

Extensions of Grace



Volume III, Issue 5, September/October, 2008

Building a Beloved Community Through "Extensions of Grace"

Why we need adult Christian Ed

by Archie MacKinney aamackin@wisc.edu

Is Christian Education only for children? That is a policy that one Christian leader put this way: "Christian Ed for every child; worship for every adult."

Imagine the adult Christian whose viewpoint is limited to something like "The B I B L E, yes that's the Book for me..." Like an astronomer who can't say more than "Twinkle, twinkle, little star, how I wonder what you are." Or the mathematician offering, "Two and two makes four". Or the theologian teaching, "Do unto others as you would have them do to you."

Many Christians today are not very knowledgeable. Many think that there is no absolute truth. They think that Jesus may claim to be the Way, but there are other roads that lead upward, too. They are shocked to hear that Christians will be judged on their performance. We are woefully confused about Genesis and the origins of the earth and biological life.

How can we get the big picture? As a child, I thought I would always be in the pew, getting my knowledge passively from the preacher. Plainly my Dad (the preacher) had something that enabled him to say, "Thus saith the Lord," and I did not. I

assumed it was his ordination. But I got a Christian education at Wheaton College and found out what the preachers had that I didn't. They had a Christian education. They understood theology.

Last summer I was teaching a small seminar on Bible doctrine. After the first session, one young woman said, "After I became a Christian I decided just to know that Jesus saved me, and I would not worry about the dinosaurs and all that stuff, but this is interesting and I should learn it."

We live in an information age. We need to get beyond spiritual childhood. Most the time we are feeding on junk like "Deal or no Deal", "Dancing with the Stars" and "CSI". Christianity for Dummies? Christian education ought to be available to every Christian who wants to learn and grow in wisdom and stature; it should not be the privilege of a few, like pastors and teachers. Hebrews says "By the time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of God's word. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness

for he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their faculties trained by practice to distinguish good from evil." (Heb.5:12-14)

There are three learning levels that a Christian should move through in adult life: sermons, Bible study, and adult Christian education. Sermons are inspirational, but patchy. It is practically impossible to get the Big Picture even after years in church. "Bible study" has been a popular Christian activity for years. Bible study is indispensable. To understand Matthew or Romans is vital. Adult Christian education sounds similar, but is much less well-known. It also covers much more territory.

A core of Christian education would start with a survey of the Old Testament and the New Testament to get the time-line of Bible history. Then Joshua, Nehemiah, Romans and Revelation make better sense because we can fit them into their time-frame.

Then we need to know the six big topics that the Bible talks about.

How do we know about God? Scripture reveals Him.

Who is God? The Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, One God.

What is Man and what is The Problem? Human nature and sin.

What is the solution to The

Problem? Christ and His atonement.

How do people who have The Problem solved behave? The Church's life and witness.

What does the Future look like? Will things ever get better, really better? The Golden Age has yet to come.

A third part of Christian education is to know what the Church has done over the centuries since Christ. Church history is a wonderful key to understanding world history. For example, Christopher Columbus went to be a missionary to the New World in the same year that Ferdinand and Isabella expelled all the Jews from Spain (1492), and just 25 years before

Martin Luther started the Protestant Reformation in Germany in 1517. My wife got excited reading Church history in her 70's and regrets all that she had missed.

Those who do not know their history are doomed to

repeat it. We keep making the same mistakes. Jehovah's Witnesses do not realize that they are preaching the same heresy on the Trinity that was discredited in the 5th Century. And Mormons believe a primitive kind of polytheism. Christians are getting hooked on yoga, not seeing the Hinduism behind it. Christians have been led astray by Hindu/Gnostic/New Age ideas since New Testament

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Adult Christian Ed

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times.

I know that getting the big picture of the Christian faith is not as much fun as surfing the net, or playing computer games, but who ever said that the way to eternal life was easy? "Strive to enter the narrow gate, for narrow is the gate and hard is the way that leads to life and few there are who go that way." (Matt.7:13)

Join us in the journey. Read a big book this year. The library will help you. If you need a hand, let us know. Perhaps HPC will move in this direction: Christian Education for all children; Christian Education for all adults.

We will know God more fully, love Jesus more passionately and understand the Holy Spirit more intelligently. Our witness will improve. Our confidence will increase. Our worship will be more meaningful. Amen.

Join in a Bible Fellowship on Sunday mornings, or one of the many weekday opportunities this year to help broaden your own horizons. See this issue or the Welcome Center for more information.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
Proverbs 9:10

Seniors wanna have fun

by Jane Kent ToJaneK@aol.com

The Senior Adult Ministry seeks to provide fellowship for adults 50 years and better within the context of congregational life.

The centerpiece of the ministry has been a monthly excursion or potluck and program. These activities give senior adults an opportunity to meet together over a meal and to enjoy special music or educational programs.

