaceful and verdant forest in Stadtkyll, Germany, 27 young people from nine countries came together over the Pentecost weekend to enjoy a unifying and inspiring four days filled with uplifting fellowship and stimulating discussion.

The camp (held from May 29 to June 2, 2009) was organized by local UCG young adults and provided a special opportunity for young adults across Europe to build bridges across organizations and make friends across cultures, all while sharing common beliefs and the special meaning of the spring Holy Day feast.

The participants hailed from Germany, Belgium, France, Austria, United Kingdom and Holland. Australian and New Zealand expatriates and visitors from the United States were also present at the event. The activi-

ties were held in English, but German and French were also spoken.

Each night interactive Bible discussions were held around the campfire or during the day in the forest, focusing on using our strengths for doing God's work, unity among brethren, bringing change into our lives through the Holy Spirit and identifying God's will

the challenges ahead and to enter the Kingdom of God.

On Pentecost, the group travelled by train to the local congregation in Dormagen, almost doubling the congregation's regular size. The sermon centered on the powerful characteristics of the Holy Spirit, and a translation was provided in English. Hymns



Young adults from Europe, the United States, Australia and New Zealand gather for a four-day campout in western Germany during Pentecost weekend

in our lives. The minister responsible for the German-speaking areas, Paul Kieffer, also conducted a Bible study on spiritual strength in order to face

were sung in German, English and French; and following the service, everyone shared a wonderful buffet meal provided by the local members.

Attendees enjoyed scenic walks in the forest and a day trip to the medieval ruins of Kronenburg and the walled city of Hillesheim. We all look forward to sharing future activities together in Europe to enhance our friendships and spiritual unity. **UN**



A highlight of the Pentecost weekend campout was Bible discussions around the campfire

International News At a Glance

Record High German GN Circulation

The May-June issue of the *Gute Nachrichten (Good News)* magazine was mailed to 6,106 readers in 20 European countries. This is a new record high for *Gute Nachrichten* circulation, representing a 3 percent increase over the last issue and a 21.5 percent increase over May 2008. The goal for 2009 is to have 6,500 subscribers by the end of the year.

Paul Kieffer

Visit to Remote Village in Zimbabwe Profitable

On Pentecost weekend, Steven Tshabalala, a member in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, paid a visit to members and prospective members in the outlying area of Bungu Gokwe, near Victoria Falls. Here the only means of transport is by donkey-drawn cart.

After a long journey, Mr. Tshabalala and his wife enjoyed the hospitality of the group, many of whom were eager to fellowship and learn.

"At Sabbath services...the singing was beautiful, which surprised us considering that half of the people were new," said Mr. Tshabalala. "But they love to be part of this Church. They had heard about Herbert Armstrong and the Church of God, but now they were able to sit down and really listen to the truth, as God's Word was explained to them."

On Pentecost, Mr. Tshabalala felt pain in his right eye when he woke up. "I just used one eye to go through my notes, and at 11 a.m. I could hardly see." He still was able to give an offertory message, announcements and a sermon. He again spoke in the afternoon service.

Mr. and Mrs. Tshabalala's dedicated service demonstrates an incredible passion for serving God's people. He has since arranged for some of the people in Bungu Gokwe to come to Bulawayo to meet with Southern African ministers Morgen Kriedeman and André van Belkum.

Australia Undergoes Largest Renewal Project to Date

United Church of God—Australia has recently conducted its biggest renewal project yet. Because of the worsening financial situation worldwide and the need for a conservative budget in the next financial year, it was decided to

send a renewal to everyone who had been on *The Good News* mailing list prior to April 1, 2008, amounting to just over 29,000 *Good News* subscribers.

This year they were able to offer a very special DVD for the first time in the renewal letter they mailed to subscribers. The DVD comprises the three lectures delivered by Gary Petty, Melvin Rhodes and Bill Bradford during *The Good News* lectures held in Brisbane and Melbourne in July 2008. The three messages—"The Day Christ's Message Was Changed," "The Biblical Message of Salvation: Do We Have the Whole Story?" and "What the Bible Says About Australia in the 21st Century"—have generated a very encouraging response.

Final statistics are not yet available, but the operations center has received numerous calls from those who have just viewed the DVD expressing their appreciation for the vital information the DVD provides.

Ruth Root

Two Sisters Recognized for Achievements

Ariel and Alexis Turnquest, daughters of Kevera and Janace Turnquest, of Freeport, Grand Bahama, were both congratulated on their recent achievements.



Kevera Turnquest and his daughter Alexis at her awards ceremony



Ariel Turnquest

Alexis, an 8-year-old second grade student, attends the Mary Star of the Sea School in Freeport. She

was recently chosen as one of the students who displayed the most Christian attitude and behavior in her class this school year.

She was given a certificate at a special ceremony at her school on May 4, 2009.

Her older sister, Ariel, who is 18 years old, recently completed her first year at McGill University in Montreal, Canada.

She was recently honored by the Bahamas Ministry of Education for receiving the highest grade in the combined science exam out of all the students who took it. This is a government-based exam that was administered in her final year of secondary school.

United Youth Corps in Jordan: Epilogue of the Jordan Crew

As the title suggests, this will be the last time the 2008-2009 United Youth Corps Jordan crew will be providing an article for *UnitedNews*. As a group, we would like to thank everyone for his or her thoughts, prayers and support of us this past year. As our time here comes to a close, and the next group of volunteers begin to make their preparations to arrive, we wanted to leave you with a few last thoughts regarding our time here in Jordan.

Last Words... Tine Banda

My participation in the Jordan project ranks as one of my life's most defining moments. It is impossible for me to articulate everything the project has meant to me—and I will not try. Instead, I dedicate this epilogue to the following special people: Mum and Dad, thank you for wholeheartedly supporting my decision to enlist in United Youth Corps and for raising me in the fear of the Lord.

To our project team and, in particular, United Youth Corps coordinator Douglas Horchak, you have my immense gratitude. To all the ministers who took time out of their busy schedules to conduct a Skype Bible study or to send us a note of encouragement, we cannot thank you enough.

To HRH Prince Hassan, thank you for believing in me enough to take me into your service, changing the course of my life forever.

To my extraordinary friends, my gratitude knows no bounds. My fellow volunteers, I love you as siblings. I am so proud of you.

And finally to my God, thank You

so much. My heart overflows with gratitude and praise. I love You.

Last Words... Lewis VanAusdle

I remind my students from time to time that the words they say and the things they do will stay in my mind the longest. Sometimes it works to quiet them down and shape them up for a moment. When that happens it lets me know that they at least somewhat heed my words and listen to some things that I say. It makes me think about how they might remember me.

What words do I want to leave with them? What impressions have I made that will last? What about my coworkers? How do I want them to remember me?

I hope to leave my coworkers with memories of someone who is hardworking, shows respect and is friendly to everyone—someone who carries his own weight and does his best to help others carry their load as well. I want my students to remember me, if not as a good teacher, then as a good person—someone who genuinely cares about how they are doing and who encourages them in a positive direction, a person who shows respect to others, someone who they can look up to, a good example.

Last Words... Lena VanAusdle

In the past 10 months, as individuals we have been humbled by great blessings and strengthened by trials. As a group we have been brought together as a family by both. We arrived wide-eyed and wonder-filled. We worked hard, traveled as much as possible,

cried some, laughed even more, stood tall, fell down some, got back up, ate some amazing food, ate some not-so-amazing food, made some amazing friends and missed our amazing family and friends. But most of all we grew, and we loved.

We were recently asked what it is that we would like to be remembered for when we leave. I would like to be remembered (hopefully anywhere I make my home) as someone who fulfills the following verses: "Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ... And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'" (Matthew 22:36-39).

Last Words... Zach Smith

This project has been exciting, intimidating, inspiring, challenging, encouraging, unifying, character-building and life-changing. It is the kind of experience that you just can't explain.

One of the greatest factors about being here is feeling connected to the work of the Church. When we began our endeavor in Jordan we were told, "This is God's project." I believe it has been just that. We have had the opportunity to be witnesses of the Kingdom of God in a part of the world where that is the only legal way to preach the gospel.

But what we have had the chance to do is no different than what God's people are doing around the world. Whether in Ohio, Zambia or the Middle East, we are all representatives of the Kingdom of God. We are all on God's project.



Lewis and Lena VanAusdle, Tine Banda and Emily and Zach Smith

The Jordan experience has been a unique venue for partaking in that larger project, but the task is the same for all of God's people. We've just had the opportunity to do it in another part of the world. Wherever you may be, keep up the good work, fellow volunteers, witnesses and ambassadors for the Kingdom of God!

Last Words... Emily Smith

As these remaining days begin to dwindle, my heart feels tugged in both directions. It aches as I realize I have to say good-bye to the people I've come to love here in Jordan, and it jumps with joy looking forward to returning home to the people I've been missing for these last 10 months.

Sorting through these feelings, I find comfort knowing that we have "one God and Father of all" (Ephesians 4:6). No matter where we may

find ourselves in this world, each person we meet is potentially our brother or sister in God's everlasting family.

We can rest assured, knowing that God will bring us all back together again as He works out His marvelous plan. He loves every person who has ever lived, whether rich or poor, able-minded or handicapped, royalty or servants. So, even though I secretly plot to sneak some of my students home with me, I know that this goodbye is only for a short time. Leaving my new home and family of five, I look forward to the day when all people will become one big family. Until then, I'll strive to view each person as my future brother and each good-bye as "I'll see you again, God willing." **UN**

To see a more complete log of the Jordan crew's experiences, visit their blog at ujcordan08.blogspot.com.

"Local Web Sites," continued from page 1

displays the approximate time for the upcoming Friday night's sundown in that congregation's immediate area, a contact form that will allow prospective members to contact the local pastor by e-mail or phone, directions and a Google-generated map of the location of Sabbath services. Each site also has a password-protected section for prayer requests, members' announcements and sermons for members.

Adding to the unity afforded by similar design, the local sites will also feature regularly updated content from UCG's other venues, such as *Beyond Today*, *World News and Prophecy* and *The Good News*. These sections will be updated from the home office and require no additional work from individual webmasters.

All local sites will also now be sub-domained, meaning each will be hosted under the ucg.org domain name and will have the same format. For example, the Fort Myers, Florida, congregation's Web site address is now ft-myers.ucg.org (see photos to the right).

Our overall goal of subdomaining is to increase our search engine optimization. "When someone searches on Google for a Sabbath-keeping church in a given location," said Mr. Disher, "we want our main UCG Web site to show up in the first results. And also we

The screenshots show the following content:

- Upcoming Local Events:** A calendar view for the month of June 2009.
- Local Congregations:** A search bar and a list of local churches.
- Sermons:** A table listing sermons with columns for Date, Speaker, and Size.

Date	Speaker	Size
May 23, 2009	James Haefele	15.85 MB
May 23, 2009	James Haefele	13.11 MB
May 16, 2009	Richard Rand	17.07 MB
May 9, 2009	James Haefele	13.4 MB
- Good News:** A section with a blue header and text about the church's mission.
- Sermons:** A dropdown menu for sorting by topic (Any, Christian Living, Doctrine, Holy Days, Marriage and Family, Other, Prophecy).
- Search by Speaker:** A search bar with an 'Apply' button.

want our main site and our local sites to appear in the first search results when someone searches for United Church of God."

The Internet staff is very excited about this new project and will be working hard to bring all sites online as soon as possible. **UN**

"Good Works," continued from page 1

"It is important that LifeNets and Good Works work cooperatively since they both support United Church of God members," stated Mr. Kilough in his proposal to the Council. "Some areas of work have overlapped and will continue to do so under this new proposal."

The Church is currently sponsoring scholarships in Latin America, the Philippines and Kenya through budgetary subsidies, but the income stream will now transition to Good Works fund-raising projects. LifeNets also provides scholarships for members in Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Ghana, and that will continue under its umbrella.

LifeNets, as an independent identity, does not limit its service to the needs of the United Church of God; but one of its missions is to help UCG members and to encourage them to help others. This is done through various programs such as providing agricultural and livelihood development and improving water and habitat conditions.

While both Good Works and LifeNets will remain separate organizations, both will actively seek projects where coordinated and/or combined efforts will maximize the impact on the United Church of God and its members. **UN**

Congratulations, High School Graduates!

CLASS OF 2009



Tylor Abrams

Parents: Jaylon and Adina Kretchmar
Congregation: Phoenix, Arizona, Northwest
High School Accomplishments: Tylor took three years of construction classes and was invited



Tylor Abrams

to a competition. Tylor also participated on the high school football team and excelled at many positions. He is the first to graduate high school in his family.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Tylor is the only member of his family that attends services at this time and attended his first Feast of Tabernacles last year in Escondido, California, and plans on attending from now on. Tylor enjoys being around his new friends at Church and participating in outdoor sporting activities such as fishing, hiking and camping.

Plans After Graduation: Tylor plans on working and attending community college.

Favorite Scripture: "I will say of the LORD, 'He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust'" (Psalm 91:2).

Motto: Don't sweat the small stuff—because it is all small stuff.

Katie Elizabeth Adkins

Parents: Justin and Deborah Adkins
Congregation: St. Louis, Missouri
High School Accomplishments: Katie was on the honor roll for four years and was a member of DECA marketing club. She was a member of the National Honor Society. In her freshman year she was a member of the marching and concert band, where she played the flute. She participated in the Missouri A+ tutoring pro-

gram from Wentzville Holt High School with a cum laude distinction and a college preparatory certificate.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Katie has attended Pinecrest for four years. At church she helps with the Sabbath school lessons and has also assisted with the Festival Youth Instruction at the Feast of Tabernacles



Katie Elizabeth Adkins

for several years. Her hobbies include hanging out with family and friends and her puppy. She always enjoys a good movie and shopping.

Plans After Graduation: Katie will attend the University of Arkansas on the Weevil Academic Excellence Scholarship in the fall. Her major is undecided. She will marry in July before heading off to begin her college career in Arkansas.

Favorite Scripture: "Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hand and let her own works praise her in the gates" (Proverbs 31:30-31).

Steven Leonard Bader

Parents: Steve and Laurie Bader
Congregation: Eau Claire, Wisconsin
High School Accomplishments: Steven became the youngest Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout in Troop 30 at the age of 14. Steven played a variety of sports for many years such as soccer, baseball, basketball, earning his letter in football and track and field. Steven was an honors student, taking eight advanced placement classes during his high school years.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Steven

began attending UCG in 2005 and attended Winter Camp in Wisconsin and participated in the choir at the Feast of Tabernacles. Steven is currently employed at Festival Foods and UWEC-WYSP (Wisconsin Youth Sports Pro-



Steven Leonard Bader

gram) as a counselor. Steven enjoys wilderness camping, canoeing, sports and working with children.

Plans After Graduation: Steven will attend University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, majoring in civil engineering for two years, and then will transfer to University of Michigan.

