



MOORE'S MESSENGER

OPEN HEARTS

OPEN MINDS

OPEN DOORS

THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Pastor's Pen
By: Rev. KyungMo Koo

Homeless Ministry at Moore's Chapel

Based on the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) released in July 2009: nearly 1.6 million people use emergency or transitional housing programs over the course of a year; and on any given night in America, approximately 664,000 people are homeless. Some of the fortunate reside in emergency shelters, filthy motels, transitional housing programs, and permanent supportive housing programs, others are literally fighting to survive every night on the cold street. Of those: more than 124,000 are chronically homeless; 36.5 percent are chronic substance abusers; 26.3 percent are severely mentally ill; and about 15 percent are veterans.

If the government's concern is to estimate the number of homeless, to analyze what are the reasons that make people homeless, and to provide the proper

social structure to prevent it and programs to escape it, if the law enforcement's concern is how to prevent or protect the side effects of the homeless on the streets, such as drugs, prostitution, or crime, it is churches, I believe, who ought to pray for them, help them, and serve them. The Lord asks Christian believers to help the poor, visit the prisoners and reach the lost with the Gospel. It is our responsibility.

"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard." (Isaiah 58:6-8).

Although we cannot help every homeless person in the United States, we can certainly help somebody around us in Cecil County. Last month we embraced and participated in a new ministry: the Elkton Area Rotating Shelter. Since God allowed us to have such a nice new facility, and we heard of the need of the

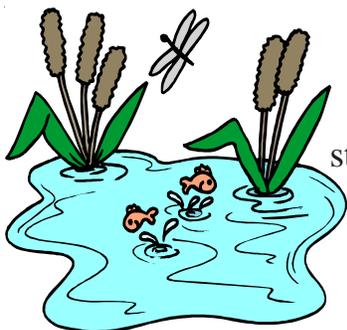
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Praising at the Pond

June 6, 2010

5:30 p.m. - fellowship

7:00 p.m. - Musical Service



Join us at **5:30 p.m.** for fishing, volleyball, fellowship, strawberry shortcake, and beverages. Musical service at **7 p.m.** with Walter Burton and Gang singing gospel and bluegrass.

Mark your calendars and bring a friend.
Held at the Montgomery Pavilion.

Moore's Chapel United Methodist Church
392 Blake Road Elkton, MD 21921

Office: 410.398.7245 Pastor: 410.620.3126 www.moorechapel.org



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homeless, and we have the passion and will to reach out to our community, we decided to participate in the Homeless Ministry for Elkton and the surrounding area in Cecil County. Moore's Chapel took a turn in the rotation from Feb. 8th through Feb. 15th. God graciously allowed us to have this precious opportunity to serve them in our new building.

For a week, we had a group of homeless people (25-32 people) from a downtown homeless shelter staying overnight at our church. We welcomed them with an open door, open hearts and open minds, and with bright smiles. We served homemade meals for them and broke bread together. At night, we provided a comfortable and warm place to sleep. We served them, we played with them, we listened to them, we hugged them, we prayed for them, and most of all, we shared the love of Christ Jesus with them. It was a very intense ministry that required our love and commitment.

Due to unprecedented heavy snow they unexpectedly had to stay inside and we let them stay with us for two full days and nights. Even though it was a challenging experience for all of us, we willingly shared our time, resources, and space with them. We were glad to keep them safe and warm. Regardless of the difficulties, many volunteers spent quality time with the homeless. I am especially grateful to all the volunteers.

I'm amazed and saddened by how many broken people there are in our community. It makes me wonder that if there are this many broken people in the United States, how many are there in the world? I want to share my personal thoughts with you after this special ministry experience. First, I don't believe that we can solve the hunger issue with a couple of meals and a week of shelter. They will be hungry again tomorrow and they will need shelter again tonight. However, what I believe is that we offered them a little taste of God's love with our love, goodness, gentleness, compassion, and kindness. If our small acts of kindness allow them to experience who God is and His unfailing love toward them, then that is reward enough for us.

Second, at first I thought we were providing a meal and a shelter for homeless, but what I've come to realize is that we were the ones who provided an incredible example of God's love and His presence when we mingled with them. As we shared friendship and fellowship in Christ with them, it was

a blessing for us first to feel God's peace and presence. It was definitely a spiritual moment both for the people that we served and the volunteers who served.

Third, even though we successfully provided shelter and served food in order to minister to the homeless, we well acknowledge that a hot meal and a warm blanket won't fix broken souls and lives; there still is a spiritual challenge before us. To deliver the good news of the Gospel to them will be our long term goal because it eventually leads them to change the direction of their lives. Some of our new friends now attend Sunday service, praise God, and share fellowship with us. What a wonderful result of reaching out in love.

I give thanks to God for letting us have this precious opportunity to serve the local community. I am so proud of everyone one who stepped up, helped, and served our neighbor in the name of God. I look forward to experiencing this precious ministry again next year. I believe it was quite an experience for both me and Moore's Chapel. It was a wonderful experience for both guest and host. It was an amazing experience to make Moore's Chapel into a house of hospitality.

