



Community of Christ

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI SUMMER 2008

“SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD, AND ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED UNTO YOU.”

Gulf Mission Center Reunion



THIS YEAR'S THEME WAS "CLAIMED BY CHRIST'S VISION." Seventy Karin Peter and High Priest Ray Peter were our guest ministers. On the first day of reunion, Karin brought a message about being vulnerable to Christ's grace. Karin shared a wonderful story about a young, socially-challenged student, who taught them a lesson on what it means to be vulnerable to God's grace. God touched that young student and all those around him in a way that only God can do. From Doctrine and Covenants 163:10a-b: "Collectively and individually, you are loved with an everlasting love that delights in each faithful step taken. God yearns to draw you close so that wounds may be healed, emptiness filled, and hope strengthened." Through this personal testimony, Karin shared an example of God's grace. God calls us to be

vulnerable to His grace.

The daily themes were: Sunday – Be Vulnerable to Grace; Monday – Called By Your Name; Tuesday – Faithfulness; and Wednesday – What Matters Most.

Each day, we began the day with a morning devotion down beside the lake led by Evangelist Tony Tristani. We were brought into close communion with our Heavenly Father during this time. This was definitely a Holy place where God met us each morning. On the very last day of camp, a few of us went to the bridge on the lake and watched the sun come up. We went expecting and what we saw was a glorious sun shining through the tree tops, one tree in particular – which resembled very much the burning bush. It was beautiful!

Following morning devotion, the day was filled with morning classes, relaxation, fun, evening worship and campfire. We gained new friends and were able to share with old friends, including a few that we hadn't had an opportunity to be with in a long time. God is good! Each day brought forth new and exciting experiences. Through Christ we were able to enjoy and share them together.

Denise Barbour brought her book titled *In Heaven's Light*, and sang her song "Meet Me In a Holy Place." Karin, together with Denise and Crandall Barbour and their children (Misha, Collins, Caitlyn, Tori, and Landon) provided ministry one evening; another evening the young adults led the service with testimonies of God's faithfulness. George Farnell led us in our commitment service on Thursday morning.

We were challenged throughout this week to seek out that which matters most. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added unto you." What matters most in your life's journey?

From Doctrine and Covenants 163:11b: "There are many issues that could easily consume the time and energy of the church. However, the challenge before a prophetic people is to discern and pursue what matters most for the journey ahead."

With Love from your Sister in Christ,
LIZ CRABTREE

VISITING WEEKEND

In May, we were blessed to have Wake Inabinette and Tony Tristani share in a visiting weekend. We tried to get to everyone who was available to meet with us over the four days. Wake provided ministry not only to the members whose homes we visited, but also to the visiting team members. He gave us great ideas and much encouragement. Our purpose was to open doors and get to know each other better. Tony Tristani met with several people about their Evangelist's Blessing. This is the first of many times we hope to be together with each other. We shared in worship and fellowship with Wake and Tony as well. On Thursday evening, we had a spaghetti dinner followed by a hymnfest. During the hymnfest, Tony and Wake shared testimony with the congregation. Tony shared about his son and the miracles they have seen. On Sunday, Wake brought a message entitled "Dare We Surrender." Plans are being made for another great weekend September 26-28, 2008, with Steve Smith providing guest ministry. We are planning activities and worship for all ages. We plan to invite our neighbors and neighborhood churches on Saturday. We will need your help to make it successful. — JULIE WRIGHT

“YOU BELONG TO *God*; LIVE OR DIE, THERE’S NO BETTER CONDITION TO BE IN.”

Testimony of Tony Tristani, Jr.

IN DECEMBER OF 2007 I WAS DIAGNOSED WITH stage IV colon cancer. The cancer had already metastasized into my liver and lungs. I underwent surgery to remove the tumor in my colon and the pathology report was discouraging and the darkest fear I could imagine engulfed my being.

Just like everyone else that has ever traversed their mother’s womb, I was not going to live forever. Unlike many people who wake each day without a thought of life’s longevity; I had a good idea how long I had to live. The end of the journey was too in focus, way to clear for comfort.

My first reaction was an indescribable fear. Every thought, every emotion was jumbled and confused. Colors and depth were gray and flat. Nothing made sense. But then a single thought came through with clarity; simple idea that came to a clear foreground amidst the blurred reality of my new and abbreviated life, “You belong to God; live or die, there’s no better condition to be in.”

I am His. And He is bigger than I am and than I can imagine. Not such a bad thing if you think about it. I had always believed it, but I



had never counted on it. I never desperately needed something bigger than me. I belong to He who is bigger and yet is part to all of life. I am connected to all life through Him. That’s not too bad indeed.

And so, I started to live again. I think it was like a spiritual “lasik” surgery. The world I once saw in color and clarity now became High Definition and multidimensional. Wonders and miracle that always surrounded me and yet remained undiscovered now came into focus. I could see life as it was intended to be seen.

The miracles I see are simply God interacting with his creation. A beautiful sunset. A shroud of stars in a winter night that looks like silver glitter on a black sky. Dolphins playing off the shore. A child’s hug. A neighbor’s warm concern. A cool breeze. A deer. These all were once life’s occurrences. Now they have become God’s gentle reminders that I am connected to all of creation and creation reflects God’s involvement. And that’s a miracle to me.