Favorite Quote: "God does not play dice"—Albert Einstein.

Favorite Scripture: "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33).

Motto: Why do what you can do now when you can leave it off until tomorrow!

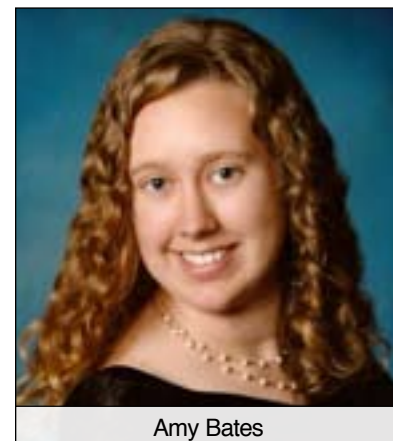
Amy Bates

Parents: Dan and Debbie Bates
Congregation: Bakersfield, California
High School Accomplishments: Amy was valedictorian and a member of the California Scholarship Federation.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Amy plays piano, scrapbooks and is interested in photography. She also enjoys outdoor activities and making photo DVDs.

Plans After Graduation: Amy will attend Cal State Fullerton as a President's Scholar.

Favorite Quote: "Sow a thought, and you reap an act; sow an act, and you reap a habit; sow a habit, and you reap a character; sow a character, and you reap a destiny"—Samuel Smiles.

Favorite Scripture: "Whatever your hand



Amy Bates

finds to do, do it with your might" (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

Advice: Don't procrastinate.

Timothy David Beilstein

Parents: David and Sherry Beilstein
Congregation: Morgantown, West Virginia
High School Accomplishments: Graduating as the salutatorian of his class, Tim participated in many school activities including the French Club, National Honor Society, School Yearbook, Make-A-Wish Club, Leo Club, Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science and Environment. He was also the treasurer for both the Student Council and the Physics Club.



Timothy David Beilstein

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Tim serves as part of the sound crew at his local congregation. He is also a member of LTC and the president of the 2009 Pittsburgh Teen

Speech Club. He has been a camper at Heritage, Pinecrest and Woodmen and has volunteered at Camp Buckeye as fishing staff for four years. In his spare time, Tim enjoys playing the piano, hunting, fishing, listening to music, juggling, pogo sticking, inventing and playing Ping-Pong.

Plans After Graduation: He will be attending Penn State's Fayette campus for a degree in mechanical engineering in the fall.

Favorite Quote: "I'm smarter than the average bear"—Yogi Bear.

Favorite Scripture: "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with each other" (Mark 9:50, New International Version).

Motto: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the grave, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom" (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

Favorite Advice: "Don't look up while those birds are flying by!"—Grandpa Beilstein.

Stephanie Anne Berendt

Parents: Richard and Heather Berendt
Congregation: Edmonton, Alberta, Canada



Stephanie Anne Berendt

High School Accomplishments: Stephanie graduated as an International Baccalaureate—honors with distinction.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Stephanie enjoys dressage (one of the Olympic horseback riding sports) at Maple Leaf Meadows International at the Fédération Equestre Internationale "Junior" level. Her horse, "Maveric," is a 12-year-old Canadian warmblood. She also has taken classical voice lessons and participated in competitions/performance, high school cross-country team, snowboarding and summer camp counseling.

Plans After Graduation: Stephanie plans to attend University of Alberta's sciences program to eventually enter the medical faculty. In the summer of 2010, she will attempt to qualify for the under-21-years-of-age team of the Canadian Fédération Equestre Internationale Young Rider Team to compete in the international competition, the North American Junior/Young Rider's Championships in Kentucky. She would also like to potentially participate in a United Youth Corps trip in the summer of 2010.

Favorite Quote: "What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us"—Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Favorite Scripture: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31).

Cerena Bettes

Parents: Nancy Rehder and Mark Bettes
Congregation: Joplin, Missouri

High School Accomplishments: Cerena complet-

ed the Child Development Associate course.

Plans After Graduation: Cerena plans to attend college for a degree in nursing.



Cerena Bettes

Favorite Quote: "Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game."

Cheree Bettes

Parents: Nancy Rehder and Mark Bettes
Congregation: Joplin, Missouri



Cheree Bettes

High School Accomplishments: Cheree completed the Child Development Associate course and won the top student award. She was also on the honor roll and competed in FCCLA.

Plans After Graduation: Cheree plans to attend college for a degree in early childhood education.

Favorite Quote: "Friendship doubles your joy and divides your sorrows."

Kristen Black

Parents: Gary and Gale Black
Congregation: St. Paul, Minnesota/Eau Claire, Wisconsin



Kristen Black

High School Accomplishments: Kristen was enrolled as a post-secondary student.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Kristen participates in band ensemble, special music, Feast ensemble, preteen and teen camps and the teen group activities. She enjoys figure skating, playing piano and flute, singing, videography,

photography, video editing, traveling, camping, canoeing, rock climbing, hanging out with friends and spending time with family.

Plans After Graduation: Kristen is planning on continuing her education at Century Community College and going into its dental hygienist program.

Favorite Scripture: "A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps" (Proverbs 16:9).

Kurtis Denby Bledsoe

Parents: Denby and Theresa Bledsoe
Congregation: Portsmouth, Ohio



Kurtis Denby Bledsoe

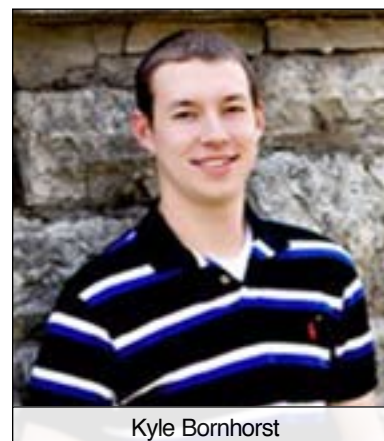
High School Accomplishments: Kurtis was homeschooled and graduated from the American School of Correspondence.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Kurtis enjoys hiking, biking and music. He sings with the choir and helps with the sound system at church.

Plans After Graduation: Kurtis plans to attend Ohio University—Chillicothe in the fall as a computer science major.

Kyle Bornhorst

Parents: Bart and Joan Bornhorst
Congregation: Dayton, Ohio



Kyle Bornhorst

High School Accomplishments: Kyle attended Greeneview High School in Jamestown, Ohio. His awards and accomplishments include the National Honor Society, Diploma with Honors, Greeneview Scholar Athlete, Ohio Award of Merit, President's Award for Educational Excellence, special honor roll, academic letter, baseball varsity "G" letter. He also served as a Camp Kern counselor. He has received several scholarships, including the Xenia Rotary Club Scholarship, Greeneview Educator's Association Scholarship, Kenny Hauprich Memorial Scholarship, and Wright State University's Raider Scholar Academic Performance Scholarship.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Kyle has enjoyed attending both teen and preteen United Church of God camps, both as a camper

and staff. He has played baseball for 13 years, the final two on his high school varsity team. He also had the privilege of participating on his high school's academic team Quick Recall, which won their conference.

Plans After Graduation: In the fall he will be pursuing a bachelor's degree in history education at Wright State University.

Favorite Quote: "Somebody's gotta win and somebody's gotta lose, and I believe in letting the other guy lose"—Pete Rose.

Favorite Scripture: "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of our lord'" (Matthew 25:21).

Susan B. Bratincevic

Parents: Jack and Janet Bratincevic
Congregation: Chicago, Illinois



Susan B. Bratincevic

High School Accomplishments: Susan was homeschooled through high school, although her studies were supplemented in her junior and senior years at the local junior college. She has received several awards for her artwork from 4-H, including winning Grand Champion and having her work shown at the Illinois State Fair.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Susan has been in the local church choir for the past seven years and also has helped teach Sabbath school. She currently is assisting in typing out the sermons/sermonettes for a deaf member in our congregation. Outside of Church she loves to play soccer, draw and play piano.

Plans After Graduation: Susan has been accepted at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, Illinois, where she plans to major in art and business and minor in art history and Spanish. She has received three scholarships: one for academic achievement, one for her art ability and one for soccer. She is absolutely thrilled that Trinity will allow her to play soccer and will accommodate her religious conviction about not playing on the Sabbath.

Favorite Quote: "The will of God will never take you where the grace of God will not protect you."

Lorena Brooks

Parents: JJ and Kris Brooks (grandparents: Tom and Pam Kuver of the San Antonio, Texas, congregation)

Congregation: Dallas, Texas

High School Accomplishments: Lorena's schooling started with public school; however, she has been homeschooled since her high school freshman year. She has received several athletic and academic awards throughout her schooling years, including the President's Award, All American Scholar, Who's Who and People to People. She has served three years on the year-book staff and two years on the student coun-

cil for Richardson Home School Association. During her senior year, she attended Richland College, accumulating 19 college credit hours and earning a 4.0 GPA.



Lorena Brooks

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: This native Texan has been very active her entire life from tap, ballet, jazz and gymnastics to volleyball, track and field and basketball, learning to play the guitar and singing. In sports she ran track and field for her 7th and 8th grade team at Schrade Middle School. She played volleyball and basketball for Church teams for four years; she also played varsity-level basketball for Home School Athletics Association where at the National Championship her team placed second out of 78 other girls' varsity teams from all across the United States. Lorena Brooks is the fifth generation in her family to be in God's Church. Lorena has served as secretary for the Dallas Teen Speech Program, on a Passover babysitting crew for three years, as an assistant preteen camp counselor for the Houston camp for three years and also one year at the Osage preteen camp. She has also participated for five years in the Silver Ambassador luncheons. Lorena has attended United Youth Camps at Carter and Pinecrest. She has been to 26 of the United States, Canada and Mexico and also has seen two of the classic wonders of the world: the Grand Canyon and Niagara Falls.

Plans After Graduation: Her plans are to continue at Richland to earn her associate degree in science and then transfer to University of Texas at San Antonio to obtain her degree as a holistic pediatrician.

Favorite Quote: "God has the power to show you who's God"—Tyler Perry.

Favorite Scripture: "But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31).

Jennifer Tia Browning

Parents: Cynthia Slocum and Mark Browning
Congregation: Portland, Oregon



Jennifer Tia Browning

High School Accomplishments: Jennifer plays the flute and alto sax and has been active for all four years in her high school bands—concert, symphonic, pep, wind ensemble and jazz. She has

received a band letter. As a second year American Sign Language student, she successfully interpreted the musical play *The Music Man* with a partner for her senior project, obtaining a good review from a professional theatrical interpreter.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: For five years Jennifer has been involved in choir, instrumental ensemble, special music and shows at her local congregation and at the Feast in Bend. She serves on the teen Sabbath snack crew and participates in all teen volunteer and charity work, plus volleyball, basketball and other fun activities. She is beginning to help our ASL interpreter sign prayers and songs. Her many hobbies include reading, piano, singing, dancing, hiking, camping, fishing and being a good aunt to her six nieces and nephews.

Plans After Graduation: After graduation, Jennifer will attend Clark College to obtain an associate of arts degree in ASL and music. She will follow that with a bachelor of arts degree and ASL Interpreter Certificate from Western Oregon University.

Favorite Quote: "Do, or do not. There is no try"—Yoda.

Favorite Scripture: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Ellen Buchanan

Parents: David and DeLynn Buchanan
Congregation: Houston, Texas, North



Ellen Buchanan

High School Accomplishments: Ellen graduated from Atascocita High School in the top 3 percent of her class. She participated in high school volleyball (one year) and junior varsity track (two years). She placed third in her district high jump competition in track and was voted by teammates as "top jumper" in track during sophomore season. She received academic awards in honors biology, honors geometry, health, AP chemistry and AP government. For two years, Ellen was a member of National Honor Society, holding the office of president during the 2008-2009 school year. She was also a two-year member of National Art Honor Society, holding the position of vice president for one year. She received the Endowed Academic Scholarship from Houston Baptist University.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Ellen participates in UCG regional volleyball and basketball, serves at the preteen summer camp in Houston and has participated in musical performances sponsored by the Houston North congregation. She enjoys sports (especially volleyball and basketball) and general fitness, reading and writing prose, singing and playing the piano, volunteering with youth programs, cooking, baking, drawing and spending time with friends.

Plans After Graduation: Ellen plans to attend

Houston Baptist University or Rice University in the fall, majoring in business administration and marketing or business economics. She also intends to continue studying Spanish. Her future plans include possibly going on to graduate school for an MBA, eventually getting married and raising a family and continuing to travel around the world.

Advice for Students: It is a great mistake in the world of academics to assume what your talents are and turn away from new and challenging academic opportunities. Find time in your education to take at least one course that will expose you to a new angle of academics. Breadth in education is the key to understanding where your talents are and where you could apply those talents in a career.

Laura Burt

Parents: Kevin and Jeanine Burt
Congregation: Houston, Texas, North



Laura Burt

High School Accomplishments: Laura graduated Summa Cum Laude with a 6.5 GPA. She is an AP Scholar and a member of National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society and the Key Club. Laura qualified for districts and regionals in varsity swimming and earned superior ratings for solo/ensemble in varsity orchestra. She lettered in swimming, orchestra and HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America).

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Laura swims on a year-round club swim team, plays violin, enjoys cooking/baking and hanging out with friends. She attended United Youth Camps throughout her teen years as well as volunteered at preteen camp. She played church volleyball and assisted with Sabbath school lessons.

Plans After Graduation: Laura plans to attend the University of Texas at Tyler and obtain a bachelor of science degree in nursing. She also plans to attend Ambassador Bible Center.

Favorite Quote: "We find no real satisfaction or happiness in life without obstacles to conquer and goals to achieve"—Maxwell Maltz.

Cassie Ann Case

Parents: Eric and Nancy Case
Congregation: East Texas

High School Accomplishments: Cassie participated in Student Council (president, senior year); National Honor Society (vice president, senior year) and Spanish Club. She was also the senior class vice president and participated in Model United Nations, band, volleyball, track, basketball and softball.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Cassie helps serve food and drinks at church services, potlucks and weddings. She also sings in the choir and is active with the youth group activities and Bible studies. She has participated in church basketball and volleyball for the past seven years. Cassie loves riding horses, work-

ing in the sunshine, spending time with family, God's Word and studying history.



Cassie Ann Case

Plans After Graduation: Cassie plans to attend the University of Texas at Tyler in the fall and major in history, with the goal of becoming a high school history teacher.

Favorite Quote: "Every experience is an educational opportunity"—Eric Case.