In Christ's Love,

Rev. KyungMo Koo



Cabin Fever

Cabin Fever was a huge success this year measured by the smiles on faces of both children and adults, the response from our participating groups and a packed parking lot. Held on March 13, this second Cabin Fever event brought together 24 organizations telling folks where and how they can go outside and play. And after a winter of record snowfall it was obvious people were suffering from Cabin Fever! We had the cure! Estimates are we had more than 150 come to our church. There were a lot of new faces. Heard from one dad who's daughter complained the whole ride to the church and pleaded that they not stay long. Twenty minutes after arriving this dad told us his daughter thanked him for bringing her! We saw parents and grandparents playing with their kids and laughing together. We saw lots of folks heading out the door smiling, arms loaded with bags full of goodies. We are already hearing from participating groups that are making plans to come back for Cabin Fever 2011.



Making paper turtles at the Anita C Leight Estuary Center booth at Cabin Fever



Having a corn shelling contest at the Cecil County Farm Museum booth at this year's Cabin Fever

Spring has Spring



Christ and Thieves

By SunAe Lee-Koo

When Christ Jesus, Our Lord and Savior, was crucified, “they crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left” (Mark 15:20). Luke 23:39-43 describes these robbers (criminals) in detail: one confessed Jesus as Christ and pleaded, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom” (v.42). I have mused over the fact that it was robbery for which the two criminals were crucified with Jesus. How come robbers were hung on the cross beside Christ who took the sins of the whole world upon him?

So pensive a moment there was because of my own questions and answers: What is robbery? It is to take something that does not belong to me. Have I taken something that is not mine? Yes, I have taken praise that is due someone else, especially due God. Why did I do what I did? Because of envy, derived from my habit of comparing myself with others, and thereby wanting to feed my hunger with the “feel-good” mood, as if only then people would accept me. Then, is robbery caused by the selfish desire to feel better, to have more, to earn people’s acceptance, but not God’s? True, I became a thief when I was sensitive of people’s opinion about myself, rather than glorifying God who worked through me, enabled me, and empowered me, because I took his glory as mine. Usurpation is theft. How many times have I been tempted after hearing someone say, “you did good job” and how many times have I wanted to hear those words? Also, how many times have I tempted others by commending and praising them without giving thanks to God first? Why does this robbery prevail? Because I want to seek satisfaction from people around me, forgetting God’s presence and action, only in whom I can be satisfied and rest.

Pondering that John Wesley describes a “thirst for self-praise” as a disease in all humanity, my thoughts on Christ crucified with robbers move onto the first sin of humanity described in Genesis 3. The fruit that Adam and Eve ate was forbidden by God and did not belong to their possession, but they took and ate it. Taking and eating what was not theirs was robbery; the first or original sin is robbery, from which all other sins spring.

God the Son, who carried in his earthly life the love of God the Father, came to us to be among us (robbers), carried the cross—the symbol of all sins (robbery), and died instead of us. Therefore, his words to one of the robbers are to all of us who are robbers: “today you will be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:43). Maybe that robber was the first one who experienced passing through the one who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Wesley notices from the conversation between the thief and Jesus the confessions made by the thief that shows his faith in Jesus; not only was Jesus’ innocence confessed, but so was the kingdom of Christ.

Jesus Christ came for all thieves, to become one of the thieves, to take away the sins of theft, and to transform thieves into the likeness of Christ himself. In this Lenten season, I, as a thief, hope to experience the Way, live in the Way, so that my tendency to rob may be taken by Christ the Way, and in turn, be filled with Christ the Way. Anything that is good comes from God, which means it is not mine. I want to see if there is anything good in me, and give honor and praise to God for all the goodness. “Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions... Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence” (Psalm 51:1, 10-11).



The Ministry Fair

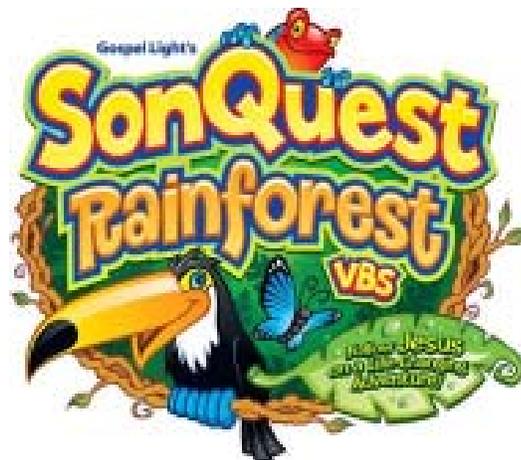
It was nice to have so many people come out for the 1st Ministry Fair.

The fair was organized by Pastor Koo to heighten awareness of Moore's Chapel's current ministries and to help congregants find an area that is a good fit for them to serve.

The Missions and Evangelism table had a good response with many people signing up to help out. Additional help is still needed in the following areas: Publicity Coordinator, Hospitality Hour, Welcome Ministry, Rotating Shelter Ministry, Cecil County Crisis Pregnancy Center Annual Drive, Stockings for Soldiers Annual Christmas Drive, and the Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Drive. If you would like additional information on how you could be part of these ministries please contact Sue McDade 410 287 7293.