We welcome all seniors for good fellowship, fun, and food! This year's schedule will be announced soon. Contact Jane Kent (273-3774 or ToJaneK@aol.com) for more information.

New Sunday morning format!

by Pastor Bill Lerch blerch@highpointchurch.org

Starting Sunday, September 14, Sunday mornings will look a little different at High Point Church.

To start, we will have one family-oriented worship service starting at 9:30 a.m. This means that the sanctuary will be filled with people from ages 6 and up.

Infant and Toddler Nursery and Early Childhood Sunday schools will be running during the Worship Celebration, but Grade School, Jr. High and Sr. High students will all join their families in the sanctuary to worship together.

After the worship we will have time for education. At this point the grade school children will gather in the gym for Kids' Celebration and Sunday school; the Jr. and Sr. High students will attend their Sunday school class-

es; and the adults will gather in the Micah Center for Bible Fellowships.

These mid-sized (20-40 adults) will combine both "Bible" and "Fellowship" during the 70 minutes that they meet. We are currently planning on four groups, each with their own set of hosts and teacher. Each will serve some finger foods and beverages.

The hosts will facilitate the group during a time for getting to know one another, for praying for one another, and caring for one another. Adequate time will be given for a meaningful, interactive lesson from the Scriptures. This could take the form of either a Bible-book study or a topical study. See below for the classes being offered this Fall.

All of this will begin approximately 10 minutes after the Worship Service is over. The ending time will be noon, but discussions and conversations could continue after that.

We want to provide some time after the Bible lesson for those parents in the Bible Fellowship that have children in Sunday School to leave and meet with their child's teacher(s). It is our desire to see the parents connect with the children's staff to become acquainted with what was taught and help reinforce the lesson at home.

We are excited about the potential for those who participate to grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus Christ, together as family.

Bible Fellowships – Fall 2008

Bible Study for All Ages
(Archie MacKinney, leader)

We will be reading the Gospel of John starting in September. People who are unfamiliar with the book, as well as those who have a long acquaintance with John, are welcomed. We read, learn and teach other with joy. There is no cost for the study, and no book except the Bible is required; however any personal resources and study will help those who come.

Manuscript Study (Mark Finley, leader)

This semester we will be studying the book of Romans.

Manuscript Bible Studies is an inductive Bible study method that is taught by InterVarsity Christian Fellowship all around the world. It is simple to learn and requires no homework.

You will also learn about the Middle Eastern culture and biblical times. History and geography are all parts of this well-rounded Bible study. You will become a true CSI – Christian Scriptures Investigator.

Hot Topics: Current Trends & Tough Issues (from Christianity Today) (Dietrich Gruen & Rick Zynda, leaders)

Topic varies each week, select-

ed from recent issues of Christianity Today magazine. Cost is \$10 for all 13 weeks. This course is one you can drop in on any time, but it helps to read up one week ahead.

Beta Course (Pastor Bill Lerch, leader)

List of weekly topics: Find out more (introduction); Relationships, Christian community, Sin and atonement, Forgiveness and Reconciliation, Depression, Loss and change, Stress and coping, Suffering and wholeness, Self and God.

Is Married Couples Fellowship the place for you?

by Ellen Flottmeyer aeflottmeyer@charter.net

MCF is a community...where deep caring is being experienced and extended...where couples with and without children work, minister and "do life" in harmony...where new people are welcomed and assimilated...where we learn about and serve Christ together.

Fall 2008 Events

Time for fun and service

October – Middleton Outreach Clean-up day

October – Time to Bowl

December – Annual Christmas Party

Other Ministry Happenings

Care Groups – the core of MCF. Bible or topical studies and social time. If you'd like to get involved, there are Care Groups waiting for you!

Tuesday Night Women's Book Study – Ladies meet biweekly [7pm] at Starbucks on Gammon Rd. to discuss a spiritually related

book and apply it to our lives.

Tuesday Morning Men at Work Bible Study – A manuscript or topical Bible study meeting biweekly (7:00 – 8:00 a.m.) at church. A chance to delve into God's word and build relationships with other guys in the process.

Are you interested in MCF? Contact Don & Beth Williams at 848-5595 or Andy & Ellen Flottmeyer at 827-0780.

Going for the gold? the silver? the bronze?

by Ruth Ann Ebsen ladybugrae@tds.net

Did you know that God went for the gold, silver, and bronze? Of course, He didn't say it like that in Exodus 25:3. He was speaking to Moses when He said, "These are the offerings you are to receive from them (the Israelites): gold, silver and bronze..." They were going to be used in the building of his tabernacle, His residence in the wilderness.