Favorite Scripture: "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Brandon Craig Clark

Parents: Craig and Jana Clark
Congregation: Saginaw, Michigan



Brandon Craig Clark

High School Accomplishments: Brandon was a member of the National Honor Society and on the honor roll all four years of high school. He received the President's Scholarship from Saginaw Valley State University, which covers all tuition and fees for four years. He was also accepted into their Foundation Scholars program. He is a Michigan Scholar and was awarded the Michigan Promise Scholarship.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Brandon attended camp at Hye Sierra and Heritage, worked at Camp Buckeye and is a member of the Michigan congregations' family lock-in planning committee. He has helped plan and work on children's activities in the local congregation and at the Feast of Tabernacles. He enjoys camping, photography, computers and playing basketball. He loves spending time with his family and friends.

Plans After Graduation: Brandon plans to attend Saginaw Valley State University in Saginaw, Michigan, majoring in elementary education.

Preston Donald Ward Cockerham

Parents: Patricia Ward and Donald Cockerham
Congregation: Salem, Oregon

High School Accomplishments: Preston listed "growing as a person, getting out of my comfort zone and becoming a social person" as major

high school accomplishments. He also participated in and raised over \$4,000 for charity in Mr. SHS, was a mentor for freshmen and was on Prom Court.



Preston Donald Ward Cockerham

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Preston enjoys spending time with his friends. "No matter what I'm doing, as long as it's with friends, then it is worth doing." He also enjoys art and has a huge passion for history.

Plans After Graduation: Preston plans to attend Chemeketa Community College of Salem, Oregon, and possibly Oregon State University afterwards. He wants to become a high school history teacher.

Favorite Quote: "We should see the world through the eyes of Christ, and not through the eyes of whatever political party we feel supports or opposes these heavy issues that we have already made up our minds about. All life is sacred and we are called as humankind to be stewards over it" —Reese Roper.

Favorite Scripture: "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you" (Philippians 1:3).

Motto: Go with Christ, bro.

Joshua Coleman

Parents: Jeff and Deborah Coleman
Congregation: Cambridge, Ohio



Joshua Coleman

High School Accomplishments: Josh attended the Union Local High School, graduating with honors in the top 10 of his class. He received the Award of Merit and was a member of National Honor Society. He also participated in student Council, Spanish Club, Culture Club and volunteered as a big brother.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Josh is a certified scuba diver, working for his Master Diver Certification. He has attended United Youth Camps and currently participates in a men's leadership club in the Wheeling, West Virginia, congregation.

Plans After Graduation: Josh received a full scholarship to Ohio University's chemistry department where he will attend in the fall. He plans to study pre-pharmacy there before moving on to a four-year pharmacy school.

Favorite Scripture: "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32).

Milo Cook

Parents: Milo Cook Jr. and Joyce Cook
Congregation: Meade, Kansas



Milo Cook

High School Accomplishments: Milo attended South Central High School and was school ambassador.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Milo loves to fish and to do carpentry.

Plans After Graduation: Milo plans to work full-time as a plastic room help.

Favorite Quote: "Just because a cat has kittens in an oven doesn't make them biscuits, nor does people going to church make them Christian."

Favorite Scripture: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Motto: Great is he who builds a foundation with the bricks that are thrown at him.

Advice: It is more than doing what you're told; it is doing it with the right heart and attitude.

Heather Curry

Parents: Robert and Mary Curry
Congregation: Colorado Springs, Colorado



Heather Curry

High School Accomplishments: Heather participated in the Canon City Community Band, Fremont County Orchestra and Quartet as well as Art History Club.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Heather admires anything creative, different or unique. "Architecture, music, and writing fascinate me."

Plans After Graduation: Heather plans to pursue an education in architectural drafting and afterwards acquire her license in it. One of her goals is to travel to Istanbul, Turkey, to see the Hagia Sophia when the opportunity presents itself.

Favorite Quote: "Art reveals the artist's inner self and values. Art reveals the nobility of life" —Kahlan Amnell.

David J. Czepizak

Parents: Henry and Elizabeth Czepizak
Congregation: Chicago, Illinois



David Czepizak

High School Accomplishments: David graduated in January of 2009 with honors.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: David has been attending United Youth Camps since the age of 12. David enjoys playing any kind of sport but mostly basketball and tennis.

Plans After Graduation: David plans to study civil engineering.

Jamie Decker

Parents: Joseph and Shirley Decker
Congregation: Akron, Ohio



Jamie Decker

High School Accomplishments: Jamie was an early graduate of high school.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Jamie works on the sound crew and helps with the webcasting for the Akron congregation. She enjoys reading, drawing and writing poems and stories. She also plays piano and guitar. She enjoys walking through the forest in either rain or shine as a break from the world.

Plans After Graduation: Jamie plans on going into nursing and getting her LPN's license before she becomes a nurse practitioner.

Favorite Quote: "People who mind don't matter; people who matter don't mind."

Favorite Scripture: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Motto: "Live life to the fullest, be happy and don't let others bring you down."

Advice: Trust in God when you need Him, look to Him when things are going good, trust He'll fight for you when you need Him, and leave your problems with Him.

Grant M. Dohrmann

Parents: Chris and Robin (Williams-Merkle) Dohrmann
Congregation: Tampa, Florida

High School Accomplishments: Grant was part of Leadership (West Welcomers, Nebraska) CRHS and SCST swim team. He was also on the honor roll and a Bright Futures Medallion Scholarship recipient.



Grant M. Dohrmann

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Grant is a Festival volunteer, assistant camp counselor at United Youth Camps, camp participant for six years and a member of the swim team.

Plans After Graduation: Grant plans to attend University of North Florida in Jacksonville, Florida, as a pre-law student and to work as a lifeguard on campus.

Favorite Quote: "What doesn't kill you makes you stronger."

Cody Dreaden

Parents: Art and Sandra Dreaden (grandparents: Harlan and Janice Spieker of Willow Lake, South Dakota)



Cody Dreaden

Congregation: Geneva, Alabama

High School Accomplishments: Cody was valedictorian of his class and was a National Merit Scholar

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Cody participated in his school's cross-country, tennis and sailing teams, and he also played saxophone in band. He enjoys hunting and shooting. He will be attending his eighth year at Camp Woodmen.

Plans After Graduation: Cody will be attending the University of Florida at Gainesville in the fall, majoring in mechanical engineering.

Favorite Scriptures: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going" (Ecclesiastes 9:10). "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all" (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

Mary Earles

Parents: Jesse and Sarah Earles
Congregation: Roanoke, Virginia

High School Accomplishments: Mary managed to finish her requirements in a house that is never quiet!

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: At church, Mary helps set up and take down chairs in the hall. She also helps in the kitchen and with mothers who have small children. She enjoys painting, photography, camp, the outdoors, reading and spending time with her family (especially her nieces and nephews) and friends.



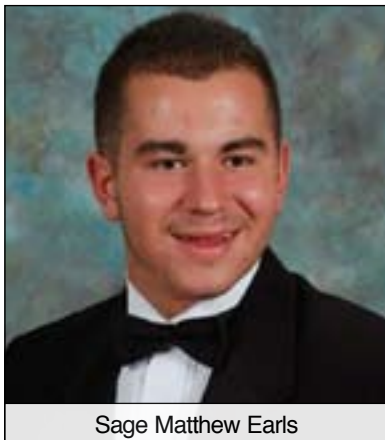
Mary Earles

Plans After Graduation: Mary plans to attend a local community college and see where life takes her from there.

Favorite Scripture: "We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed" (2 Corinthians 4:8).

Sage Matthew Earls

Parents: Clark and Holly Earls
Congregation: Murfreesboro, Tennessee



Sage Matthew Earls

High School Accomplishments: Sage was in the top 20 in the National DECA Competition in California.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Sage has attended Camp Woodmen for the last three years and also goes to Louisville to the Winter Family Weekend each year. Sage's interests include sports and music.

Plans After Graduation: Sage plans to attend college to obtain a degree in the medical field.

Favorite Scripture: "Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow" (Proverbs 13:11, New International Version).

Elizabeth LeeAnn Estes

Parents: Mike and Lynn Estes
Congregation: Atlanta, Georgia
High School Accomplishments: LeeAnn was a member of National Honor Society and the winner of the Universal Dance Association's Dance Competition and the Roswell Dance Competition. She was also part of the Meadowbrooke Marlins swim team, Girls High Point, and was the captain of NCC volleyball team. LeeAnn is a HOPE Scholarship recipient.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: LeeAnn was on the dance team and also participated in soccer, volleyball and swim team. She has also attended United Youth Camps.



Elizabeth LeeAnn Estes

Plans After Graduation: LeeAnn is starting college in the fall at Gordon University and will be studying to become a pediatric dental hygienist.

Favorite Quote: "People are like stained glass windows: they sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light within."

Favorite Scripture: "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).

Bethany Laine Fergen

Parents: Dave and Karen Fergen
Congregation: Wichita, Kansas



Bethany Laine Fergen

High School Accomplishments: Bethany graduated as valedictorian and achieved honor roll all four years. She was also yearbook editor, volleyball cocaptain, National Honor Society president, newspaper assistant editor and student council representative. She was also a top rated vocal soloist.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Bethany likes to play lots of sports, especially racquetball and volleyball. She likes to read. A few of her favorite books include *Catcher in the Rye, 1984* and *The Pelican Brief*. She also enjoys photography and graphic design.

Plans After Graduation: Bethany is going to Wichita State University, majoring in communications and minoring in graphic design. She hopes to get her master's degree and possibly a Ph.D. She would like to become a professor, a photographer or both.

Carl Ferrante Gennaro, III

Parents: Carl and Tammy Gennaro, Jr.
Congregation: Tampa, Florida
High School Accomplishments: CJ graduated as salutatorian, with a 4.39 GPA. CJ is an outstanding student who achieved many accom-

plishments. He was also in all-conference baseball for two years and was vice president of the National Honor Society and president of the French Honor Society. He graduated summa cum laude. He was also a VIT (Very Important Teen) and voted most likely to become a millionaire by his classmates this year.



Carl Ferrante Gennaro, III

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: CJ enjoys fishing, mountain biking, Ping-Pong, skiing and beach volleyball. He is very outgoing and athletic.

Plans After Graduation: After graduation, CJ plans to attend the University of South Florida where he plans to major in engineering. He plans to become either a biomedical engineer or a civil engineer.

Favorite Scripture: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1).

Kennedy Gibson

Parents: Elgie and Leah Gibson
Congregation: Bellevue, Washington
High School Accomplishments: Kennedy participated in varsity gymnastics for four years and was team captain for three years. Her team was the 2006 Washington State Team Gymnastics Champion. She was awarded outstanding academic excellence as well as the Health and Fitness PE Award and the Bothell High School Community Service Award.



Kennedy Gibson

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Kennedy has been doing gymnastics since she was four years old and loves it. Now that she has finished competing in high school gymnastics, she will enjoy the extra free time, but she will continue to work as a gymnastics coach for children aged 4 to 12. She also likes snowboarding and snowmobiling, hanging out with friends, listening to music and shopping!

Plans After Graduation: After graduation, Kennedy will be attending the University of Washington and working part-time coaching gymnastics.

Favorite Quote: "The greatest glory is not in never failing but in rising up every time we fall" —Anonymous.

Favorite Scripture: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).
Motto: "'I can't' never accomplished anything, 'I will try' has accomplished wonders."
Advice: Live in the moment and make it so beautiful that it is worth remembering.

Joshua Nathaniel Goodrich

Parents: David and Kandy Goodrich
Congregation: Eureka, California



Joshua Nathaniel Goodrich

High School Accomplishments: Joshua has been a percussionist in the Fortuna Union High School marching and symphonic band all four years of high school. He has also been in choir and took a music practicum class his senior year. He, along with the rest of the marching band, had the honor of being selected to march down Main Street in Disneyland. The event was originally scheduled to be on the Sabbath, but Joshua's music director made sure it was changed to Sunday so that Joshua could participate. Last spring, the band got a standing ovation for their spectacular and inspiring performance of the "Star Wars Saga." On June 3, 2009, Joshua won the Semper Fidelis Award for Musical Excellence. In addition to his involvement with music, he has been on the school baseball and tennis teams. In Babe Ruth Baseball he was on the all-star teams and was also included in Who's Who of Babe Ruth Baseball. Joshua has been involved in 4-H for 13 years and has won a county award (top award at the county level) for his 4-H story/record book. In crocheting he is currently working on an American Flag lap afghan. In trap shooting he has won bronze and silver awards at the county level and a bronze award at the state level.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Joshua serves on the sound crew, helping with the sound system. He has also sung in the Feast choir. Interests include music, computers, video games and shooting.

Plans After Graduation: Immediately after graduation, Joshua will travel with his family to Montana for the Quigley Shoot. From there, he will go to Oregon to serve at preteen camp. In August, he plans to attend Northwest Camp. In the fall he is planning to attend College of the Redwoods, studying music, physical education and general education classes. He will possibly transfer to another university in a couple of years.

Favorite Quote: "Life is a song. Love is the music"—Gregory J.P. Godek.

Favorite Scripture: "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away" (Revelation 21:4, NIV).

Kala D. Hawker

Parents: Derek Hawker and Joann Peterson-Hawker
Congregation: New York, New York

High School Accomplishments: Kala graduated on June 26 from the famed LaGuardia School of the Arts High School. Kala is a dedicated musician, guitarist, singer and songwriter. She was chosen twice by her high school as a rising star cast member, and in 2008 she was a recipient of the Godin Guitar Scholarship Award and was invited to participate in a summer program to study jazz guitar at the Berklee College of Music in Boston. Kala was also a winner of the 2008 Torch Music Fest. She recently became a member of ASCAP.



Kala D. Hawker

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Kala enjoys serving God with her music during the Feast of Tabernacles. Kala attended the preteen camp in Pennsylvania for five years and Camp Heritage for three years. She is a yoga enthusiast, vegetarian, cross-country skier and international traveler. She enjoys reading, spending time with friends and family, creating serious music in the recording studio each Sunday and vacationing at Fire Island every summer. Kala is also a volunteer for LifeNets International.

Plans After Graduation: After graduation, Kala will take some time off to relax and travel to Europe and Latin America. Her journey will start in July traveling to England, Amsterdam and Switzerland where she will visit family, brethren and friends. She plans to enter Purchase College in January.

Favorite Scripture: "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

Motto: Travel.

Advice: Travel.

Luke Edward Helterbrand

Parents: Bill and Darlene Helterbrand

Congregation: Portsmouth, Ohio



Luke Edward Helterbrand

High School Accomplishments: Luke was homeschooled for 12 years and is graduating a year early. He enjoys cars, movies and, of course, hanging out with friends. He has attended United Youth Camps for five years, church lock-ins

and has helped eat at potlucks. He has also volunteered with the preteen camp in Cincinnati, senior citizen luncheons, fundraisers and church yard sales.

Plans After Graduation: After graduation, Luke plans to attend Southern State Community College. He will be studying nursing or business management. He is also working full-time right now.

Favorite Quote: "It's not the hand that you're dealt, it's how you play the game."

