

## Avalanche Ranch, an Amazing VBS Ministry



2007 VBS kids

We just finished our 4th night of VBS and wow! What an amazing time we have had so far! We have had around 45 different kids come to VBS so far, 20 of whom do not attend SRCC! Our nights have been filled with times of worship, Biblical teaching, games, crafts, a snack and a video that all center on various characteristics or qualities of God! Each night has had a main Bible point, a Treasure verse and Bible story that is spoken, if not acted out or experienced at each and every station. Also, each night the kids are given a practical daily challenge to practice at home what they learned...Come this Sunday to see how many met their challenge by seeing all the Wow Cows on the fence! So far, the kids have learned that God is real, God is with us, God is strong and God is awesome! They heard and experienced the stories of Rahab, the Israelites crossing the Jordan, the falling down of Jericho's walls and the death and resurrection of Christ. And we still have one more night to go!!!

Here is just one example of the powerful lessons, experiences and worship that has been taking place: Tonight had a very power-

ful ending as Jeanette, our opening and closing leader, had each of the crews leaders take a Christmas light bulb to symbolize our lives, our sin. Then, the kids confessed one or more of their sins to their crew leaders. Then, each crew leader took their crew's light bulb and plugged it into the Christmas light strand that was plugged in and wrapped around a cross...and low and behold the lights shined! It was a great way to show the kids what Christ has done for us on the cross and that without Him we have no light, we are in darkness!

The crafts included a prayer quilt with pictures of the kids which is hanging in our sanctuary to remind us to pray for our VBS children. They also made prayer bears with personal notes for orphan children in Africa.

There are many more experiences that I am sure both the kids and our leaders would love to tell you about...like what did they do with the vanilla oil or what were the grocery bags used for or what did Jenny's teeth look like each night or who is Chadder or what does each animal remind us about God? Please take the time to ask them and thank the Lord for what He has done through our body and in the lives of the kids that attended! Waa—hoo!

On a personal note, I would like to thank each leader...all 45+ of you!!! I know you put a lot of time, energy and effort into each night of VBS!!! Thank you for being on time, being willing to serve, being a servant and tool used by the Lord in the lives of the kids that came! You many never know what fruit your time, energy and effort will produce, but I can guarantee you that the fruit will be good!! Thanks to the congregation for your support, prayers & supplies!! What a blessing!

In Him, Heather

# The Spotlight

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## SRCC's Hour of Worship

SRCC is a church committed to having a strong teaching ministry that undergirds our Worship and Sunday School program. In addition to a strong pulpit ministry, we have experimented over the years with various forms of music, the order and flow of the worship service, and most recently with more audience participation through liturgical prayers.

These experiments produced some changes and brought various responses by the congregation from acceptance to toleration to rejection. With the passing of time, it is easy to forget that we had people leave SRCC when we introduced choruses, guitars and drums. We've also had people leave SRCC because we were not more 'seeker sensitive.' And most recently some have thought about leaving if we continue to do liturgical prayers. On the other hand, we have had people come to this church simply because we have done some of the above things.

Now, if the feedback the elders received during our experiment with spoken prayers is indicative of the whole congregation, then we'd guess that about half of the congregation is accepting or tolerant of the prayers and the other half have rejected the idea. This is too significant of a difference to ignore.

In a recent newsletter article from our Conference Superintendent there was an interesting statement that went something like

this: "There is no growth without change. There is no change without pain."

Because we've had so many changes in the past couple of years, and are looking at some more with Pastor Steve, Heather and family moving on, the elders think it best that we not cause any more 'pain' in peoples' lives and try to keep things as normal as possible for awhile.

Having said that, there will always be slight variations in the order and content of the worship service that will not please everyone. However, the emphasis for now will be on a strong pulpit ministry.

In light of that, I have been praying and thinking how best to make this happen and have decided to preach on various themes in the coming year that should be challenging, encouraging, and beneficial to you and any unchurched family and friends you'd like to invite to SRCC. See the accompanying newsletter article which outlines what I plan to do in the rest of 2007 and into 2008.