Ladies, I encourage you to come and learn more about the building of the tabernacle and God's desire for a deeper relationship with His Chosen People in the study "A Woman's Heart: God's Dwelling Place" by Beth Moore. We will come to see the relationship between the Old Testament tabernacle, the true tabernacle Jesus Christ, and the bodies of believers in Christ being the temple of the Holy Spirit. We will see how verses throughout Scripture relate to this event in Exodus and how the building of the tabernacle has meaning for our lives today.

Gold, silver, bronze? Please think for a moment about the Olympians who were going for medals after years of dedicated training. They did all this for an event that would last a short span of time.

The race that we are in lasts a

lifetime. It is a marathon, not a sprint. Our goal is not a medal, but to finish well (Acts 20:24; 2 Timothy 4:7) and to hear the precious words from our Lord, "Well done good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21).

To triumph through a long-distance event, runners must press on through the pain and exhaustion that inevitably comes. That is possible only if they have trained their bodies and their minds before the crisis comes.

Sisters, now is the time for us to train our minds and our hearts for pain that will come in our lives. When that occasion arises, we need to already know the truth about God's character, His ways, and His promises. We need to have exercised our faith in the bumps of life so that our faith has been strengthened for the crisis.

There are two opportunities for you to participate in this great study: **Women at the Well** or **Thursday Evening Women's Bible Study**.

Women at the Well is excited to be moving to Tuesday mornings this fall as we discover the parallels of the Tabernacle's building and our lives as a chosen vessel of God.

Join us for our kickoff on

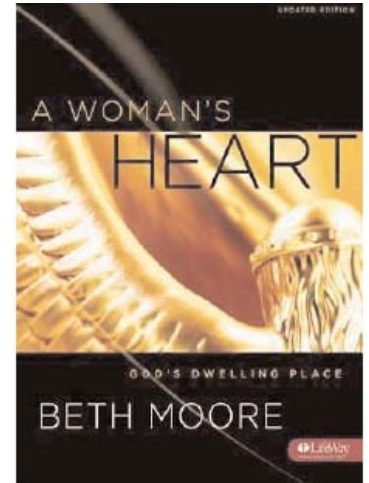
Tuesday, September 30 at 9:00 a.m. as we share food, fellowship and Beth Moore's DVD Introduction to the study.

This study offers a chance to delve deep into the Bible through a Beth Moore Bible study and take a slower paced approach by covering one study chapter over two weeks. Through large group and small group interaction you will not only grow in your walk with the Lord, but also in your relationship with other women as we walk on this journey together.

Women of all ages are welcome to attend – whether you are new to Bible study or know it well. We encourage you to invite your friends and neighbors to join us at "the well."

Pick up a brochure with registration forms and a schedule in the Welcome Center. Please pre-register yourself and any children by phone or email so we can ensure that adequate materials and childcare are available: Ellen Flottmeyer (827-0780 aeflottmeyer@charter.net) or Trisha Pinka (827-6787 tlp624@aol.com).

Each week at the **Thursday Evening Bible Study**, there is small group discussion of the five days of homework, opportunity



for prayer support, and video teaching by Beth Moore. We welcome women of all ages from those who are new to Bible study to the veteran student.

Class meets from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the Micah Center. The fall semester runs from September 4 to November 20.

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet new women, hear how the Holy Spirit is making Scripture come alive for them, encourage others with what you are learning, and see how the Lord moves to transform us into His image.

Feel free to invite a friend or to come by yourself. Be assured that you will be warmly welcomed. I look forward to seeing you!

For information or registration, contact Ruth Ann Ebsen (271-3252).

When I was hungry...

by Carol Boe cboe@meriter.com

For many years High Point Church has been involved with the men's homeless shelter located at Grace Episcopal Church on West Washington Avenue (by the Capitol). There is a group of volunteers that meets on the first Friday of each month to prepare a meal, deliver and serve it. We meet at HPC between 6:00 – 6:30 p.m. to prepare what has become our signature meal: lasagna, garlic bread, a salad or vegetable and chocolate chip cookies. In addition, we take milk and salad dressing to the shelter.

We leave for the shelter about 7:20 p.m. and serve between 8:00 – 8:45 p.m. The number of men

in attendance fluctuates between 60 and 100. It takes 7 – 10 vol-

unteers to prepare and serve the meal. Some volunteers car pool from HPC.

It is rewarding to participate in a ministry that serves those that are less fortunate. The Word tells us about this in Matthew 25:35-40: "For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat...I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for Me."

Please consider joining us one Friday evening to better see what this ministry is about. We are always looking for new people to participate. Contact Carol Boe at 242-1941 or cboe@meriter.com.

Good morning...welcome to HPC!

by Rhonda Wipperfurth

rwipper@merr.com

Do you have a warm smile? a friendly handshake? Do you enjoy making people comfortable in a new situation?

Then consider joining the Greeter and Usher Teams!

Every Sunday morning the "first line" of Greeters is there to meet friends, old and new, with a helping hand at the door, a smile, a handshake. Greeters also help direct people around the church,

perhaps helping a new family find the nursery or Sunday school rooms for their children.