Amanda Marie Henderson

Parents: Harold and Linda Henderson

Congregation: Cleveland, Ohio



Amanda Marie Henderson

High School Accomplishments: Amanda received the Award of Merit and Honor Roll Award. She also completed Teacher Education Exploration with seven college credits.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Amanda has attended camp since age 4 (14 years of camp). She has served on staff at Camp Buckeye for three out of the past four years and will be attending Camp Heritage for her seventh year. She owns two horses and has been riding horses for almost 13 years. She enjoys softball, horseback riding, dancing and swimming.

Plans After Graduation: After graduation, Amanda will attend a community college for two years, and afterwards she will attend Ashland University in Ohio where she will study either early childhood education or occupational therapy, specializing in care of children.

Favorite Quote: "Life is full of beauty. Notice it. Notice the bumble bee, the small child, and the smiling faces. Smell the rain, and feel the wind. Live your life to the fullest potential, and fight for your dreams"—Ashley Smith.

Graham A. Henderson

Parents: John and Melanie Henderson

Congregation: Buffalo, New York



Graham A. Henderson

High School Accomplishments: Graham gradu-

ated after completing a life skills program at North Tonawanda High School. During that time he has participated in the school bell choir and numerous Special Olympics events and has had several original works of art put on display at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Graham's hobbies include organized figure skating, horseback riding and participating in the church choir. He helps at church doing whatever needs to be done and is an accomplished door greeter.

Plans After Graduation: After graduation, Graham plans to attend a special program at Daemen College in Buffalo, New York, to explore possible job interests. Two major areas of interest are early childhood care and working with animals.

Favorite Scripture: Psalm 23.

Ingrid Marlene Hockwald

Parents: Dwyer and Lori Hockwald

Congregation: Salt Lake City, Utah



Ingrid Marlene Hockwald

High School Accomplishments: Ingrid was in a homeschool program utilizing North Atlantic Regional High School's accredited program. She also attended A Beka Academy and Paradigm Charter High School dual enrollment classes. She studied dance at Starz Unlimited Private Homeschool Dance Studio, reaching championship level in Appalachian clogging. She has also achieved advanced-intermediate level piano and has participated in ensemble work and performance of classics.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Ingrid's favorite activities include United Youth Camps, the Salt Lake City congregation's ski weekend, travel, family gatherings, live plays and musical performances, Appalachian clogging, ballroom (social) dance, photography, graphic design, watercolor painting, walking, biking, snorkeling and spending time with friends.

Plans After Graduation: Ingrid plans to study visual arts and graphic design.

Jonathan Hooper

Parents: Christy and Dave Hooper

Congregation: Cleveland, Ohio

High School Accomplishments: Jonathan was vice president of chorale, vice president of men's chorus, member of the octet ensemble, member of the contemporary a cappella vocal men's quintet, member of jazz ensemble, member and officer of WHBS-TV and radio, photographer for his school newspaper, member of Drama Club, member of National Honor Society and National Art Honor Society

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Jonathan serves by accompanying hymns and performing special music. He enjoys piano/vocal performance, music arranging, choral direct-

ing, musical theater, graphic design, photography and creative writing.

Plans After Graduation: Jonathan will attend Flagler College in St. Augustine, Florida, in



Jonathan Hooper

fall 2009 and plans to major in graphic design with a minor in advertising.

Favorite Quote: "If the king loves music, it is well with the land"—Mencius.

Advice: Do what you enjoy while in high school; you can always take those fancy classes and such later.

Paige Marie Isner

Parents: Randy and Lori Isner

Congregation: Jefferson, Georgia



Paige Marie Isner

High School Accomplishments: Paige graduated with a 4.0 GPA. She was Superintendent's Scholar and won the Georgia Merit Scholar and the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Award. She was also the FCCLA Silver Medal Winner for region and state and earned a superior ranking for color guard for four years. She was color guard captain and was Color Guard Regional Winner 2009 and a multischolarship award winner.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Paige and her family have been attending UCG for a little over a year. She really loves her congregation because they are just like family to her. Her interests mostly revolve around outdoor activities. She loves camping, hiking, kayaking and canoeing. She has been a part of Boy Scouts Venture Crew (coed) for four years. Being outdoors in nature always makes her feel closer to God. She loves to travel and meet new people and see new places. She thinks our world is an amazing place now and can only imagine what it will be like in the Kingdom.

Plans After Graduation: Paige will be attending the University of Georgia. She plans to earn a bachelor's degree in Natural Resources Recreation and Tourism. Because of her years of involvement with Venture Crew, she would like to become a guide for outdoor expeditions or be a director of a youth camp. Eventually,

she would like to become NOLS certified. She is continually praying about how God can use her in His Church. She would love to travel the world working with United Youth Camps.

Favorite Quote: "For attractive lips, speak words of kindness. For lovely eyes, seek out the good in people. For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry. For beautiful hair, let a child run his/her fingers through it once a day. For poise, walk with the knowledge that you never walk alone"—Audrey Hepburn.

Favorite Scriptures: "I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around" (Psalm 3:6). "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?" (Matthew 6:25).

Motto: "Live the life you love, love the life you live."

Advice: "Learn from yesterday. Live for today. Hope for tomorrow."

John H. Ivey

Parents: Renita Ivey (grandparents: Tom and Wanda Moffitt)
Congregation: New Orleans, Louisiana



John H. Ivey

High School Accomplishments: John graduated from West Feliciana High School in St. Francisville, Louisiana, with honors. He participated in Beta, Spanish Club and SADD. He is a certified Microsoft Office specialist. He was a part of the high school marching and concert band, as well as the Louisiana Leadership All-Star Marching Band and was awarded the Semper Fidelis Award for Musical Excellence.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: John enjoys playing basketball at church events. He has attended United Youth Camps for the last eight years, including Oakhurst, Hye Sierra and Carter. John has played the trumpet in the Festival orchestra for the past five years and has sung in the Festival choir. He also greatly enjoys playing the piano.

Plans After Graduation: John plans to attend Louisiana Tech University and major in electrical engineering.

Advice: Exhibit God's love to everyone.

Nathan Jennings

Parents: Matthew and Dora Jennings
Congregation: Dallas, Texas

High School Accomplishments: Nathan graduated with a 4.3 GPA and completed over 24 college credit hours. He is also a Red Cross lifeguard and certified swimming instructor.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Nathan has participated in teen club and United Youth Camps and plays basketball and volleyball. He is an avid reader and loves to swim. He has taught swimming lessons to children for the last two years.



Nathan Jennings

Plans After Graduation: After graduation, Nathan plans to take a few months off to spend time with his father's family in England and possibly get a job while there. In January, he plans to come back and complete his associate's degree in science. Then he hopes to secure an internship and a job while studying medicine.

David Johnson

Parents: John and Tammy Johnson
Congregation: Orlando, Florida



David Johnson

High School Accomplishments: David was a member of FFA, the Academic Team and Spanish Club. He also played junior varsity and varsity soccer. He participated in Model United Nations Club and was a Bright Futures Scholar, graduating with honor from New Smyrna Beach High School. He received three scholarships.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: David has played piano for services for the past few years and is involved in the teen activities. He has received his diver's certification and has enjoyed traveling to several countries.

Plans After Graduation: David will be attending the University of Central Florida in Orlando.

Favorite Quote: "I'm so optimistic, I'd go after Moby Dick in a rowboat and take the tartar sauce with me!"—Zig Ziglar.

Favorite Scripture: "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love" (1 John 4:8, NIV).

Motto: "Perfection is not a place, it's a direction."
Advice: Be yourself.

Jordan Thomas Johnson

Parents: Tommy and Crystal Johnson
Congregation: Atlanta, Georgia

High School Accomplishments: Jordan was on the varsity tennis team for three years and competed in the state play-offs in 2007 and 2008. He was also vice president of Future Business Leaders of America and participated in Gamma Club and the 2008 Science Olympiad, where he placed second in ecology. He graduated magna cum laude with honors.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Jordan enjoys church picnics and activities at the YMCA. He goes camping and white-water rafting during the Ocoee River rafting trip hosted by the Chattanooga, Tennessee, congregation. He helps set up and attends the Southeast Regional Prom each year. He has attended Camp Woodmen for four years. He loves sports, including tennis, golf, speedway, football, baseball, soccer and volleyball. He loves the mountains, fishing, hiking and just being outside. His favorite hobby is hanging out with friends.



Jordan Thomas Johnson

Plans After Graduation: Jordan plans to work at a golf course during the summer. He plans to serve on staff at Camp Woodmen. He will attend the University of Georgia as a freshman in the fall of 2009, majoring in business administration.

Favorite Quote: "From what we get, we make a living; what we give, however, makes a life"—Arthur Ashe.

Favorite Scripture: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

Motto: "Give it your all or get nothing."

Wesley W. Johnson

Parents: Bill and Dawn Johnson
Congregation: East Texas



Wesley W. Johnson

High School Accomplishments: Wesley is an Eagle Scout and has completed 34 credit hours at the community college before graduating from high school.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Wesley's favorite hobby is playing the piano and hiking in the woods. He is interested in entering the medical field for a career and also loves to play with technology (e.g., putting computers together or setting up a network for a household). At church he likes songleading and playing hymns and special music on the piano.

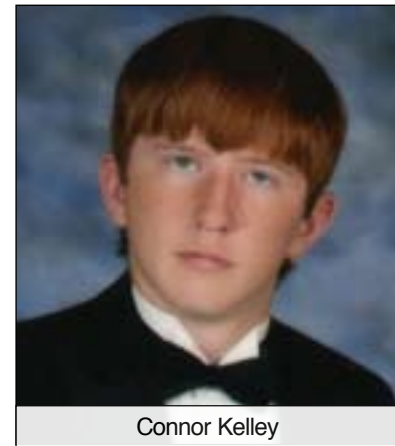
Plans After Graduation: Wesley plans to work during summer and then go to Tyler Junior College in the fall.

Motto: "Do a good turn daily."

Advice: Always do more than what is expected without expecting anything extra in return.

Connor Kelley

Parents: Steve and Johna Barnette
Congregation: Ruston, Louisiana



Connor Kelley

High School Accomplishments: Connor graduated on May 15, 2009, from Junction City High School. He excels in math and has been enrolled in various honors classes throughout high school.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Connor has attended various United Youth Camps over the past five years and serves his congregation by providing special music, both vocal and guitar. His hobbies include skateboarding and music. He loves to play guitar and has taken private lessons for several years.

Plans After Graduation: Connor's future plans include college this fall in El Dorado, Arkansas.

Jazmine Kelly

Parents: Charles and Donna Wallace
Congregation: Garden Grove, California



Jazmine Kelly

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Jazmine has attended both Oakhurst and Hye Sierra United Youth Camps, which she enjoyed very much. She attends the annual three-day OC Bash that her local congregation hosts. Besides church activities, she goes to school and work and hangs out with friends at the beach.

Plans After Graduation: Jazmine is planning to go to ABC. "I'm very excited for this opportunity so I can learn some things that I don't know and to also learn how to live on my own. Also, I am going with my best friend and a lot of other friends, so it should be really fun."

Favorite Scripture: "And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13:13).

Emily Elizabeth Kessler

Parents: Amanda Kessler (and brother, Ethan)
Congregation: Nashville, Tennessee

High School Accomplishments: Emily gradu-

ated from Portland High School in Portland, Tennessee, with a GPA of 3.5. She received the Hope Scholarship.



Emily Elizabeth Kessler

Sharon Kwee

Parents: Angela and Jason Kwee
Congregation: San Antonio, Texas



Sharon Kwee

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Emily was a UYC camper from 2002 until 2008. She loved being “in the Zone” at Camp Woodmen with all of her friends. She is a collector of movies and music and loves to read and instant message!

Plans After Graduation: Emily plans to attend Volunteer State Community College in the fall to pursue a career in medical imaging, specializing in sonography.

Favorite Quotes: “Do, or do not. There is no try” —Yoda. “I went to the woods because I wanted to live deliberately... I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life! To put to rest all that was not life... and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived” — Henry David Thoreau.

Favorite Scriptures: Numbers 6:24-26; John 14:14; 1 Corinthians 10:13.

Motto: “When someone shows you who they are, believe them.”

Kristen Elizabeth Kuhns

Parents: Dennis and Beth Kuhns
Congregation: Youngstown, Ohio



Kristen Elizabeth Kuhns

High School Accomplishments: Kristen was a three-year softball varsity letterman, incentive scholarship gold key award winner and class treasurer. She was also on the merit roll and involved in PALS, tri-hi-y, C.L.E.A.R., student council, pep club, interact club and Spanish club.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Kristen serves on snack crew in her local congregation. She has also been a Camp Buckeye counselor and has attended Camp Heritage. She enjoys softball, reading, running and hanging out with friends.

Plans After Graduation: Kristen plans to attend Kent State University in the fall to obtain a degree in public relations.

Favorite Quote: “Wherever you go, go with all your heart”—Confucius.

High School Accomplishments: Sharon received the Mood Scholar Award, the Advanced Placement Recognition Award, the Trinity University President’s Scholarship, the Mu Alpha Theta National Math Society Scholarship and the Distinguished Student Award from both her school band and orchestra. She was the treasurer and historian of the Mu Alpha Theta National Math Society; president, concertmaster and student conductor of symphonic band as well as varsity orchestra; a member of National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society and Heath Occupation Students of America. She was also a member of the cross-country team, which placed second in district. On violin, Sharon achieved the state-level UIL all four years and received the Outstanding Soloist Award. She ranked in the top 1 percent of violinists in Texas for three years and received the Excellent Achievement Award from the Mayor of San Antonio. On oboe, she ranked first in all-region for two years. As the piano soloist, Sharon performed Sergey Rachmaninoff’s Piano Concerto No. 2 her senior year with her school orchestra. She is a certified Registered Dental Assistant and is certified in CPR.

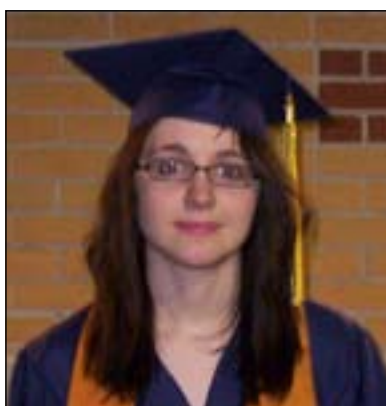
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: In her time outside of school, Sharon enjoys making jewelry, running cross-country and playing oboe, violin and piano. In addition, she rehearses and performs as the concertmaster with the Philharmonic Orchestra in the Youth Orchestras of San Antonio.

Plans After Graduation: After graduation, Sharon plans to attend Trinity University and study premed.

Favorite Quote: “Be courteous to all, but intimate with few; and let those be well tried before you give them your confidence”—George Washington.

Favorite Scripture: “The righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray” (Proverbs 12:26).