My new eyes see miracles every day. And every day is worth living. And a life worth living is what I love. And I have become a good lover. A good lover of life and all it’s opportunities of miracles.

I give God all the praise. I am just like a piece of PVC pipe – God’s on one side, there’s wonderful people on the other, and I can just sit in the middle and watch the miracles happen!!!

MESSAGE FROM GEORGE FARNELL *GMC President*

IT’S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THE SUMMER OF 2008 is halfway over. Camps and reunions have been very successful with good attendance, fun activities, and a number of profound Spiritual experiences. I trust that all of you are enjoying this special season. There are a couple of more events that are coming up before the end of the summer: Graceland Spectacular, July 19 – 26, and the Labor Day Retreat, August 29 – September 1. I trust you will participate in these activities as applicable or pray for their success if not directly engaging in the event.

In March of 2005, President Steve Veazey participated in the ground-breaking of the multi-

purpose building to be constructed by the Baton Rouge Congregation. As most of you know, the Baton Rouge Congregation is preparing to dedicate that facility on the 24th of August. Sister Linda Booth will be attending to participate in the celebration and I trust that the Saints throughout the Gulf Mission Center will be there to support the folks in Baton Rouge on this signal occasion.

It is gratifying to me that all the congregations in the mission center are embarking on efforts designed to promote the mission of the Christ wherever they live out their ministry. I commend the Jackson Congregation for their efforts to reconnect with their membership while at the same time looking for new ways to convey the spirit of invitation and reach out to the community. The Saints of Jackson are a testimony to

the maxim that where we act in faith God will provide new ways for his disciples to touch and change lives for the Master.

I also want to recognize the fine newsletter that you are producing from the Jackson Congregation. I sent your first attempt to our Apostle, Sister Linda Booth and she was highly complimentary of the spring edition. It speaks well for the members in Jackson that you are finding yet another way to convey the message of the Community of Christ.

You are constantly in my prayers and I as well as the Gulf Mission Center staff stand ready to assist you in your ministerial endeavors.

May God Bless your Discipleship,
GEORGE FARNELL, *President*
Gulf Mission Center

GREETINGS FROM GULFPORT

We send Greetings to the Jackson Congregation from Gulfport. This is an invitation to all of you who might be interested in the Labor Day Retreat. The Campgrounds have advertised it as a Young Adult retreat, but it is in reality a family retreat based on fellowship, worship and fun. Gulfport has sponsored this retreat for much of the past 20 years. This will be our last time of being the sole sponsor and we are hoping to find other congregations that will help sponsor this retreat. This year’s theme is “Where Two or Three are Gathered”, and Wake Inabinette will be our guest speaker. Please consider taking some time out of your busy lives and joining us for a great weekend. — RICH AND JUDI SEWELL, *Co-Pastors*, Gulfport Congregation

MEMBER FOCUS

Welcome Kyra Robinson and Aaron! Kyra is from Bay Minette, AL. She recently graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi and will begin teaching 7th grade this Fall in Rankin County.

Congratulations Mattea and Michaela! At her 6th grade graduation, Mattea received awards for: all A's K-6th; President's Award for Educational Excellence; Highest 6th grade average in Reading, Language, and Science. She also received a trophy for having the highest overall grade average in 6th grade. Michaela received awards for all A's for the year; Highest Language average; Highest Accelerated Reader average.

Sonja met her new nephew, Samuel Edward Ruslan Hayes while in Florida in June. Sabrina brought him to the campgrounds to meet Shawn's family, Sonja, her Mom and Dad. He and his parents will be a great blessing to one another.

Liz, Brooke and Hope went to the GMC Reunion June 30-July 3; and then after reunion, went to Pensacola Beach for the rest of the day. They had a great time.

Roy and Marilyn Johnson recently were visited by several of their family members including their great-grandchildren. They had a great reunion.

Jeff, Leslie, Mattea, Michaela and Kay Mobley recently traveled to Pennsylvania to visit with Kay's Mom.

Mia has been really busy this summer – kicking it off with a dance recital in Raymond where she danced ballet and jazz. She's been sharing her summer with friends and family.

Shannon Richter worked on a service-over-self project in Vicksburg where she

joined with a youth group to work on a disabled person's home – painting it inside and out and doing general repairs. Lauren went and helped fix breakfast and lunch for the youth working on this project. They really enjoyed being able to do this.

Jeremy Richter spent a week at the YMCA camp in Vicksburg by Port Gibson and had a great time.

The Jackson congregation has also been blessed with the presence and ministry of Steve Smith in April and Justice and Evelyn Manning in June.

THANK YOU

Dear Jackson Family,

Thank you so very much for the beautiful flowers sent to dad's funeral. It reinforced for us how blessed we are to have a supportive, caring family here in Jackson. We sincerely appreciate all of the prayers offered on our behalf and the support you provided to dad and to us over the last years. You mean more to us than we can ever say. Again, thank you. — Love, Mickey & Julie

DONALD E. WRIGHT
January 12, 1927 - June 4, 2008

Donald E. Wright, 81, of Cherokee, Iowa passed away Wednesday, June 4, 2008 at the Arbor Care Facility in Ridgeland, Mississippi.

