

The Spotlight

Volume 30, Issue 8

August 2010

An Evangelistic Slam Dunk: The Roots of Basketball

Did you know: Basketball was invented more than 100 years ago by a Christian theologian as an evangelical outreach tool?

In a recent Wall Street Journal article, one of our Centurions, John Murray, recalled the story of the game's founding. The inventor of basketball, James Naismith, became convinced that he stood a better chance of exemplifying the Christian life through sports rather than through preaching. So he took a job as a physical education instructor at the YMCA's International Training School for Christian Workers in Springfield, MA. Naismith's vision was "to win men for the Master through the gym."

In 1891, Naismith set out to invent a new indoor game that students could play during winter. He spent weeks testing various games, including versions of soccer, football, and lacrosse, to no avail. "Finally," Murray writes "Naismith decided to draw from all of these sports: with a ball that could be easily handled, play that involved running and passing with no tackling, and a goal at each end of the floor." In short, he came up with basketball.

From the beginning, Naismith and his athletic director, Luther Gulick, held the players to a high standard. As Gulick

wrote in 1897, "The game must be kept clean." A Christian college cannot tolerate "not merely ungentlemanly treatment of guests, but slugging and that which violates the elementary principles of morals." He recommended that a coach should "excuse for the rest of the year any player who is not clean in his play."

In the 100 years, we've seen no shortage of Christian athletes who use their skill, self-discipline, and sportsmanship as a witness to Christ - from Olympic runner Eric Liddel in the 1920s, to football player Tim Tebow in our own generation.

In fact, so many athletes give the glory to God after a game that sportswriters sometimes get irritated with them. To which I respond: Which would you prefer - players known for their faith and good sportsmanship, or players who are arrested for assault or drug use.

If you have a young basketball fan in your family, tell him or her the story of how basketball was invented.

Source: *Breakpoint* daily commentary on news and trends from a Christian perspective and part of Prison Fellowship Ministries.

Submitted by Pastor Les Pearson

All Church Picnic on August 8

Please stay after church on Sunday, August 8 and join your church family for the annual SRCC All-Church Picnic! It's going to be a great day, filled with food and fun!

Here's the rundown:

Sloppy joes and beverages will be provided.

Also provided (and you don't want to miss this) will be homemade pie and ice cream!

We're asking everyone to bring a side dish (fruit, salad, potato, veggie, whatever!) to share.

An optional \$1 donation per person will help cover costs.

Please bring lawn chairs and/or blankets.

After lunch we have some fun outdoor activities planned.

The tug-of-war event last year left us all wanting more, so this year be ready

for a rematch! (You might want to bring gloves!)

We will also have a slow-pitch softball game....but don't worry, it won't be too competitive! You don't have to be a player to play.

For those who wish for something a little more low-key, lawn games will be available.

If none of this sounds appealing, feel free to just relax and visit!

This will be Pastor Les and Roz' s last day here, so let's send them off well!

There has been a sign-up sheet placed in the main hallway. Please indicate YES or NO regarding your attendance, and if YES, give an idea of how many. (Don't worry, though; if the number changes, it's ok!)

If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Gillis (287-8589 or melissagillis@q.com)

Bluegrass and Southern Gospel Sunday at the Y

Please plan to join us on Sunday, August 22, as the Covenant Churches of Rochester combine for one service at the YMCA. Salem Road, New Day, and Rochester Covenant Churches will meet together, outdoors in the park area behind the YMCA for a 9:30 a.m. service followed by a potluck luncheon. This service has been a tradition at RCC and then NDC, and this year SRCC has been invited to join in the fun!

The lunch menu is gourmet hot dogs. We will provide the dogs and the fixings as well as the beverages. You will need to bring lawn chairs or a

blanket and a dish to share - your choice, whatever you make the best or like to make. If your dish to share needs refrigeration, please plan to bring it in a cooler, or if it needs to be kept warm, please plan to bring it in a crockpot.

We need of a few volunteers to help with the serving of the food. Please contact Melissa Gillis or Linda Lewis if you would be interested in helping.

Be sure to get this on your calendars. Pray for a beautiful sunny Sunday morning! You won't want to miss this time of great worship, music, food and fellowship!

August 14 Honkers Game

The three Rochester Covenant churches will enjoy a Honkers game together. Tickets can be purchased at the game - \$6/adult and \$5/youth. Children 3 and under are free. Find the group in the designated general admission area. There will be a great fireworks show after the game. Contact Brenda Walker with questions, 775-3228.

Good-bye/Hello

For the past two years Daphne Roberts has been your "go to gal" for congregational care needs. The Fellowship & Service ministry team created three divisions, and one is Care, and Daphne brought a heart for service and good organizational skills to the job of coordinating it. At this time she is stepping down from that role, and Rae Parker is now your new Care coordinator. Rae, too, has the right set of gifts for this job, and in fact the transition has found Rae hitting the ground running, helping with some current needs within our congregation. So say thank you to Daphne for a job well done, and you can welcome Rae to the role, contacting her if you or someone you know needs meals or other helps. See her at church, or email at rmpo2@yahoo.com.

A Note from the Elders

What a joy it is to see Sheryl back! We're so grateful for all she does for our church family.

Many thanks to Dania Robinson and Judy Boyum for doing such an apt job filling in for Sheryl on such short notice.



- 2 - Brad Lorang
- 3 - Wendy Engstler
- 7 - Linda Lewis
- 8 - Mark Evinger
- 14 - Jerry Huebner
- 17 - Connie Reinhart
- 18 - Donia Robinson
- 20 - Dave Capps
- 23 - Daphne Roberts
- 25 - Kate Robinson
- 26 - Lillian Lorang
- 26 - Kunle Roberts
- 27 - Anne Johnson
- 28 - David Iott

August Anniversaries

- 6 - Lewis & Rosebud Roberts
- 14 - Howard & Shirley Heikes
- 18 - Steve & Linda Lewis
- 23 - Dwight & Judy Boyum
- 29 - Marty & Lou Ellen Wolfe

Set Up

- 1 - Wolfe
- 8 - Zerbe
- 15 - Bjaastad
- 22 - None
- 29 - Bredeson

Ushers

- Reimer
- Hanson
- Therneau
- None
- Boyum

Greeters

- 1 - Stewart
- 8 - Heikes
- 15 - Svelmoe,
Pratten
- 29 - Bredeson

Nursery

- Driscoll
- Robinson
- Reimer
- Evinger