Ushers are the "second line" just inside the sanctuary doors. They distribute bulletins and assist people in finding a seat.

They also pass the plates during the offertory.

If you would like to help out on a Sunday morning, contact Rhonda Wipperfurth at 276-0145 or rwipper@merr.com.





High Point Christian School

Educate their minds, Touch their hearts, Impact their lives

HPCS is ready to roll

by Alicia Lundal

alundal@highpointchristianschool.org

As of mid-August, 190 students are set to start classes in grades K-8 in one of HPC's largest ministries.

The 3-4 year-old preschool classroom and the pre-K programs are full (that's 55 students between the ages of 3-5).

Both preschool classes, as well as the 2nd and 5th grades, have waiting lists for the 2008-09

school year, but space is available in all other classrooms.

Prospective students and their families are welcome to tour, observe, and learn more about the wonderful Christian education at HPCS.

Please contact Alicia Lundal at alundal@highpointchristianschool.org or by calling 836-7170 x 138.

HPCS Chapel needs you!

Do you have a gift for speaking and teaching our youth?

Would you be willing to share an hour of your time with our HPCS students?

If you are interested in being one of the chapel speakers for our students in grades K-4 (Tuesday mornings) and/or grades 5-8 (Friday mornings), please contact Renee Reber in the school office or email [\[tianschool.org\]\(mailto:tianschool.org\). Our chapel theme will be based on the Christlike virtues of:](mailto:rreber@highpointchris-</p>
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caring, compassion, empathy, love, loyalty, respect, responsibility, service, and trust.

An outline and suggested topics list could be provided you, as well as list of open dates for chapel speakers. Please consider making a difference in the lives of our students.

HPCS faculty updates

A number of new (friendly) faces will be roaming the halls at HPCS this fall. The School Committee is pleased to announce the following individuals in their new positions at HPCS:

Kari Brookins, Third Grade Teacher – Mrs. Brookins holds a BS in Elementary Education and Bible, with a Minor in Middle School Social Studies from Northwestern College in St. Paul, MN.

This past school year Mrs. Brookins worked as a Para Educator in special education for the Middleton Cross Plains Area School District.

Erin Courts, Kindergarten Teacher – Mrs. Courts holds a BS in Elementary Education from Crown College in St. Bonifacius, MN. Her student teaching experience was in 2nd, 4th, and 5th grades in both public and private schools in Minnesota. Mrs. Courts was the team captain for the Crown College Soccer Team.

Jason Matthews, Middle School Teacher – Mr. Matthews will be our 7th grade homeroom and Bible teacher. He will also be instructing 7th and 8th grade students in math and science. Mr. Matthews holds a BS in Middle School Education with a Science Concentration from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

A life-long athlete, Mr. Matthews has played, refereed and coached in several athletic venues. He will put this experience to use by teaching an agility and strength training elective at HPCS in 2008-2009.

Lisa Read, Preschool Assistant Teacher – Mrs. Read has previous experience as a preschool teaching assistant and has been involved at HPCS in various volunteer opportunities as the mom of two current HPCS students.

Stacey Schultz, Fourth Grade Teacher – Ms. Schultz holds a BA in Elementary Education with a Reading Endorsement and History Concentration from Luther College in Decorah, IA. Ms. Schultz will be getting married in December so watch for a name change in 2009.

New/Additional Teaching Assignments

Several of our current teachers have new or additional teaching assignments for the coming school year. **Mrs. Susi Drachenberg**, our former preschool teaching assistant, will be our kindergarten-teaching assistant. In addition to teaching 5th and 6th grade math and 8th grade accelerated math, **Mrs. Patti Baird** will be the fifth grade homeroom teacher – teaching 5th grade language arts and Bible. **Mrs. Shelley Johnson** has been assigned 5th grade science and history, in addi-

tion to computer classes for students in grades 2-8. **Mrs. Cindy Kunde**, our former seventh grade homeroom/Bible teacher has been reassigned to eighth grade homeroom and Bible. She will continue to teach 6th, 7th and 8th consumer education and 6th, 7th & 8th English.

This fall also marks the beginning of the end of a chapter for **Ms. Ramona Small** at HPCS. Ms. Small began with the school when it first opened its doors as a parent, then became a teacher, before taking over the reigns as principal. Ms. Small will be retiring at the end of this school year.

The entire HPCS staff is looking forward to a wonderful start to the 2008-09 school year.

Spiritual Emphasis Week

An all-school breakfast will kick off our Spiritual Emphasis Week, September 15-19, in which a virtue will be introduced daily, as well as fun classroom application activities.

On Friday, September 19, there will be all-school service projects. These service projects are an exciting opportunity to build a school community by giving back to others outside the walls of HPCS and showing Care for One Another.