Mandy La Ravia



Mandy La Ravia

Parents: Glen and Molly La Ravia
Congregation: Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin
High School Accomplishments: Mandy graduated with honors and tutored for Student Assistant Program. She was also on the powder puff team her sophomore year.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Mandy enjoys taking care of her dog and cats, watching *Gilmore Girls* and reading.

Plans After Graduation: Mandy plans to attend Madison Area Technical College at the Downtown Education Center campus in Madison to study human services. She wants to become a counselor or a social worker.

Tyler Andrew Mabry

Parents: Thomas and Bonnie Mabry
Congregation: Asheboro, North Carolina



Tyler Andrew Mabry

High School Accomplishments: Thomas graduated from MaySpring Academy with highest honors after being homeschooled for the last 10 years. He was honored with a graduation banquet on May 24, 2009, by his family and friends. Tyler was a dual-enrollment student at Randolph Community College. He has three semesters remaining to graduate with an associate’s degree.

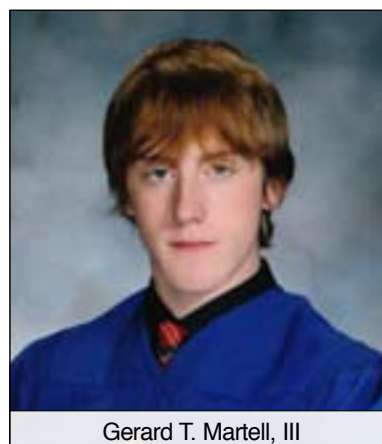
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Tyler has a strong interest in music, which he has demonstrated by becoming an accomplished guitarist over the last four years. Tyler is an active participant in our local congregation and has been able to attend United Youth Camps for three years.

Plans After Graduation: Tyler plans to further his education at a four-year institution.

Favorite Scripture: “Sing a new song to him. Play beautifully and joyfully on stringed instruments” (Psalm 33:3, God’s Word).

Gerard T. Martell, III

Parents: Bobby and Christine Martinez
Congregation: Central New Jersey



Gerard T. Martell, III

High School Accomplishments: Gerard was the first-place winner of the High Relief Art Contest.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Gerard enjoys listening to various types of music and hanging out with friends.

Plans After Graduation: Gerard attends a local community college and will transfer to a four-year college to study marine biology.

Jazmyn McGee

Parents: Dan and Evelia McGee
Congregation: Phoenix, Arizona, Northwest



Jazmyn McGee

High School Accomplishments: Jazmyn has accelerated at her lifelong pursuit of becoming a chef and has attended classes at Estrella Mountain Community College. Her friendliness, maturity and willing to assist people continues to be a strong attribute of her personal growth.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Jazmyn has enjoyed attending camp at Oakhurst and Hye Sierra for five years and is scheduled to work at camp this year as a volunteer on the kitchen staff. Having attended the California weekends and the Winter Family Weekend in Louisville, Kentucky, Jazmyn enjoys spending time with her family and traveling and has developed many friendships across the country.

Plans After Graduation: Jazmyn plans to continue her pursuit in the culinary arts this fall, attending Estrella Mountain Community College.

Favorite Scripture: “Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied” (Jude 1:2, KJV).

Motto: Live, laugh, love in bliss.

Danielle Messerly

Parents: Darren and Nadine Messerly
Congregation: Portland, Oregon



Danielle Messerly

High School Accomplishments: Danielle was homeschooled from the beginning. She excels at drawing and photography and was always a natural artist. We have enjoyed our homeschool journey with her and cherish every moment.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Danielle has always enjoyed helping with Northwest Weekend. She also volunteered her

babysitting services to parents for the past five years for Passover. She enjoys drawing, photography, rafting and rock climbing. She loves the annual rafting trip down the John Day River with her dad and siblings. Danielle also attended the UYC summer camps at McKenzie and Davidson.

Plans After Graduation: Danielle plans on working and continuing her education.

Favorite Quote: "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy"—Martin Luther King Jr.

Favorite Scripture: "But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:31, NIV).

Derek Mickelson

Parents: Mark & Michelle Mickelson
Congregation: Spokane, Washington/Coeur d'Alene, Idaho



Derek Mickelson

High School Accomplishments: Derek was on the honor roll and attended Spokane Falls Community College with the Running Start Program during his junior and senior years of high school.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Derek likes anything mechanical: cars, motorcycles, airplanes and guns. He volunteers on sound crew during Sabbath services

Plans After Graduation: Derek plans to attend Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington, to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering.

Favorite Quote: "Pressure makes diamonds."

Melissa Nicole Miles

Parents: Jay and Marilyn Miles
Congregation: Jefferson, Georgia



Melissa Nicole Miles

High School Accomplishments: Melissa was an honors student all four years and graduated in the top 10 percent of her class. She graduated with a 4.0 GPA while taking honors and AP

classes. She was inducted into the World Language Honor Society (French). She was also a member of Beta Club, Talented and Gifted Program, PALS Club, National Honor Society and was a student liaison and peer facilitator (tutoring elementary students). She also enjoyed playing lacrosse.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Melissa represents the fourth generation in her family to be in God's Church. She enjoys international travel and has visited Australia, New Zealand and just returned from Europe. She also enjoys volunteering at the Drake House and for Keep Roswell Beautiful. She loves animals and enjoys spending time with family and friends.

Plans After Graduation: Melissa will be attending the University of Georgia.

Favorite Quote: "Turn your face to the sun and the shadows will fall behind you"—Maori proverb.

Michele Mitchell

Parents: Ivor and Maxine Mitchell
Congregation: Houston, Texas, North
High School Accomplishments: Michele is a member of the National Society of High School



Michele Mitchell

Scholars. She has achieved various music accomplishments including medalist in music theory exams for seven years, gold medalist in the college theory preparatory exam, gold medalist in the National Fraternity of Student Musicians auditions for eight years and recipient of the Cypress Creek Music Teachers Association Senior Award. She has helped deaf students in Barbados by being an integrated student in 2006, and in 2008 serving as a teacher's assistant at The Irving Wilson School for the Deaf and Blind. In addition, she was a member of the Homeschool Christian Youth Association Leadership Action team. She also cofounded a program that donates clothing for the indigent deceased to be buried with dignity in the Houston area. Her involvement in sports included volleyball; she was on the varsity team in her junior year.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Michele helps maintain and update Houston North's Web site. She has been a Sabbath school teacher's assistant for six years and has participated in teen projects. She sings in several choirs and ensembles and is a soloist and pianist. She has also participated in cheerleading, volleyball, basketball and golf.

Plans After Graduation: Michele plans to complete a bachelor's degree in interior design with a minor in business, then go on to obtain a master's. Eventually, she wants to start her own business and do some traveling.

Favorite Scripture: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved" (John 3:16-17).

Angela Kristen Onstott

Parents: Terry and Teresa Onstott
Congregation: Henderson, Kentucky
High School Accomplishments: Angela was a member of Spanish Club and Latin Dance Troupe. She maintained an A/B average throughout her senior year.



Angela Kristen Onstott

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: At her local congregation, Angela assists with Sabbath school and passing out hymnals. She enjoys watching classic movies, listening to music and playing video games. Angela likes traveling, ballroom dance and photography. She has great interest in chemistry, astronomy and model rocketry.

Plans After Graduation: Angela plans to attend Owensboro Community and Technical College in Owensboro, Kentucky, in the fall to acquire an associate's degree. She then hopes to transfer to a university to complete her college education and pursue a degree in biotechnology or biology.

Favorite Quote: "Whatever comes our way. Whatever battle we have raging inside us. We always have a choice. My friend Harry taught me that. He chose to be the best of himself. It's the choices that make us who we are and we can always choose to do what's right"—Spider-Man 3.

Favorite Scripture: "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away" (Revelation 21:4).

Advice: "For beautiful eyes, look for the good in others; for beautiful lips, speak only words of kindness; and for poise, walk with the knowledge that you are never alone"—Audrey Hepburn.

In loving memory of Ben Onstott Aug. 11, 1992 to Nov. 6, 2008.

Kevin Michael Orban

Parents: Don and Evelyn Orban
Congregation: Mobile, Alabama



Kevin Michael Orban

High School Accomplishments: Kevin was a member of the National English Honor Society.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Kevin grew up in the Church. His interests include playing video games, riding bikes and spending time with family and friends.

Plans After Graduation: After graduation, Kevin plans to attend college.

Favorite Scripture: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

Motto: "Let graduation be the beginning of something amazing."

Maranda Orrell

Parents: Randy and Diana Orrell
Congregation: Bentonville, Arkansas
High School Accomplishments: Maranda graduated



Maranda Orrell

ed first in her class at Har-Ber High School, was a National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalist, an AP Scholar With Distinction and an Epsilon Sigma Alpha Outstanding Youth. She also participated in John Hopkins' CTY program and Stanford University's EPGY program for high school students. She placed third in Arkansas and at the Silver Level nationally on the National Spanish exam. She sat on the National Honor Society executive board and was the senior class council secretary, a Key Club International member, the Har-Ber High representative to Rotary Club and a member of Junior Leadership of Springdale. She choreographed Har-Ber High's 2009 spring musical and was a member of the Drama Club and Bel Canto choir.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Maranda plays the piano for Church services and plays offeratory music. She also sings in the Bentonville Singing Group and for special music. She loves music, dance, theater, travel and learning about other cultures. She hopes to study abroad and someday perhaps work in an international field. Her favorite Feast site is Sabaudia, Italy.

Plans After Graduation: Maranda will be attending Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. She will be pursuing a major in the political science department with a specialization in international studies. She will also minor in vocal performance at the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt.

Favorite Scripture: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

Sara Joy Przeslawski

Parents: Luke and Julie Przeslawski
Congregation: St. Paul, Minnesota
High School Accomplishments: Sara worked hard in school to get into the postsecondary program, which allowed her to take college classes during her senior year.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Sara loves dancing and has been dancing since age 5. She has had the opportunity to sing special music at Sabbath services in small groups and at Winter Camp. She enjoys listening to music as well as performing. Her favorite United Youth Camp was Pinecrest, which she was able to attend twice. Her favorite sports in high school

were cross-country running and soccer. Her favorite classes in high school were 10th and 11th grade history because her teachers made history fun and interesting.



Sara Joy Przeslawski

Plans After Graduation: Sara plans to finish her general education college courses at a local community college and then transfer to a university to continue her studies.

Favorite Scripture: "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:6).

Hanna Michele Reisdorff

Parents: Daniel and Emily Reisdorff

Congregation: Seattle, Washington

High School Accomplishments: Hanna was in marching band for two years, pole-vaulting four years and school government three years. She was also on the honor roll all four years and a member



Hanna Michele Reisdorff

of National Honor Society for three years.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Hanna enjoys playing flute and loves reading, recreational swimming, conversations with friends, dancing, travel and movies.

Plans After Graduation: She plans to attend Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington, and took part in her first skydiving event this summer after graduation. She expects lots of summer swimming at the lake before the fall.

Favorite Quote: "Be the change you wish to see in the world"—Mahatma Gandhi.

Favorite Scripture: "For He shall give his angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone" (Psalm 91:11-16).

Kristin Rich

Parents: Daniel and Jeanette Rich

Congregation: Raleigh, North Carolina

High School Accomplishments: Kristin was on the A/B and A honor roll throughout high school and graduated with honors (3.5 GPA or higher required). She enjoyed singing in chorus for two years and was involved in several concerts and adjudications. She also took drama and participated in two minor plays.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Kristin has always enjoyed singing and occasionally does special music for church or sings for church activities. She also likes to read and spend time with family and friends. She also loves children (especially babies), so she hopes to become a preschool or kindergarten teacher.



Kristin Rich

Plans After Graduation: She is starting out at Wake Technical Community College to earn an associate's degree in early childhood education. She then plans to transfer to University of North Carolina—Greensboro and attend for two more years to earn her bachelor's degree.

Favorite Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, 58 and Romans 8:18.

Tristan Ruml

Parents: Douglas and Martine Ruml

Congregation: Columbus, Ohio

High School Accomplishments: Tristan graduated with a 4.39 GPA and was on the honor roll for four years. He was salutatorian. He also served on student council as president (2008-2009), vice president (2007-2008) and as public relations (2005-2006). He was French Club president and a member of National Honor Society. He participated in the school play for two years. He was also in cross-country for four years earning four letters, baseball for two years earning one letter, junior varsity basketball for two years



Tristan Ruml

and ACSI Creative Writing (superior).

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Tristan has attended Pinecrest, Heritage and Winter Camp and has served as assistant counselor at Camp Buckeye. He has also served as president of Teen Speech Club. He enjoys playing and watching sports, reading, traveling, listening to music and eating.

Plans After Graduation: Tristan plans to attend Grove City College in Pennsylvania and major in international business.

Amanda Rupp

Parents: Dan and Tina Rupp

Congregation: Youngstown, Ohio

High School Accomplishments: Amanda graduated from high school with 28 college credits

completed. She was also inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa International Honors Society. Volleyball was a part of her life, and she earned numerous awards including the Barnabas Award, Most Improved Player Award and the Most Valuable Player Award. Yearbook, newspaper, German Club and Italian Club also took up much of her time.



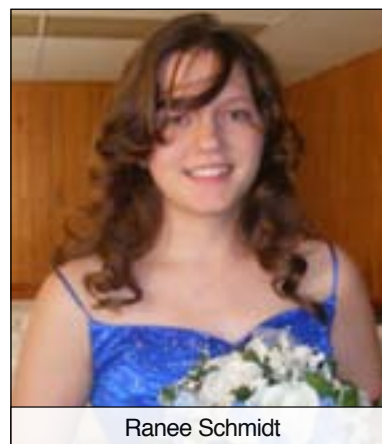
Amanda Rupp

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Amanda participates in many Church activities, such as "snacky" duty, pianist, coordinator for LifeNets fundraisers and serving at preteen camps as both assistant counselor and activity staff. She is also secretary of the Pittsburgh Teen Speech Club. Her hobbies and interests include reading, writing, playing the piano, scrapbooking, photography and spending time with family and friends, both from Church and her local homeschool group.

Plans After Graduation: This fall she will be attending Malone University in Canton, Ohio. She has been accepted into the Honors Program and plans to complete a double major in English and Psychology. After graduating, she hopes to go to ABC and participate in a United Youth Corps program. She was baptized on Friday, June 5, 2009.

Ranee Schmidt

Parents: Roger and Denice Lambert



Ranee Schmidt

High School Accomplishments: Ranee was an A/B student and was seventh gup in tae kwon do (yellow belt with green stripe).

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Ranee heads a fundraiser to send a lady to the Feast of Tabernacles. She's been an usher at the Feast for the last three years. She volunteered in the FYI program at the Feast and preteen activities at the Winter Family Weekend in Louisville, Kentucky. She is in teen speech club. She enjoys taking walks with her family and her dog Hemi. She enjoys helping her dad work on cars and taking engines apart.