You may also suggest some themes for me to cover in 2008. If you'd like to do so, drop me a note with the top three 'critical concerns' occupying your thinking at this time. Send to my email: mark.evinger@charter.net.

Thanks always for the opportunity to serve you and to be your pastor.

Pastor Mark

## Events for Your Calendar

### Larson Farewell

September 16 - Farewell for Steve and Heather, Josh, Rachel, and Sarah Larson. Pastor Steve has accepted the pastor position at Hillcrest Covenant in DeKalb, IL. We are grateful for the past five years of ministry and service that Steve and Heather have given to our church.

### Bike Ride and Picnic on October 7

A bicycle ride and picnic is planned for Sunday afternoon, October 7. Starting from the church and traveling along the bike path, we will travel a route structured for various skill levels and abilities. We will conclude with a picnic at the church. So mark your calendar and keep those bikes and helmets in good order. Even if you are not interested in biking, this will be a good time for walking, visiting, and relaxing on a beautiful fall day. (Lord willing ☺)

### Lake Beauty Bible Camp

#### Women's Retreat Sept. 14-16

Theme: *Catch the Wind*

Guest Speaker: Ruth Hill, Executive Minister of Covenant Women Ministries

Pick up a registration brochure in the hall rack with more details. Register by mail, phone, or online at [www.lbbc.com](http://www.lbbc.com)

#### LBBC Board Position Open

If you are interested in a three year board position at Lake Beauty, see the letter posted on the bulletin board with details.

<u>Set Up</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Nursery</u>
2- Iott	Reimer	Douskey	Driscoll
9- Hokanson	Gillis	Douskey	Stewart
16- Halbmaier	Therneau	Bjaastad	Robinson
23- Isaacs	Hanson	Bjaastad	Evinger
30- Huebner	Engstler	Halbmaier	Hanson



- 3 - Dylan Thornton
- 5 - Gene Hokanson
- 5 - Elly Webster
- 5 - Jim Johnson
- 7 - Dave Byer
- 7 - Torrea Johnson
- 19 - Hilliary Wolfe
- 27 - Charles Jordan
- 27 - Evan Ouverson
- 30 - Deb Dewanz

#### September Anniversaries

- 1 - Doug & Deb Dewanz
- 1 - Steve & Tina Douskey
- 13 - Charles & Audrey Taylor - 60th
- 16 - Greg & Paula Stewart
- 27 - Greg & Wendy Engstler



#### Weddings

Paul Byer and Elizabeth Hardy  
on September 29

#### Births

Shelby Lynn born on August 7  
Parents: Seth & Katie Lewis  
Grandparents: Steve & Linda Lewis

Faith Helen Baker born on Aug. 17  
Parents: Doug & Sue Baker  
Grandparents: Den & Fran Cox

## Parting Words From Pastor Steve

*“We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.”* I Thes. 2:8

I have begun each annual report and ended most of our mail correspondences with this verse. It is a key verse for my ministry, but it has become the very words of my heart here at Salem Road. For the last 5+ years, Heather and I have become close to so many of you. As we leave Salem Road to follow God’s call in IL, we have been thanking God for all of the gifts He has given us in the past 5 years of ministry.

*“...To share with you... the gospel of God...”* One thing I love about this verse is the way it can be read two different ways. Truly, *we have shared with you the gospel of God.* From the pulpit, in small groups, in classes for adults, youth and children, we have had the privilege of sharing the truth about God’s love and grace poured out upon us. We have talked together about the Great Exchange that took place on the cross, our filthy sinfulness for Christ’s spotless righteousness; quite an exchange indeed. This is The Good News! But *we have also shared the gospel of God with you.* Notice the difference? Not only have I told (shared with you) the gospel, but together, we at Salem Road have shared God’s gospel with the city of Rochester through VBS, Care Crew, CareFest, Mission Trips and in so many other ways. God has blessed Salem Road with many opportunities to work together, sharing the gospel. He will continue to offer more if we are willing to accept them.