Watch for updates on our Caring for One Another program, as well as a recap to our Spiritual Emphasis Week in future *Extensions of Grace* throughout the school year.

Upcoming HPCS dates

Parent Orientation	7 p.m.	August 25
First Day of School	K-8	August 27
First Day of School	Pre-K	September 2
First Day of School	Preschool	September 3
Koats for Kids kick-off		September 5
Spiritual Emphasis Week		September 15-19
See You at the Pole	7:45 a.m.	September 24
Teacher Dedication at HPC		October 26

He's got the power!

by Sandee Lehmann

Did you get a chance to swing by High Point Church during the week of July 21-25 in the evening? The excitement from this summer's Vacation Bible School's Power Lab was electrifying!

Throughout the week, approximately 150 children, age embryo to 70 were fired up with the power of Jesus. Every day there was a theme based on Scripture to teach of Jesus' power!

Day one we learned that Jesus gives us the power to be thankful. Day two we learned that Jesus gives us the power to help others. Day three we learned that Jesus gives us the power to be brave. Day four we learned that Jesus gives us the power to live forever. Day five we learned that Jesus gives us the power to tell others

about Him! (Every time one of these themes was said by one of the leaders, all of us would shout Aha! meaning "we get it.")

Jesus is alive in us, and He uses us to display His power! It is ALL about Him!

We had a blast learning these truths in very creative ways. Each night we would make a craft and play games. We did some fun science experiments, watched a short movie about the adventures of Chadder Chipmunk, experienced Bible stories, and praised the Lord.

There were many, many volunteers who helped corral the herd of children from one place to another. Our fearless leaders, Miss Sheila and Mr. Kevin did a great job organizing this year's VBS. As a family, we are very grateful for the many hours the two of them, as well as many oth-

ers put in to make it possible.

A highlight for me was Thursday night. When I was at a point of exhaustion, we were doing the final prayer and Miss Sheila went up on the stage and prayed for all of us. She then proceeded to play the song, "Come



to Jesus" while we all sat in silence.

I immediately burst into tears as the Lord allowed me to grieve the lost of such a beautiful sister and friend. I know I can speak for

many in this church when I say, "Sheila will be missed!" The Lord has done mighty things for us through her. Before cleaning up Friday night, Sheila was honored during the ice cream social and was told in many ways how thankful we are for being blessed to know and work with her. We love you, Sheila!

The blue crew had five children who gave their lives to Jesus on Thursday of that week. It was an honor and a privilege to pray with these children, and to sit and listen to Sheila speak to them about what the Bible says

about their decision to accept Jesus as their Savior and Lord. The angels were clapping and celebrating that day!

Awana Club starts Sept 10

by Steven Stump, Awana Commander

The summer is over and school is starting. That means the start of Awana Club is right around the corner! Every Wednesday night from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. starting September 10, Awana attracts boys and girls from ages pre-school (3 ½ years old) through eighth grade for a fun filled night focused on knowing, loving, and serving our Lord Jesus Christ. The Trek program for 6th-8th graders will also meet on Wednesday nights this year.

Registration forms are available on the High Point Church web

site under Awana or in the Welcome Center.

Please pre-register before clubs starts on September 10. Forms and checks can be dropped off at the church office.

Adult volunteers are the essence of ensuring a great club year. Use your gifts to help boys and girls to know, love, and serve our Lord Jesus Christ. Please contact Steven Stump at 848-8625 to sign up today! As an added bonus this year, there will be a Bible study geared for the Awana leaders.



Sing, Dance & Play!

by Chris Smith & Kathy Meuzelaar

Sing, Dance and Play is an interactive time for children and parents to experience together the joy of praising God through music and movement.

Young children (birth through K) of all abilities are welcome.

Our informal group meets Thursday mornings from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. in Micah E.

Please join us October 2nd for our "Kick-Off" and meet the new group leaders, Miss Chris and Miss Kathy. For more information, see our brochure at the Ministry Fair on Sunday, September 7.

Nursery news

by Brooks & Katrina Boyd

The Nursery at High Point has undergone several new developments over the past year. Coordinators Brooks and Katrina Boyd took over leadership, Kathleen Shrader took over the role of Children's Ministry Leader over the past few weeks, and we are preparing for High Point's switch to one Worship Service on Sunday.

Currently, all children from birth onward are invited to HPC's Infant Nursery until they are steadily walking. As the developmental rates differ in all children, the age can vary when they graduate up to HPC's Toddler Nursery. Then, every child in the Toddler Nursery who is two years old by September 1st graduates up to the two-year-old Sunday School on Promotion Sunday (September 14).

All adults (both with or without children in the Nursery) are encouraged to serve in the Nursery. We will be holding two training sessions in upcoming weeks to help get all potential volunteers trained, and to serve as a

brush-up for veteran volunteers: Monday, September 8 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. or Thursday, September 11 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. You can also contact Katrina Boyd (kboyd@highpointchurch.org) for more information about serving in the Nursery.