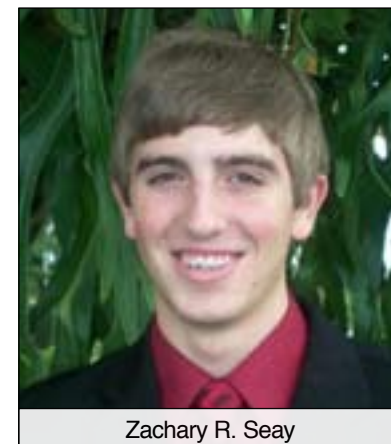
Plans After Graduation: She plans on going to Ambassador Bible Center. Then she wants to get a master's degree in social work.

Favorite Quote: "Girls gone wild are a dime a dozen—dare to be virtuous"—Vicki Courtney.

Zachary R. Seay

Parents: Nancy Seay (grandmother: Carol Volkers)

Congregation: Miami, Florida



Zachary R. Seay

High School Accomplishments: Zachary has maintained straight A's in all of his subjects in high school. He was also dual-enrolled in college for the last two years where he also received all A's. He is an accomplished classical pianist and has a second-degree black belt in tae kwon do.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Zachary has played offertory music on the piano for Holy Days and helps set up the hall for Sabbath services. He also records MP3 files of the sermons for the Miami church every Sabbath.

Plans After Graduation: Zachary is now attending Broward College and is in the honors program. He is planning to major in chemistry.

Andrew James Shallenberger

Parents: Jerry and Charla Shallenberger

Congregation: Columbus, Ohio



Andrew James Shallenberger

High School Accomplishments: Andrew was valedictorian of his graduating class. He was in the orchestra for four years and played on both the tennis team and the intramural basketball team. He also participated in the RKOM—upperclassmen mentoring program and attended Buckeye Boys State.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: At church Andrew plays special music and has served as the president of teen speech club. He also served on staff at Camp Buckeye and has attended Heritage for five years and Pinecrest for one year. He has played on the church basketball team. Andrew loves sports and traveling. He currently works part-time at Kroger.

Plans After Graduation: Andrew plans to attend Capital University in Columbus, majoring in sports psychology.

Motto: Go, Cubs, Go.

Michael Slocum

Parents: Robert and Tina Slocum

Congregation: Portland, Oregon

High School Accomplishments: Michael was on

the honor roll and participated in the Underclass Mentorship Program. He also passed all the WASL (Washington Assessment of Student Learning) and the Running Start Early College Entry Testing for all subjects.



Michael Slocum

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Michael enjoys playing and participating in the many activities that the Church offers. He participates in basketball, volleyball, dances and the annual talent show. He also enjoys writing and drawing.

Plans After Graduation: Michael intends to continue his education to become a schoolteacher and/or a professional author.

Favorite Scripture: "A man's pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor" (Proverbs 29:23).

Additional Comments: Michael is the oldest of four and consistently sets the standard high—in everything he has excelled. He takes great pleasure in his academic achievements but values most his friends in the Church and the time they share. It is not just his family and friends who have come to appreciate his calm confident demeanor and reliable character but many of his teachers down through the years have expressed these observations as well. We are all excited to experience what comes next and feel confident that whatever comes, God and all of us that surround him will be pleased. Congratulations, son!

Michelyn Marie Smith

Parents: James and Cathy Smith
Congregation: Dallas, Texas



Michelyn Marie Smith

High School Accomplishments: An independent, confident and beautiful young lady known for her endless creativity, helpful spirit and infinite list of nicknames! Born third of four sisters, she was a blond-haired, blue-eyed bundle of mischief and mystery from the beginning. Most often she is caught with a smile on her face and a camera in her hand. She loves to spend her time focusing on her photography, art and laughing with her friends. She is an accomplished artist, receiving several awards for her art, placing in the top 10 percent in several art competitions and has won

best of show for her photography in the City of Richardson photography competition.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: She has volunteered at Camp Osage preteen camp along with attending Camps Hye Sierra, Pinecrest and Heritage. She is currently running her own business doing portrait photography, contract art and teaching private art lessons to several students, including some who are autistic. Michelyn is always in the middle of an art project and is often heard saying, "Who needs sleep anyways?"

Plans After Graduation: She plans to finish her associate of arts degree and then go on to achieve a bachelor's degree in art education and possibly a master's degree in art therapy.

Chas Terry

Parents: Tom and Donna Terry
Congregation: Camp Verde, Arizona



Chas Terry

High School Accomplishments: Chas attended different high schools every year and still graduated! He also went to an archery tournament in Kentucky.

Plans After Graduation: Chas plans to take automotive classes at Yavapai Community College.

Favorite quote: Every day is one step closer to life.

Motto: Bones heal; pride doesn't!

Aaron Michael Thomson

Parents: Ken and Krissie Thomson
Congregation: San Antonio, Texas
High School Accomplishments: Aaron attended



Aaron Michael Thomson

Blanco High School and graduated fifth in his class. He was involved in National Honor Society and participated in FFA for four years. During his four years of high school, he competed in over 25 FFA competitions. His most impressive FFA accomplishments included receiving the Lone Star FFA Degree, placing first in Area VII with the dairy judging team, placing first in Area VII with the range, pasture and plant ID team, placing second in individual in Area VII in dairy judging and placing fourth at state on the dairy judging team. Aaron was chosen to attend the 2008 Texas Farm Bureau National Youth Leader conference and represent Kendall County last summer.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Aaron is the fifth generation of his family in God's Church. He has been an active member of the San Antonio teen group and played volleyball and basketball for six years. Aaron is a member of the Texas Farm Bureau and the American Dorper Sheep Breeders' Association. In his spare time he enjoys ranching and owns several cows and Dorper sheep. He has owned and operated his own chicken business for five years as well as helping his grandfather with hay production on the Bar M Ranch.

Plans After Graduation: Aaron plans to attend Northeast Lakeview College in San Antonio in the fall, where he will study computer science or engineering. He then plans to go to University of Texas—San Antonio and get his bachelor's degree.

Tamara Rose Valley

Parents: Herve and Diana Irion
Congregation: Houston, Texas, North



Tamara Rose Valley

High School Accomplishments: Tammy is a magna cum laude graduate (24th in a class of 800) and an AP scholar. Her writing has been published in her high school's literary magazine, *Chimera*, and she has won a Silver Key from the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. She is the president of German Club, a member of the National Honor Society and a member of the National French Honor Society.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Tammy likes to read, write, draw and laugh. She helps with Sabbath school and sings in the women's choir. She also played church volleyball and basketball for three years.

Plans After Graduation: She plans to become a baptized member of the Church and attend the University of Texas in Austin. Hopefully, she will get to spend a few years studying languages in Europe through an exchange program.

Kristin Velazquez

Parents: Raul and Ana Velazquez
Congregation: Portland, Oregon
High School Accomplishments: Kristin was part of

women's choir for three years and would travel to perform. She was also part of Hispanos Unidos (school organization for Hispanic students), helping other students from diverse backgrounds plan and organize events. This was a very interesting organization in which she learned to respect and become familiar with other cultures.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Kristin tries to participate in all church functions such as United Youth Camps and Northwest Weekend. She enjoys outside activities, cooking and spending time with family. She is a very cheerful outgoing individual who enjoys spending time with family. She loves spending time with Church friends and fellowshiping with Church members. She enjoys cooking and trying new recipes.

Plans After Graduation: Kristin's plan after graduating is to attend Portland Community College with the goal of transferring to a four-year university.



Kristin Velazquez

Favorite Scripture: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

David Mark Vincen

Parents: Mark and Kristine Vincen
Congregation: Indianapolis, Indiana



David Mark Vincen

High School Accomplishments: David graduated from Noblesville High School with an academic honors diploma. He also completed nine college courses from Indiana University, IVY Tech and in advanced placement classes. He participated in band his sophomore year, playing trumpet. He took acoustic guitar his junior and senior years. He has used these skills to play trumpet or electric guitar in our local congregation's ensemble every week as well as at the Feast in the Wisconsin Dells. David was also a National Merit Scholarship Finalist. There were only two students chosen from his class of 475 to be semifinalists. He received a certificate of achievement at his school's Honor's Night for being a finalist.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: David attended Winter Camp for seven years and Pinecrest for four years. He particularly enjoyed riflery, speedaway and swimming. He also served as a counselor at Camp UCanDo for preteens in Indianapolis for two years.

Plans After Graduation: David will be attending Purdue University in West Lafayette this August and is planning to pursue a degree in computer science, specializing in computer programming.

Favorite Scripture/Motto: "Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31, NIV).

Jacob Wayne Waterhouse

Parents: Joel and Patricia Waterhouse
Congregation: Tallahassee, Florida
High School Accomplishments: Jacob graduated with honors. He was recognized for superior academic achievement by the National Society

of High School Scholars. He participated in the National Honor Society, Key Club, Latin Club and MCSC Club. He received the Bright Futures Scholarship. In Mock Trial for 2008, he received the Colonel Nathan Jessup Award and in 2009 the Boston Legal Award. He played varsity baseball his freshman, sophomore and senior years, receiving the Coach's Choice Award.



Jacob Wayne Waterhouse

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Jacob serves in the Tallahassee congregation, assisting with the setup and takedown of the hall, operating the sound and video equipment. As a preteen he attended Camp Oakhurst in 2001. Since then, he has attended and will attend Camp Woodmen. Jacob enjoyed volunteering for Camp Tomahawk in the past and will be serving as assistant counselor for the preteen camp in Houston this summer. He enjoys most sports but particularly likes fishing, hunting and hanging out with his friends.

Plans After Graduation: Jacob plans on attending Tallahassee Community College for two years, after which he will transfer to a four-year college in pursuit of a bachelor's degree in business law.

Favorite Scripture: "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31).

Joseph David Wentz

Parents: Robert and Peggy (Bromfield) Wentz (Grandparents: Peg Bromfield and Helen Wentz as well as the late Edmund Leo Bromfield and Franklin Wentz Jr.)



Joseph David Wentz

Congregation: Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

High School Accomplishments: Joey is a graduate of Greater Nanticoke Area High School, where he has been on the honor roll all throughout high school. He is a three-year letterman in wrestling. He is also a four-year graduate of Wilkes-Barre Career and Technical Center, where he majored in auto mechanics. Joey was awarded the Pennsylvania Skills Certificate and also earned his Pennsylvania State Inspection License.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: When Joey is not working on his "fixer-upper" car, he is with his friends, skateboarding and filming. Joey has considered filming as a second career choice. His desire is to film professional

skateboarders around the globe. Joey is a very kind and helpful young man. He serves in many areas at church and often helps out neighbors, family and friends.

Plans After Graduation: Joey plans to work for six months and then go to college. His childhood dream has been to open his own shop where he will build cars.

Ashley West

Parents: David and Lori West
Congregation: Fort Worth, Texas



Ashley West

High School Accomplishments: Ashley graduated high school with her cosmetology license and almost a year of college under her belt.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: During her high school career she took part in many extracurricular activities, including volleyball, basketball, painting, choir, band, video production, acting and ballet. Her favorite things to do include laughing with friends, traveling, watching scary movies, writing songs and performing them with her sister, taking lots of pictures and gorging herself on candy.

Plans After Graduation: Ashley plans to attend ABC 2009-2010 and afterwards finish her last year of college to get her associate of arts degree. She plans on continuing her career as a cosmetologist until she is able to one day get married and later become a stay-at-home mom.

Kayla White

Parents: Brian and Diana White
Congregation: Indianapolis, Indiana



Kayla White

High School Accomplishments: Kayla graduated from Center Grove High School with academic honors and technical honors diploma. She was an active member in Best Buddies, Key Club, Powderpuff, Skills USA, Spanish Club and FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes). She was also a STUGO work-on and vice president of SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions). As well as being involved in clubs, she also volunteered much of her time in serving the school by being a freshman ambassador her junior and senior year, tutoring after school at local elementary schools grades K-5 during

the first three years of high school, participating in Junior Day of Caring and planning and running the Docs vs. Jocks basketball game to promote drug awareness. In her senior year she attended both Center Grove High School and Central Nine Career Center. She participated in the dental assisting program hosted by Kaplan College. Her day was split between college courses in the morning and high school classes in the afternoon, allowing her to graduate with 18 college credits in dental assisting.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Kayla was a camp counselor at camp UCanDo in Indianapolis for five years. She was also an assistant camp counselor at Buckeye in 2008.

Plans After Graduation: Kayla will continue her dental assistant training at Kaplan College and will finish the program in January, after doing a two-month externship. She will graduate in May of 2010 as a Certified Dental Assistant. She has the opportunity to begin working chairside as a dental assistant in January after taking the CDA.

Favorite Quote: "Woman was not taken from man's head, to rule over him, nor from his foot to be crushed by him, but from under his arm to be protected by him and from near his heart to be loved"—Mildred North.

Zachary Williams

Parents: Blane and Julie Williams
Congregation: Cincinnati, Ohio, East



Zachary Williams

High School Accomplishments: Zach has belonged to Engineering Club for two years. He has traveled with the club to Purdue University both years to compete in an engineering project competition. Although his teams did not win, according to Zach, it was worth it just to see the campus. Zach has had art projects displayed in the school art show. He is favored by his art teacher for his mechanical abilities as well—twice he fixed a broken electric pencil sharpener and has also assembled shelving for the classroom for her.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Zach has enjoyed going to Pinecrest for several years. He has helped with teen service projects such as home office mailings and a food drive. He also has participated in our annual senior citizens' appreciation dinner for several years. Zach loves to play guitar. He also loves to work on and fix anything that has moving parts—especially his car. Zach currently works at Sears in the lawn/garden/tool department. He has become quite a salesman.

Plans After Graduation: Zach will be attending Cincinnati State in the fall. He will be in the electro-mechanical engineering program. It is a two-year co-op program. After this, he plans to attend University of Cincinnati in the aeronautical engineering program.

Favorite Scripture: "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Matthew 6:34, NIV).

Jonathan Forrest Wine

Parents: Radford and Sandi Wine
Congregation: Columbia, Maryland

High School Accomplishments: Jonathan has been in the state's top grade level throughout high school. He has also performed and won multiple piano recitals.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Jonathan plays piano for hymns and special music. He also loves to draw, listen to music, play video games, watch movies and communicate with his friends. He achieved a second-degree black belt in mixed martial arts in 2006, in addition to multiple MMA awards for dedication, spirit and leadership.

Plans After Graduation: Jonathan plans to attend Lord Fairfax Community College for two years to get his core classes out of the way, then he wants to transfer to the University of Texas in Dallas to obtain his four-year degree in video game arts and design.