Donald was born January 12, 1927 in Cherokee, Iowa to Glenn and Verna (Fowler) Wright. He attended Cherokee Public Schools and graduated from Wilson High School in 1947. He was married to Donna Jean Smith on July 1, 1956 in Cherokee, Iowa. He had worked in the manufacturing field and machinist's jobs at Lundell Manufacturing, Caswells and

Obeco in Cherokee, retiring in 1990.

Donald was a lifelong resident of Cherokee, moving to Mississippi last year to be close to Mickey and Julie. He was a member of the Community of Christ in Cherokee. He enjoyed gardening, fishing, yard work, and helping his neighbors.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, June 10th, at 10:30 a.m. at the Boothby Funeral Home in Cherokee, Iowa and he was buried in the Cherokee Memory Gardens Cemetery. There was a family prayer service at 10:15 a.m. at the funeral home on Tuesday.

He is survived by one son Michael S. "Mickey" Wright and his wife Julie of Jackson, Mississippi; one brother and one sister: Adrian Wright and his wife Julie of Cherokee, Iowa; June Olson and her husband Louis of Palm Desert, California.

We are so thankful for the time his life touched ours. — Jackson Congregation, Community of Christ

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 24
Baton Rouge Dedication
Linda Booth

August 30 – September 1
Labor Day Retreat
BSCG
Wake Inabinette, *Guest Minister*

September 19 – 20
GMC Men's Retreat
BSCG
Bro. Harry J. Fielding, *Mission Center President of the Southeast USA*
Mission Center (NC, SC, and GA),
Guest Minister

September 26-28
Jackson, MS
Steve Smith, *Guest Minister*

FEINSTEIN CHALLENGE A SUCCESS

The Community of Christ's contribution to the Feinsein Challenge was a great success. Our groups alone raised over \$400,000. In Jackson, we raised \$285 in cash contributions, \$75 in food contributions (75 items), and \$280 in pledges. THANK YOU!! We took some food to a local family at Easter and the rest to Gateway Rescue Mission. Every little bit we do as individuals makes a difference. As you can see it all adds up. One person does make a difference. Congratulations. You have made a wonderful gift of time, talent, money and food. And you know you can't out give God. May God bless your year. I am blessed to worship with such generous people. — JULIE WRIGHT



SHRIMP FETTUCCINE
Serves 16 — Charlotte Richter

- 1½ lbs. fettuccine noodles
- 3 sticks oleo
- 3 med. onions chopped
- 3 ribs of celery chopped
- 2 bell peppers chopped
- ¼ c. flour
- 4 tbsp chopped parsley
- 2 lbs. cleaned shrimp
- 1 pt. of half & half cream milk
- 1 lb. Velveeta cheese cut in ½ in. cubes
- 2 tbsp. chopped jalapeño peppers
- 3 cloves crushed garlic
- Salt and Pepper to taste
- Parmesan Cheese

DIRECTIONS FOR SAUCE:

Melt oleo in large heavy pan; add onions, bell pepper, celery – cook 10 minutes until clear

Add flour, blend in well – cover and cook 15 minutes stirring occasionally

Add parsley and chopped shrimp – cover and cook 20 minutes stirring often

Add cream, cheese, jalapeño and garlic, salt and pepper

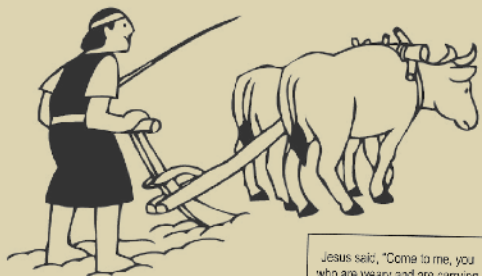
Cook covered on low heat 20 minutes

Cook noodles, add sauce, stirring thoroughly

Pour into casseroles. It will make two casseroles (9 x 13 and 8 x 8) or you can pour them in round casserole dishes. Sprinkle with parmesan cheese and bake at 350° for approximately 30 minutes until good and bubbly.

NOTE: If you want to freeze one, it is recommended that you wait until you pull it out of the freezer to sprinkle the parmesan cheese on it right before baking.

KID'S CORNER




Jesus said, "Come to me, you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."
—Matthew 11:28, 30 (paraphrased)

Find the words COME, TO, and ME several times in this word search.

E	C	O	M	E	C	O	M
C	O	M	E	T	O	M	E
O	M	C	T	O	M	T	O
M	E	O	M	E	E	M	E
E	T	M	T	O	T	T	O
T	O	E	C	C	O	M	E

Share a yoke with Jesus. Draw yourself here.



Jesus says to wear his yoke (do what he teaches) and he will take care of you. Which of these activities is difficult to do when you are alone but easy if Jesus helps you? Did you pray for Jesus' help?

- first day of school
- taking a test
- learning how to swim
- helping my family
- making a new friend
- praying in church

Community of Christ

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