We have been blessed with several new infants who have joined us in the nursery in recent months, including several who are new attendees of High Point Church. We just love being able to take care of the children, and it's so worthwhile to see the smiles on their faces as we are able to play with them and witness Christ's Love to them.

We will be graduating several of our good friends, as they make the big switch to the two-year-old room, but we are so proud of how much they've developed and matured in the few years we've seen them grow in the Lord.

We want to thank the parents for entrusting your children to us; it is an enjoyable experience to play with, witness to, and spoil (just a little bit) the children we have a few brief hours with on Sunday morning each week.

New session of Divorce Care begins

by Rebecca Witherspoon-Messman

The devastating consequences of divorce are all too often seen in today's society. With divorce rates skyrocketing in both the secular and Christian realms, it is a phenomenon which the Church and its members cannot ignore regardless of one's view on the subject.

Many times people, especially Christians, who are going through a divorce find themselves being judged by friends, family and fellow church members, causing yet more mental and spiritual anguish in an already extremely painful situation.

I often hear well-intentioned people say things like "if you'd just try harder" or "God doesn't believe in divorce" or "divorce is wrong and you should just forgive [him/her] and get over it."

Those who find themselves in the midst of divorce often find their spiritual foundation, as well as that of their children, severely

shaken.

So how can someone find the healing and support they so desperately need in this most traumatic time of life? How can someone realize the hope and promise given to believers that, while God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16), ". . . *the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.*" (Romans 8:26, NIV.) For "[w]e are assured and know that . . . *all things work together and are [fitting into a plan] for good to and for those who love God and are called according to [His] design and purpose.*" (Romans 8:28, Amplified Version; emphasis added.)

One of the ways healing, support and hope can be found is by attending Divorce Care. Divorce Care is a 13-week caring ministry program, which meets every Wednesday evening from 7:00 –

9:00 p.m. at High Point Church.

Divorce Care is not just for those who are in the middle of a separation or divorce. If you've been divorced, even many years ago, and are still suffering any emotional wounds from the breakup of your marriage, Divorce Care can be extremely helpful for finding complete healing.

I would encourage not only those who are in the early phases of separation or divorce, but also anyone who has been through a divorce and not participated in any type of support group to come and see if Divorce Care is right for you.

Divorce Care begins its next 13-week cycle on Wednesday, September 17. Enrollment is open at all times so feel free to join us at any time during the 13 weeks. For more information Please contact either Rick Messman at 239-6530 or Rebecca Witherspoon-Messman at 320-1443 to find out more details.

Divorce affects kids too

by Rebecca Witherspoon-Messman

One of the most devastating consequences of divorce is the effect on the lives and spiritual foundations of children. All too often, children in divorce situations find themselves caught in the middle of a battle between their parents.

With both of their parents often being overwhelmed by their own emotional turmoil, many children find themselves lost in a violent storm with no safe place to turn to for help with the shock, pain and confusion they are experiencing. Many blame themselves for the breakup of their parents' marriage.

Often they feel it is their responsibility to "fix" their parents' marriage. Many experience deep depression, some becoming so depressed they may feel ending their own life will somehow make things better. Many become very angry with God, not understanding how God could allow this to happen to them.

Divorce Care for Kids [DC4K] meets in conjunction with

Divorce Care every Wednesday night from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at High Point Church. DC4K is appropriate for kids ages 5 through 12 whose parents have separated or divorced, and who are trying to learn how to cope with and understand what's happening in their life.

Since kids in this age range can't bring themselves, the parent who is separated, divorced or in the process of a divorce, should bring their child(ren) to DC4K while they are going through the adult Divorce Care group.

DC4K is not counseling or therapy, is not Sunday School, and is not a babysitting service. It is an interactive time with multiple individual and group activities designed to provide a safe, confidential, comforting and fun environment for children whose lives are impacted by divorce.

Children are taught how much God loves them, that He will never forsake them, and that He loves them no matter what. They learn they are not alone in their circumstances by not only inter-

acting with other children in the group, but also through videos designed to show children in similar situations. It is a place where children can feel safe to express their overwhelming feelings without fear of rejection.

The facilitators of this ministry include Frank Pekovich, Deborah Hemmer, and Brooks and Katrina Boyd. All are very familiar with the effects divorce can have on children, and all have a strong passion for and dedication to helping children of divorce.

As one of our former DC4K leaders has said, "It's all about the kids. 'Let the little children come to me,' Jesus said. He has so much compassion for children, period. Think how His heart breaks for children in pain from emotional wounds. How can we not see this as important?"

DC4K begins its next 13-week cycle on Wednesday, September 17. Enrollment is open at all times so feel free to join us at any time during the 13 weeks. Please contact either Rick Messman at 239-6530 or Rebecca Witherspoon-Messman at 320-1443 to find out more details.