Favorite Quote: Throughout life people will make you mad, disrespect you and treat you bad. Let God deal with the things they do, because hate in your heart will consume you too"—Will Smith.

Favorite Scripture: "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away" (Revelation 21:4).

Wynn Worthen

Parents: Perry and Nancy Worthen
Congregation: East Texas



Wynn Worthen

High School Accomplishments: Wynn graduated as salutatorian in his class at Big Sandy High School. Wynn's activities in high school included student council (four years; vice president, senior year), National Honor Society (secretary, senior year), Model United Nations (four years), Spanish Club, Interact (a community service organization), Math and Science Club, and UIL. He has received numerous honors, including All Region Leadership honors, Spanish II Award, Chemistry Award, Physics Award, fourth place Informative Speaking at District UIL, third place Informative Speaking at District UIL, Austin Student Legislature Session and Highest Twelfth Grade Academic GPA for Athletic Boy.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Wynn has been an involved and energetic participant in the local congregation. He is a weekly member of the sound crew. He has played church basketball since he was nine years old and volleyball since he was 13.

Plans After Graduation: Wynn plans to attend the University of Texas at Tyler next year, where he has been awarded the Patriot Scholarship (\$3,000 annually). Wynn's major will be business administration, and he hopes someday to take over the family health food business.

Favorite Advice: "Experience is a hard teacher, but 95 percent of the time, it's the only teacher"—Perry Worthen.

Treasure Digest

Reaching Out to New Members

Standing in the union hall foyer, Zach and Michelle surveyed the scene inside with a mixture of nervousness and anticipation. Last week the local United Church of God pastor had invited them to Sabbath services for the first time. Looking around, they noticed people huddled in groups. In a far corner several teens talked animatedly about summer activities, their conversation punctuated with bouts of laughter. A nearby group of middle-aged ladies played catch-up on the week's events. Along a near wall, about 10

couple knew. The minister asked them their impression of services. He reached down to Ben, the 5-year old, and tousled his hair playfully. Ben looked up at him and smiled. Yes, Zach said, they would be back next week.

Driving home, Zach and Michelle discussed their first Sabbath service. The sermon was great; they learned a lot. But the people, they agreed, seemed so indifferent. Everyone seemed too preoccupied to notice them. They noted that one couple, slightly older than they, did come up and introduce themselves. Yes, they would be back, but their first Sabbath was somewhat of a disappointment.

In early May, in his sermon during the General Conference of Elders, Robert Dick pointed out how important it is that new people come into a warm, inviting Church environment. So what can we do to help create a welcoming environment for new people in our congregations? Here are four quick Dos and Don'ts that can help smooth the way.

What can we do to help create a welcoming environment for new people in our congregations?

mostly middle-aged men engaged in a heated discussion of world events.

In five minutes, services would begin. Spotting several vacant seats on the far side of the hall, they began making their way towards them, their 5-year-old son in tow. As they passed the group of middle-aged men, two of them turned slightly and made quick, almost furtive eye contact. But then they turned back to their conversation.

After services, Zach and Michelle noticed that the same groups seemed to quickly reform. Taking the initiative, they approached the group of middle-aged men and introduced themselves. For a few minutes, the conversation flowed freely: Where are you from? Is this your first Sabbath? How did you hear about the Church? But then the conversation lagged, and the group of middle-aged men were back to solving the problems of the world.

About that time, the minister and his wife walked up. Here, at least, was someone the

Do Make the First Move

Many people are nervous about approaching strangers. Compound this with the reality that the first time for Sabbath services puts people into a new setting, a setting that may be strange for some, and you have a situation that can put new ones ill at ease. We should always reach out and approach them. Whenever we notice someone walk through that door that we don't know, we make it easier for them if we take the initiative to greet them.

Don't Interrogate About Beliefs

While many of us have come from our former association, today we see new members who come to us through other channels. Some of these have had little or no religious background, and we can turn them off by assuming that they have a current religious connection. When they are comfortable, they'll open up to us about their beliefs.



© 2009 Jupiterimages Corporation

Don't Come on Too Strong

Be warm, be sincere, but don't display an overly enthusiastic, gushy approach. We've all had the experience of a salesperson coming on too strongly with drippy, syrupy friendliness, which nearly everyone perceives to be insincere. We don't appreciate it, and neither will first-time attendees. These are God's "little ones" who are new to the truth. At this stage, they may be sensitive and can easily be turned off by our words and actions. Remember Christ's teachings about those who cause offense, "It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones" (Luke 17:2).

Do Show Genuine Interest

It's true: People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. Visitors and first-time attendees need to

know and feel that we are genuinely interested in them. We can ask about family and friends. We can ask how they came into contact with United Church of God, and if they have family or friends attending. Of course, jobs or interests are always good conversation starters. Show genuine interest in someone God may be working with, someone who may become a firstfruit in the family of God.

Mike Kelley
Huntsville, Alabama

Share Your Treasures!

Do you have any short items of biblical wisdom, humor or practical information that you would like to share? Please send them to your local pastor and ask him to forward them to *United News* at the home office. Guidelines available on request (UN@ucg.org).

Turning the Hearts . . . Responsibility

Learning to be responsible is something that will help your children in life. When you want something done in everyday life or at work, you give the task to someone who you know will fulfill it. In the home there are chores to be done. Each child needs to learn to do his or her share of the necessary tasks.

As you teach responsibility, it is good to explain how the job should be done. Show your children what you want them to achieve. If it is a difficult task, then be there to guide them through the first few times until they achieve know-how. Once that is accomplished, then regularly look at the chore they do and compliment them for a job well done. If there are areas of improvement, encourage them to do better next time.

When your child learns to be responsible in what is given to him or her, then you may add more as his or her time, talents or capabilities allow. I couldn't wait for my dad to show me how to mow the yard when we had our power mower. The thrill of working with a power mower was exciting, and he taught me how to use it correctly and how to be safe. I still remember his teaching to this day.

What a treat it is to have a responsible son or daughter babysit. He or she not only watches the children but also has all the toys picked up, the dishes done and the house in order when the parents return. That's being responsible!

What a treat it is to observe a preteen or teenager who, at the end of dinner, helps clear the table and offers to help with the dishes or with serving the dessert.

When your grown children get jobs, they will shine because you taught them how to be responsible. Employers give more important work to those who will responsibly fulfill those tasks. They also give promotions to those who faithfully do what is asked of them.

Remember Jesus Christ's teaching in Luke 16:10, "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much."

Please take the opportunity to teach responsibility to your children so they may grow up to be successful in life.

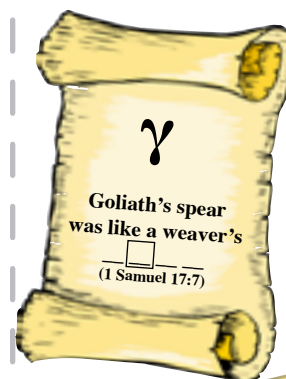
Gary E. Antion



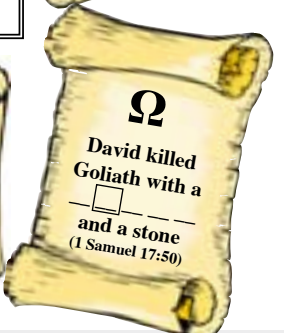
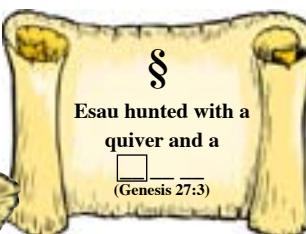
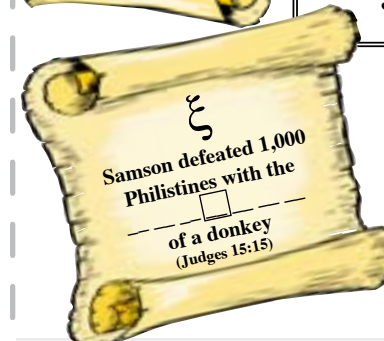
Cr4ck th3 C0d3!

To crack the code below, complete the five clues on this page—each boxed-in letter reveals the meaning of the symbol above it. Good luck, sleuths...

Children's
Corner



THE GREATEST WEAPON
OF A CHRISTIAN
IS THE...
§ € ξ Ω γ



Answer to last month's puzzle: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).



Local Church Updates

Friendships Strengthened at Asheboro Ladies' Tea

The Asheboro, North Carolina, Ladies Club held a very special celebration for all of the ladies in the congregation on May 9 with a Ladies' Tea planned and hosted by Sadie Parks. The entire event revolved around the theme "The Beauty of Friendship."

As guests entered, they were greeted by Christy Newsom and were given programs and lovely "friendship" momentos as they signed the guestbook. While enjoying



Asheboro Ladies' Club meets at their Ladies' Tea (photo by Josh Lambert)

special finger foods, including friendship bread, guests had the pleasure of being served special tea by two of the congregation's youngest ladies, Courtney Bortree and Thierry Mabry. All of the ladies participated in some way, contributing their time and talents as well as helping with food preparation and decor.

Tonya Newsom was the guest speaker for the event, and she reminded the audience to always remember how special our friends are and to never let small differences get in the way. She also pointed out the importance of the powerful example of a true friend. All of the ladies truly enjoyed spending this extra time together and having the opportunity to grow closer to one another.

Bonnie Mabry

M.D./Ph.D. Graduate Receives Prestigious Award

Mark Witcher and family were honored with a surprise farewell luncheon hosted by the Augusta, Georgia, congregation on May 9. A vast array of finger foods and many other special dishes were served, followed by a white chocolate cake. The Witchers were presented with gifts to commemorate their service to the Augusta brethren as well as Mark's graduation from the Medical College of Georgia (MCG).

On May 8 Mark graduated from the Medical College of Georgia where he earned an M.D./Ph.D. During the graduation ceremony Mark received the John F. Beard Award, reserved for students demonstrating "the highest ideals and achievements in compassionate health care service."

Mark's accomplishments were featured in an *Augusta Chronicle* article titled "Following His Heart." The article began by stating the reasons behind Mark's decision to become a doctor. After receiving excellent care from physicians treating him for a condition that left

him blind for two months, Mark felt compelled to pursue a career in medicine. He desired an opportunity to provide others with the same compassionate care he had received during his illness.

Dr. Carol Nichols, a professor at MCG, would certainly agree that Mark has already demonstrated compassionate care. Dr. Nichols was born with cerebral palsy.

Mark told her about witnessing a surgery performed on a child with cerebral palsy, and although he was told the surgery could not be performed on adults, Mark was persistent in researching on behalf of Dr. Nichols. She was

able to locate the only American doctor who could perform the operation.

Following her surgery, Mark not only visited her, but helped her with physical therapy. As a result of her surgery she has better balance, flexibility and freedom from the physical pain that has plagued her most of her life.

"It's a blessing to have gotten to know him. I have a better quality of life because of him," Dr. Nichols said. "I know he will go on to bless many more lives." The entire article can be found at chronicle.augusta.com/stories/2009/05/09/met_523368.shtml.

The Witchers have relocated to Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where Mark will begin a residency in neurosurgery at Wake Forest in July.

Mark, his wife, Catherine, and their three children, Jack (4), Sydney (3) and Maxwell (8 months), will be greatly missed by the Augusta brethren, family and community.

Ann Hewson



Mark Witcher holds the John F. Beard award (photo by Lori Schroeder)

Member Rescues Drowning Man

Scott Sherrod was presented with the Citizen's Award for Bravery by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar on May 6, 2009, in Washington, D.C. There were only five of these awards presented in the United States for 2008.



Scott Sherrod (right) stands with Ken Salazar and another recipient

While camping at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore last summer, there was a call for strong swimmers. A man had become overwhelmed by the cold water, strong currents and large waves of Lake Superior on a cold, windy and rainy day. By the time Scott arrived on the scene another rescuer had attempted to save the victim but had to give up to save his own life.

Scott then entered the water. The waves made finding the victim difficult, but aided by bystanders on shore, Scott was able to locate the victim and pull the nearly unresponsive man back to the shore. The victim fully recovered.

As written in the citation: "Scott Sherrod put himself at great risk by selflessly entering the same life-threatening conditions that threatened the victim's life. Without the quick response and bravery shown by Mr. Sherrod, the man most certainly would have drowned. For his courageous action and the great personal risk he assumed, Scott M. Sherrod is granted the Citizen's Award for Bravery."

Melvin Rhodes

Eighth Grader Wins History Day Contest



Kathryn Youngblood

National History Day is a national contest for grades 6 to 12. Students conduct research related to an annual theme and present their findings in one of five categories: exhibits, documentaries, performances, papers or Web

sites. Kathryn traveled to Washington, D.C., in June to compete nationally with her research paper, "Blackbeard: Sailor, Pirate, Legend."

Susan Youngblood

Northeast Ohio Hosts Family Day and Fun Fair

On March 14, 440 brethren joined together for the fourth annual Wooster, Ohio, Regional Family Day and Fun Fair.

Local Ohio congregations hosted the event to enjoy the fellowship as well as to raise funds for LifeNets for the purchase of much-needed computers for scholarship students in Malawi.

After Bible study seminars and a regular church service, a delicious Western chili dinner was served. Lots of different activities followed at the end of the Sabbath, including a bluegrass music jam session and a country store fundraiser where handmade items were sold. Baked goods, art objects,



One of the highlights of the Wooster Family Day and Fun Fair was a bluegrass music jam session

as well as embroidered and knitted items were among the items made and donated by local church members.

A big hit of the evening was the Family Fun Fair. Local church areas in the region were encouraged to design and assemble carnival-type game stations and then operate them that night. Creativity and ingenuity went to work as an exciting array of game stations were brought in. Among the nearly 25 game stations were "Wack-a-Nut" and "Rocket Launch."

One of the most-heard comments was how the evening brought great participation from the local congregations and lots of unity between the brethren, as all ages and whole families could participate.

Chris Moen

Local Church Updates: If your congregation's news and events are rarely covered in *United News*, why not check with your pastor and write something for him to send in? We're looking for 100- to 300-word articles and photographs with captions. Please include a self-addressed envelope if you would like photos returned. Include the author's and photographer's names and your phone number. Please double-check the spelling of names. Please **e-mail (preferred) or give the material to your local pastor** to forward to *United News*.

Announcements

Births

Scott and Michelle Delamater are thrilled to announce the arrival of Dallin



Dallin Jack Delamater

Jack Delamater. Born on March 11, 2009, he weighed 7 pounds 2 ounces and measured 20 1/4 inches in length. Being only 17 months apart, big brother Braden is excited about his new playmate. Grandparents John and Merrie Elliott, Dave Delamater, and Arnold and Cheri Dorsey are delighted with their new addition.