So what now? Our youth program will continue; we have a great team of solid people leading the program in the coming year. Our

youth committee made up of Alice Zerbe, Deb Dewanz, Jeanette Lorang, Mike Gustafson and Val Williams will oversee the ministry. Our high schoolers will be lead by Mike Gustafson and Chuck Lucas as they meet on Monday nights for X-Cell and Sunday mornings for Sunday School. Our middle schoolers will meet for Confirmation on Sunday mornings with Judy Boyum overseeing the program, Lee Reigler and Greg Engstler teaching and Amy Hansen keeping the kids motivated and excited. We are still looking for someone to lead our mid-week CrossTraining program, but God already has someone in place; we just have to find them! May God bless our youth program in the years to come as He has in the years gone by.

Deb Dewanz has agreed to lead our Care Crew ministry. If you are interested in stepping into a role with Care Crew, give Deb a call and she’ll set you up. Having led our SWAT team ministry for the last year, Deb is both willing and able to lead us deeper in our walk with God through serving others.

I want to thank you, Salem Road, for all that you have given to me and my family for the past five years. You have opened your homes and your lives to us, trusted us to lead your youth, your children and yourselves and have supported us in so many ways that we can’t begin to list them here. Pastor Mark has been a wonderful leader for me, allowing me to grow while guiding me as I do so. You are our family, and for that we thank you as we thank God for you. May God continue to bless you as you serve Him with your whole heart, soul, mind and strength. And in all things, to God, not us, be the glory.

Pastor Steve

## Remembering 9-11

They reached far above the skyline  
Where thousands were employed  
On that day, the savage beasts  
Struck them down ... they were destroyed.

Memories of a field in Pennsylvania  
And the Pentagon felt its toll  
The bravery of the passengers  
And the message from the cell phone  
“Let’s Roll.”

That day was in September  
Chaos ruled New York  
All people came together  
The entire nation joined the force.

Though other wars brought sorrow  
Never attacking the land we love  
No other foe was so blatant  
Yet our flag flies high above.

We must be strong, never tire  
Look to God above  
We must prepare our children  
To seek peace ... Never lose to war,  
one they love.

God Bless America

Audrey Taylor

### Are You Ready?

**Do you have the words prepared to lead a person to Christ?**

You never know when the Lord will give you the opportunity to do so!!!! Pick up the “*Why Jesus*” pamphlet in our narthex. Use it as a tool to give to someone or to prepare yourself for that wonderful moment that the Lord brings you an open heart.

**BE READY!!!!**

## Fellowship & Service News

Once again it is time to sign up for the Fellowship and Service groups. This arm of the church body is vital to the care and feeding of our congregation during times of fellowship, meetings, illness, funerals and the unexpected events that come into our lives when a helping hand is appreciated. In an attempt to make better use of our varied interests, talents and time, a few different categories are included this year. The intent is to better balance the divisions and give some continuity to our service and planning. As in the past, the year will be divided into quarters for the normal week-to-week activities of church life. Specialty categories such as Christmas Dinner, Easter Brunch, Kitchen Upkeep, Social Events and the like will give you a chance to focus on a project that may be of particular interest to you. The sign-up sheet will be in the foyer, and I encourage you to enter your name as often as you like.

Melinda Evinger

## Mom’s In Touch Event

*Mom’s in Touch International* is a world wide movement of mothers praying for their children and the schools they attend. On September 6 at 7:00 p.m. at Church of St. Pius V in Cannon Falls, *Moms In Touch* event, *Confident Hope* will take place. Women of all ages and stages are invited to an evening of coffee, laughter, camaraderie and inspiration. Experience the power of united, scriptural prayer. Come away knowing that your prayers have an eternal impact on your children, your schools, an you. For more information, visit [www.MomsInTouch.org](http://www.MomsInTouch.org).

## Missions at Salem Road

### Two visits from our missionaries:

September is a busy month for missions at Salem Road. We will have visits from two of our missionaries. On September 23, Dave and Judy Dolan will be here. Dave will preach in our morning worship and they will also share during the Sunday School hour. Dave and Judy have served as Covenant missionaries since 1976.