First Place 4 Health

by Martha Embling

First Place 4 Health is a Christ-centered support group for those who desire to have Christ be Lord of the spiritual, mental, emotional and physical areas of their lives. Weekly meetings offer instruction, encouragement and support to help accomplish this goal.

Our primary focus each week is on God's Word and how it applies to our lives. Jesus explained in Matthew 4:4 that God's Word is central to true satisfaction. "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

The logo for First Place 4 Health features the words "first place" in a light green font above the number "4" and the word "health" in a larger, reddish-brown font. Below the logo is the tagline "discover a new way to healthy living" in a smaller, grey font.

discover a new way to healthy living

God's Word contains guidelines for developing physical well-being, equipping us mentally to make right choices, providing emotional stability to handle everyday circumstances and developing us spiritually as we deepen our relationship with Him.

We have completed three First Place Bible Studies and will start an all-new Bible Study called Begin With Christ (First Place 4 Health) on September 8. The studies last 11 weeks and involve daily Scripture reading and memorization. Each study also includes meal plans, recipes, Live-It trackers to record meals, and a CD based on memory verses that can be used during exercise.

First Place 4 Health is held in the staff room Monday nights 7:00-8:30 p.m. We would love to have you join us as we seek to live healthier lives and experience a more abundant life in Christ! Contact Martha Embling (276-9795) with questions.

2008 Team Returns from Los Botados

by Jenny Boese

After a cancelled flight and an overnight delay in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Team 2008 finally returned home June 23 from Los Botados, Dominican Republic. Once again the Lord blessed this Team and their trip.

Though originally planning to break ground on a new Vocational Training Center, Team 2008 learned shortly before departure that they would instead return to their long lost love of building baños (outdoor latrines)! Building baños was the construction project during the first two years the DR Partnership was in Los Botados.

Constructing baños became a special experience for the Team as they worked alongside a gentleman named Franco. Franco was a



Constructing a baño in Los Botados amid the beauty of God's creation.

construction leader during the first two trips. Unfortunately, he later lost his leg in a motorcycle accident. When the DR Partnership learned about his accident, they were able to work with Food for the Hungry-DR to help assist Franco in receiving a leg prosthesis. While in Los Botados this year, Team 2008 not only worked with Franco for the first time since his accident, but helped him build a baño at his own home! God is good!

Team 2008 also presented daily Bible school to the children. Seeing the crowd of kids grow from 40 the first day to 125 by week's end was a joy. To see their attentive-

Stephen Ministers: the "after" people

by Dietrich Gruen

dietrich@mompop.org

Frequently friends will ask, "I know you're involved in Stephen Ministry. Can you tell me exactly what a Stephen Minister is?" I like to explain that Stephen Ministers are "After People."

Stephen Ministers are there for you:

...after you've washed and returned that last casserole dish.

...after the divorce papers have been served and the bottom falls out of your life.

...after the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away — and the house suddenly seems incredibly empty.

...after you arrive home following the funeral service and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.

...after the relationship has ended but the wounds are still bleeding and painful.

...after the doctor has said, "There's nothing more we can do."

...after the door has slammed shut — for the very last time.

...after the phone call you'd always hoped you'd never get.

...after you realize the hands on the gold watch you received at your retirement party move more slowly than you ever imagined.

...after the nursing home director shakes our hand and says, "Welcome to your new home."

...after the gavel goes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.

...after the baby has arrived, putting more demands on you than you ever dreamed possible.

...after you find the pink slip inserted with what is now your final paycheck.

...after your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the "After People." We are ready to come alongside you — or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives — and provide comfort and support for as long "after" as we are needed.

After reading what a Stephen Minister is, we trust you will ask for one, as need be. Simply and confidentially contact our SM Referrals Coordinator, Sue Gruen, at 219-7315 or gruenfam@chorus.net.

To meet the demand for Stephen Ministers at HPC, and to support our Stephen Ministers in what can be a demanding caregiving role, we invest heavily in their training and support, including 50 hours of initial classes and two years of continuing education and peer supervision.

Lord willing, and with sufficient interest on your part, we will begin our next Stephen Ministry Series in January, 2009, on Tuesday nights, and graduate those students by June. If you are interested, contact Co-Director Dietrich Gruen, at 219-9262, 826-3408, or dietrich@mompop.org.



ness each day and understanding of Biblical truths was amazing.

"My favorite part of being in Los Botados is the children," said team member Jenny Boese. "I would fly around the world to spend time with them and to tell them how much they are loved."

Other elements of the trip included a women's ministry outing and visits with sponsored children.

Team 2008 thanks everyone who prayerfully and financially supported this trip. You are making a difference!