Gregg and Rebekah (Evans) Drury along with big sister Jaeden Olivia are so proud to announce the birth of Kinsey



Kinsey and Jaeden Drury

Mae. Kinsey was born March 20, 2009, at 11:52 p.m. She weighed 7 pounds 13 ounces and measured 20 inches long.

Kinsey is the granddaughter of Gary and Sue Evans from Ohio and Paul and Norma Drury from Arizona. Kinsey is the great-granddaughter of Lee and Christine Evans from Ohio.

Jason and Kelley Mortier of the Oshkosh, Wisconsin, congregation are happy to announce the birth of their second child, Joshua Andrew. He was born on Nov. 4, 2008, weighing 8 pounds 9



Sophia and Joshua Mortier

ounces and measuring 21 inches long. He was lovingly welcomed by big sister Sophia Richelle who is two years old and thinks Joshua's her own personal doll to play with! Joshua's grandparents are Gary and Kim Petty of the San Antonio, Texas, congregation and Donn and Alice Mortier of the Oshkosh congregation.

Jonathan and Kamie Stoner of the Dayton, Ohio, congregation are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Kayla Anne. She was born Sept. 4, 2009, weighing 7 pounds and measuring 19 inches long. Her big

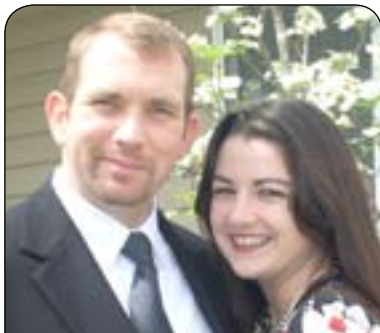


Kayla Anne Stoner

brother, Jonathan Jaden, adores her and would like her to grow up quickly. Proud grandparents are Ken and Kathy Treybig of Gladewater, Texas, and Larry and Joyce Stoner of Dayton, Ohio.

Engagements

David Hicks and Ginger Cottrill are delighted to announce their engagement. David and Ginger met nearly 16 years ago at Sabbath services in Atlanta, Georgia, where Gin-



David Hicks and Ginger Cottrill

ger was attending. David attended the Cincinnati, Ohio, North congregation for many years. Both currently attend the Columbia, Missouri, congregation and plan to be married on July 31, 2009.

Vinka Sarin of Houston, Texas, and David Lawler and Annie Lawler of Southern California are blessed to announce the engagement of their

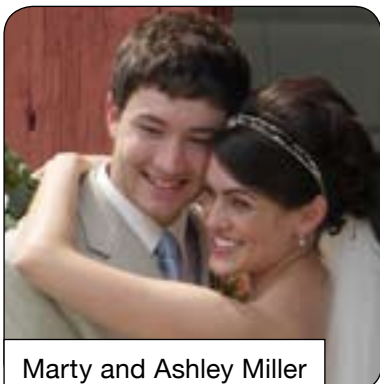


Sandy Sarin and Paul Lawler

children, Sandy Sarin and James Paul Lawler. Paul is a mechanical designer and Sandy is a software project manager. A September wedding in Houston is being planned. The couple plans to reside in Spring, Texas.

Weddings

Chris and Angela Moen of Canton, Ohio, are happy to announce the marriage of their daughter, Ashley Anne Moen, to Marty D. Miller, son of Dan and Martha Miller of the Cambridge, Ohio, congregation. It was a beautiful day on May 24



Marty and Ashley Miller

when vows were exchanged in a garden setting at Quailcrest Farm, in Wooster, Ohio. Chris Moen had the joy and privilege to perform the ceremony, which was witnessed by over 200 guests.

Attendants included maid of honor Jennifer Moen (sister of the bride), and two best men, Daniel Miller and Mark Miller (cousin and brother of the groom). Everyone enjoyed the outdoor atmosphere, which included the ceremony, hors d'oeuvres, a catered meal and a happy dance at the end of the day. After their beachside honeymoon south of Cancun, Mexico, the couple resides now in Dover, Ohio.

Anniversaries

In a double celebration on May 16, the Oshkosh, Wisconsin, congregation surprised Dan and Roxanne Dowd and Gordon and Joyce Meyer with anniversary cakes and refreshments after Sabbath services in honor of their anniversaries.

The Meyers celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Gordon and Joyce have attended God's Church for many years and are always busy serving the brethren every Sabbath.

The Dowds celebrated their 25th



Joyce and Gordon Meyer and Roxanne and Dan Dowd



wedding anniversary. Dan and Roxanne pastor the Oshkosh, Milwaukee and Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin congregations.

They are an inspiration to all who know them.

Dave and Connie Davis of the Garden Grove, California, congregation celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 9, 2009. After Sabbath services, the congregation joined in their celebration with an anniversary cake. Later



Connie and Dave Davis

that evening, they enjoyed a special dinner with family including all four sons, two of whom came in from out of state as a surprise.

Dave and Connie started attending the Church in 1962 in the Chicago area. They became a part of the Des Moines, Iowa, congregation when it started in 1965, and in 1970 they became part of what is now the Garden Grove congregation.

Jim and Mary Ward celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 16,



Mary and Jim Ward

2009. Friends and family were present as they renewed their wedding vows and enjoyed a reception. The following Sabbath they were honored with a special cake and presented with a congregational gift. Jim and Mary attend the Lansing, Michigan, congregation.

Obituaries

Carrie Lee Hayden, the daughter of William and Berniece (Newsome) Edson, was born Aug. 21, 1922, in Fort Dodge, Iowa. She was raised and educated in the area of her birth, graduating from Fort Dodge High School, "class of 1940." She married George Hayden in Evergreen, Colorado. The couple made their home in Englewood, Colorado, and moved to Eagle Grove, Iowa, in 1998. She worked in a factory in California during World War II, as a caretaker in Colorado, a nurse's aide, dorm keeper at Iowa Central Community College

and a YWCA resident manager in Fort Dodge. She was a member of the Des Moines, Iowa, congregation and sang in the choir. She enjoyed crocheting, crossword puzzles and collecting dolls and stuffed animals.

Carrie Hayden died on Thursday, April 9, 2009, at Wright Medical Center in Clarion, Iowa, at the age of 86, with her family by her side.

She was preceded in death by her parents; infant daughter, Cindy Lou; sister, Mary Jane Bergstrom; and her dog, Ginger.

Survivors include her husband, George; son, Terry Monson; daughters, Pam (John) McNew, Leanne (Mel) Spangler, Katy (Norm) Price and Carol Lee (Skip) Grano; 12 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and stepsons, Martin and Greg Hayden.

Dolores Harracks was born Aug. 13, 1949, in Rochester, New York, and died



Dolores Harracks

May 15, 2009, in Palatka, Florida, from an extended illness. She is survived by her husband of 13 years, Gary, eight children and stepchildren, a brother and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Dolores was baptized into God's Church on Aug. 19, 1991. She was a much-loved pillar of the Ocala, Florida, congregation. She was also a much-valued member of the Fleet Reserve #183 in Interlachen, Florida. She will be missed by everyone who knew her.

Mark Stahl was born March 25, 1981, in Orlando, Florida. He died March 26,



Mark Stahl

2009, in Waco, Texas, in a car accident. He was an assistant produce manager with H-E-B Food Stores. He was a 1999 graduate of Ennis High School.

He is survived by his parents, Dean and Carol Stahl, who are members of the Waco congregation; brother, Bryn Hendrickson; sisters, Lynette (James) Ragan, Deana (David) Wood, Connie Hendrickson and Rachelle (Chris) Cotzer.

News At a Glance

Continued from page 2

rent bulk mailing presort software designed by companies such as Satori and BCC. By using presort software, we can save money on almost all of our larger mailings. For example, the normal price of postage for a first-class letter is 44 cents, but by presorting, we will only spend between 15 and 16 cents per piece.

Mr. Stewart also is researching USPS package shipment companies like endicia.com and stamps.com. Currently the Church uses UPS and FedEx for shipments, but by using the USPS in addition to the others, we can save money with a business discount.

The event ended with a closing dinner at the Smithsonian Institute.

Elizabeth Cannon

Council of Elders Holds Retreat in Indiana

The Council of Elders met in retreat at Bradford Woods near Martinsville, Indiana, May 10 to 12. Present were all current and newly selected members, except Richard Thompson and Melvin Rhodes who had other commitments. No official

business was conducted as the intent was to have informal discussions on issues of concern. This retreat was originally generated by a discussion in the August 2008 meeting about revisiting a Council statement issued in 1996, that "we, as the Church of God, have not always handled our relationships and responsibilities in a godly manner."

All issues discussed over the two-and-a-half day period were with candor and frankness in an environment of respect and honor. All of the men were dedicated to working together to move the Church forward in its mission, and all expressed a commitment to better understand and communicate with each other.

The Council also discussed the need for more direct communication with the GCE. Updates on committee business and other issues under consideration should be regularly reported. All attendees agreed that the meetings helped us move along the path of treating one another as brothers and friends in the Body of Christ and for the good of the Church.

WNP Print Run Reaches 66,500

WorldNews and Prophecy reached a new record in May with a print run of 66,500 magazines.

We are currently in the process of renewing *WNP* subscribers in order



What's New on the Web?



■ New Live Local Congregation Sites

The Media and Communications Services department has launched the initial phase of

new local congregation Web sites. The following is a list of local sites that are live.

- athens.ucg.org
- canton.ucg.org
- cincinnati-east.ucg.org
- elkhart.ucg.org
- ft-myers.ucg.org
- mansfield.ucg.org
- miami.ucg.org

- morgantown.ucg.org
- munster.ucg.org
- parkersburg.ucg.org
- portsmouth-oh.ucg.org
- prestonsburg.ucg.org

Featured Link

■ **WNPonline Blog** on the *World News and Prophecy* blog page wnponline.wordpress.com.



If you have questions or comments, please contact: webmaster@ucg.org

to reassess the number of active subscribers. The renewal was sent with the June issue and responses are already arriving. This is the first renewal process for U.S. *World News and Prophecy* readers since the first issue, which was published in August of 1998.

From now on, the renewal process will be ongoing.

This current renewal process affects those who are only on the *WNP* mailing list. If subscribers of the *WNP* have already renewed *The Good*

News magazine, their *WNP* subscriptions were automatically renewed.

We will observe a significant reduction in the print run for future issues, but by completing this renewal, we will obtain a more accurate number of active subscribers and reduce the cost of print.

Beyond Today Statistics Reported

Since February, nine new *Beyond Today* programs aired and four programs re-aired.

The new programs are "Jesus Misquoted," "Resolving Conflict in Your Life," "The Book Nobody Knows," "Soft on Hell," "Will Suffering End?" "Easter Exposed," "Deception Wears a Pretty Dress," "Not One Stone Shall Be Left" and "Surviving an Economic Crisis."

The programs that re-aired this period were "The Easter Charade," "The New Atheism," "European View of Prophecy" and "What Time Is It?"

As of May 20, the average weekly response has reached 205.

Portsmouth to Hold 40th Anniversary Celebration July 25

The Portsmouth, Ohio, congregation is pleased to announce the celebration of its 40th anniversary on July 25, 2009. The Portsmouth congregation has been the home to many brethren and ministers over its 40-year history.

The celebration will begin on the Sabbath of July 25 with services at 11 a.m. at Portsmouth's regular location: 1253 Ninth Street, West Portsmouth, OH 45663.

Dave Treybig, the first full-time pastor of the Portsmouth congregation, will be our special guest speaker. After services, we will enjoy a potluck meal followed by a multimedia presentation featuring the history of the Portsmouth church.

If you have been a part of the Portsmouth congregation some time between 1969 and 2009, we hope you can join us. For more information, e-mail Gary Smith at gary_smith@ucg.org.

Gary Smith

Calendar of Events

July 16-19: Teen and Young Adult Weekend, Orange County, California, luky2binhb@yahoo.com.

July 16-19: Wheeling Bluegrass Festival (www.ucgnet.org/wheeling/bluegrass).

July 19-27: Challenger II Program, Wind Rivers Wilderness Area, Wyoming.

July 25: Portsmouth, Ohio, 40th anniversary, gary_smith@ucg.org.

July 25-26: ABC Continuing Education Seminar, Omaha, Nebraska.

Aug. 1-2: ABC Continuing Education Seminar, Columbia, Maryland.

Aug. 2: Tennessee rafting trip, allendance@hotmail.com.

Aug. 2-9: Northwest Camp, Canby, Oregon.

Aug. 9-16: Camp Heritage, Pennsylvania.

Sept. 6: Houston Music Festival, BuchananEnvironmental@embarqmail.com.



Periodicals Postage Paid at Milford, Ohio, and at additional mailing offices

Chattanooga Hosts White-Water Rafting Aug. 2

The Chattanooga, Tennessee, congregation will be hosting the annual white-water Ocoee rafting trip on Sunday, Aug. 2, at 10 a.m. As in prior years, the congregation will be using the services of Ocoee Inn Rafting as outfitters for the trip.

Participants must be at least 12 years old (Tennessee law) and in good health. Those with bad backs or other similar injuries should not participate due to the strenuous and jarring nature of the activity. Due to the inherent risky activity, all participants must sign a liability waiver. Those under 18 will need a parent or legal guardian's signature before they can participate.

The organizers have reserved a block of rafting spots. In order to guarantee that you have a seat, please send a signed liability waiver and a check payable to the United Church of God, Cleveland for \$26 per person by July 15 to Allen Dance, 9201 Cobblestone Hill Dr., Ooltewah, TN 37363.

Please clearly identify each participant, congregation and a phone number where you can be contacted. We must have your deposit to reserve a spot. It is on a first-come, first-served basis, so send it in as soon as possible. This activity takes place regardless of the weather.

To receive a waiver form or if you have any questions, please call Allen Dance at (423) 855-0868 or e-mail him at allendance@hotmail.com.

Camping and cabin facilities are available in the area. We do not sponsor a group campsite, but individual families are welcome to take advantage of the opportunities to camp if they so desire. The Chilhowee Recreation Area of the Cherokee National Forest is a 20-minute drive from the outfitters. Campsites are on a first-come, first-served basis and generally fill up on the weekends, so early arrival is advised.

As in past years, there will be a camp Bible study on the Sabbath in the Chilhowee Recreation Area.

Roy Holladay

Change of Location for Feast in Saskatoon

The decision has been made to use the facilities of the Sandman Inn in Saskatoon for the Feast of Tabernacles this year. This is the same facility we used last year. *The Festival Housing Brochure* listed the Confederation Inn as the site, but we felt the environment and part of the city was a concern.

Accommodation rates for the Sandman Inn can be found in *The Festival Housing Brochure*. If you have reserved a room at the Confederation Inn, we recommend that you cancel it and rebook at the Sandman Inn or at the Country Inn and Suites, which is next door. Please direct any further questions to Robert Berendt by phone at (780) 436-3927 or by e-mail at Robert_Berendt@ucg.org.

Robert Berendt