On September 30 Nils and Erika Clauson will be sharing in our worship service. Nils and Erika have been serving in Mexico with the Covenant since 2004.

### Other missionaries we support:

Bob Dontje - MAF Midwest Director  
Pete and Cindy Ekstrand - Africa Coordinator  
Jo Ellen Reaves - Oaxaca, Mexico  
Dale & Sarah Lusk - Merge Ministries  
Todd & Lisa Myra - Young Life - St. Cloud  
Rick & Brenda Naatz - SIM Nigeria  
Gunnel Olmbro - Inter-Serve - Yemen  
Ken Satterberg - France Muslim Ministry  
Brian & Betsy Johnson - Cameroon -  
teaching missionary kids

### Organizations we support:

Rochester Area Youth for Christ  
New Life Family Services  
Gideons  
KICY  
KFSI  
Africa Partners  
Care Crew  
Friendship Place

This year we made prayer cards so that you can have a list of our missionaries along with their pictures and suggested prayer requests for each so you too can have a part in supporting our missionaries. They do appreciate all the prayer support they can get.

The mission's bulletin board also shows pictures of our missionaries and recent newsletters from them, which is another way you can connect with our missionaries. We also have current information updates of our missionaries that you are welcome to read.

Your involvement in our local Care Crew and Friendship Place is very much appreciated. More volunteers are always welcome. Contact Sheryl Peterson for more information.

## Preaching Schedule for 2007-2008

My preaching plan is to finish with the book of Acts by October 7th. This will mean making some general observations about a few large sections of the book. Therefore, I encourage you to begin reading the rest of Acts on your own.

On October 14 I will begin a six week series on apologetics that will serve as a transition from the book of Acts and evangelism into a number of various topics on Christian living.

The topics to be covered in apologetics will focus on six key passages of Scripture that every Christian should know thoroughly. However, we will only spend one week per passage introducing you to what you should know.

The texts for the first series are: Genesis 1:1-31 (Creation); Genesis 3:1-24 (Fall); Romans 1:18-24 (The Human Predicament); 1 Corinthians 2:14 (Man's incapacity); Ephesians 2:1-10 (Effects of sin); Revelation 21:1-4 (Consumation).

The end of that series will bring us to the Advent Season with its Christmas theme beginning December 2nd.

January will be stewardship month and the theme will be "Me, My Money, and

God." We'll find out what money really is, how it effects our lives, and what God expects us to do with it.

From there we'll take a look at the following ideas in several short series of 4-6 weeks each. The order of presentation is yet to be determined.

- How to apply God's word to daily life.
- How do I relate to sinners & unbelievers.
- How do I discern and do God's will.
- The nature and significance of biblical love (agape).
- The freedom and power of forgiveness, especially when one has been deeply hurt.
- The fullness and purpose of grace that can hardly be imagined.
- Who am I? Exploring human nature from its original glory, to its fall and recovery in redemption, reconciliation, sanctification and glorification.

These are all themes that I've been asked about in the past. If you have a suggestion or two that you want me to consider in 2008, please let me know. If it is more timely or needed than those proposed, I'll consider making a change.

Send your thoughts on issues that are critical to you to: [mark.evinger@charter.net](mailto:mark.evinger@charter.net)

## Upward Basketball Fall Season

Upward Basketball, a Christ-centered sports ministry for boys and girls, is accepting registration for its 7th & 8th grade fall league. The seven-game season opens Saturday, September 15, and ends Saturday, October 27. Registration is \$40 by September 8. Forms may be downloaded at [www.upwardbballrochester.org](http://www.upwardbballrochester.org). Contact Dwight Boyum for more details.

## Bible Quizzing Season Begins

The season kickoff for Rochester Area Youth for Christ Bible Quizzing will be 7 p.m. Saturday, September 8, at Emmanuel Baptist Church, 2911 18th Ave. N.W., in Rochester. You're invited to see a Bible Quizzing demonstration and receive information on the 2007-2008 season. Refreshments will be served. Contact Boyums or Hansons for more details. [www.yfcquizzing.novinger.net](http://www.yfcquizzing.novinger.net)