Team 2008. Back Row: Jenny Boese, Casey Zynda, Rick Zynda, Vonda Shaw, Noranne Heifner, Natalie Gordon, Carol Boe, Sheila Rehbein, Lynn Rawhauser. Front Row: Bill Heifner, Allie Heifner, Annie Heifner, Valerie Lincoln

The dirt on DiRT

by Bill Taylor

billdian@tds.net

The HPC Disaster Response Team (DiRT) was birthed due to one HPC couple's care and concern after Hurricane Katrina ravaged the United States' Gulf Coast. We began sending teams of folks, men and women, young and old, to Biloxi, MS, and to New Orleans, LA, to work with Samaritan's Purse to help restore homes and hope to residents devastated by the (often extreme) damage to their houses.

After 15 DiRT trips to the Gulf in 15 months, we began to look northward, as flooding whacked Wisconsin and Minnesota. Gays Mills, WI, and Rushford, MN, received attention from DiRT. In some cases we mudded out or deconstructed houses to contain and stop the spread of mold, in other cases we rebuilt the houses

so the owners could return home.

In June and early July, several DiRT trips of one or two days in duration took place to help the people in the Reedsburg area. Words cannot express the appreciation these families have for the hard work performed by the DiRT members in "mudding out" their basements. Many still face a lot of obstacles, but there is hope in their hearts and smiles on their faces as they see significant progress on their homes.

St. Francis of Assisi said, "Preach the gospel at all times; use words, if necessary." If you are at least 16 years old, consider joining us. Contact Bill Taylor at billdian@tds.net or 608-836-5013 to learn more.

Church calendar for September & October, 2008

If your event is not listed here, please contact the church office at 836-3236 or scheduler@highpointchurch.org.

Special Events

Corporate Prayer	Thursdays	7:00 p.m.
All Church Picnic & Ministry Fair	September 7	11:30 a.m.
New Worship Format kick-off	September 14	9:30 a.m.
Congregational Meeting	September 22	6:30 p.m.
Hospice Quilt Dedication	September 21	1:00 p.m.

Student Ministries Steve Dale (358-6375)

Junior High Students – GIG	Thursdays	6:30 p.m.
Senior High Students – CEL	Wednesdays	6:30 p.m.

Children's Ministry Kathleen Shrader (836-3236 x129)

Infant & Toddler Nursery	Sundays	9:30 a.m. & 10:50 a.m.
Early Childhood Sunday School (ages 2-5)	Sundays	9:30 a.m. & 10:50 a.m.
Kid's Celebration	Sundays	10:50 a.m.
Awana	Wednesdays (starts Sept 10)	6:30 p.m.
Sing, Dance & Play	Thursdays (starts Oct. 2)	9:30 a.m.
Revive – Special Needs Ministry	September 13, October 11	9:00 a.m.
Awana Training	September 13	8:30 a.m.
Awana 2008 Ministry Conference	October 18	8:00 a.m.

Adult Ministries

Bible Fellowships	Sundays (start Sept 14)	10:50 a.m.
First Place 4 Health	Mondays (starts Sept. 8)	7:00 p.m.
Women at the Well	Tuesdays (starts Sept. 30)	9:00 a.m.
Men's Fellowship	Wednesdays	6:30 a.m.
Evening Women's Bible Study	Thursdays (starts Sept. 4)	7:00 p.m.
BASIC Singles Group	Fridays	7:00 p.m.
Elder Training	September 6 & 20	7:30 a.m.
Men's Monthly Breakfast	September 13, October 11	7:30 a.m.
BASIC Leaders Meeting	September 14, October 5	12:30 p.m.

Care Ministries

Divorce Care	Wednesdays (starts Sept. 17)	7:00 p.m.
Stephen Ministry	September 9, 23, October 7, 21	7:00 p.m.

Outreach Ministries

Missional Church Leadership Team Mtg.	September 4, October 2	6:00 p.m.
Men's Shelter Meal Prep	September 5, October 3	6:00 p.m.

Music & Worship Arts John Georgeson (836-3236 x119)

Psalm 150 Dance Classes	Tuesdays & Thursdays (starts Sept. 9)	4:00 p.m.
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Administrative Ministries

HPC Staff Meeting	Tuesdays	1:00 p.m.
Bulletin Stuffers	Fridays	8:30 a.m.
Deaconess Meeting	September 8, October 13	7:00 p.m.
Elders Meeting	September 11, 25, October 9, 16	7:00 p.m.
Finance Team Meeting	September 17, October 15	7:00 a.m.

High Point Christian School 836-7170

HPCS School Committee Meeting	September 16, October 21	7:00 p.m.
HPCS Preschool Parent Coffee	September 3	8:00 a.m.
Koats for Kids Kickoff	September 5	10:00 a.m.
See You at the Pole	September 12	7:00 a.m.
Volleyball Games	September 20, 27, October 4, 25	8:00 a.m.
School Pictures	October 1	8:00 a.m.