Yes it's almost time for...

Vacation Bible School



July 18-22

Age 3 - Grade 12

Sunday 6-8:35 p.m.

Mon. - Thurs. 6:20-8:35 p.m.

Tween Gym/Game Night

Grades 3-6 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The following Friday Nights

April 23

May 21

July 16

Aug. 20

Games, crafts, food, and fun Bible lesson.

Moore's Chapel 392 Blake Rd. Elkton, MD 21921

Located 10 miles north of Elkton, just off Blue Ball Road.

No charge for this event. Parents enjoy a time of rest, while your children have a great time with us.

Call Jen Arter 410.398.9150 for info.



Youth Schedule

Youth Leader Jen Arter 717-434-6179

(All youth activities held at the church unless otherwise specified)

April

Sun.	Apr. 4		Easter-no evening activities
Sun.	Apr. 11	5:00-6:00 p.m.	Go Higher, music practice for grades 3-12.
		6:00-7:30 p.m.	Elevation(youth group)-grades 6-12
Thurs.	Apr. 15	5:00-8:00 p.m.	Chicken BBQ set up. Bring all of the yard sale items and 50 wrapped brownies per student (brownies required for mission youth only). All youth are invited to come and join in the fun of helping.
Fri.	Apr. 16	10:00 a.m.	Chicken BBQ Cooking and set up yard sale tables.
		4:00-7:00 p.m.	ASAP after school set up bags for chicken pick up.
Sat.	Apr. 17	8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon	Actual time for BBQ and yard sale.
			Youth church work day, all youth welcome to help. This is a nice way to say thank you to our church family for all of the support they have given us for the mission trip.
Sun.	Apr. 18	5:00-6:00 p.m.	Go Higher
		6:00-7:30 p.m.	Elevation-wrap up the weekend and the New DEAL.



Three ways to help Moore's Chapel Youth Group

Prayer Partners: Agree to pray for our youth by name one day each week. You will be given a list of student names. The list will be updated from time to time as new students begin attending our church.

Resource Donors: Anyone who would like to share something with our youth. Examples: A house at the beach, a cabin in the mountains, a boat for water skiing, OR offer to make food for one of our Sunday meetings.

Volunteers: Occasional or Ongoing

Occasional Volunteers: Adults over the age of 23 who would like to spend time with our youth as little as four times per year. Example: offering to be an extra driver to Ocean City. Fill in on a Sunday night if we are suddenly short on adults for our regular meeting.

Ongoing Volunteer: Adults over 23 make a commitment to attend all youth activities for one season (September to June). Meetings are held on Sunday nights 5-6:30pm or 6-7:30pm. *Current openings for ongoing volunteers: coordinate weekly snacks for meetings, help with set up or clean up, tech person for meetings (run power point and/or sound system).*

If you are interested in helping our youth in any of the above ways contact Jen Arter 717-434-6179. Please prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to help with our youth.



It's Barbecue time!

Youth Chicken BBQ & Yard Sale

April 16, 2010

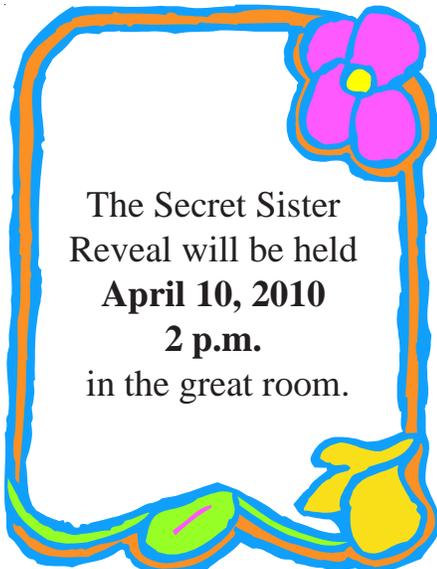
4-7 p.m.

Take out only



1/2 chicken, baked potato, applesauce, coleslaw, roll/butter, & dessert for **\$8**.

One of the Youth will be taking orders each week before and between services.
The Yard Sale is taking place during the BBQ.



The Secret Sister
Reveal will be held
April 10, 2010
2 p.m.
in the great room.



Reminder

2010 Children's Day
will be April 25th.

Combined service at 10:30 a.m.



**Summer newsletter deadline is
June 20, 2010.**



Moore's Chapel, UMC
392 Blake Road
Elkton, MD 21921
410.398.7245
www.mooreschapel.org
Rev. KyungMo Koo



Worship Services

Holy Week

- 4/1 7:00 p.m. - Maundy Thursday Worship service held at Moore's Chapel.**
- 4/2 7:00 p.m. - Community Good Friday Worship Service held at Moore's Chapel. Rev. Bert Jicha will be our special guest.**
- 4/4 7:00 a.m. - Easter Dawn Worship, held at Rock Presbyterian Church. Moore's and Rock's choir will be singing. Breakfast following in Rock's fellowship hall.**
- 4/4 10:30 a.m. - Easter Worship at Moore's Chapel, one combined service. Sunday School will be held 9:15-10:15 a.m.**



Hosanna