



News and Notes from the...

Lakeland Association

networking to motivate and multiply healthy, mission-minded believers

Sept-Oct
2007

What would Ralph Waldo Emerson think? The Northwest church seeks to impact its neighborhood

One wonders what he would think if he knew that today students from a public elementary school that bears his name are being tutored in reading, but also being exposed to ideas and ways of living through a partnership with a local church. Can a public school be aligned with a church to help children read and live better?

Following his address to the graduating class of Harvard Divinity School in 1838, Ralph Waldo Emerson gained a reputation in some quarters as one who 'poisoned' the minds of young people. He declared in his *Divinity School Address* that while Jesus was certainly a great man, he was not God. The Unitarian cleric uttered the unspeakable in that era. He remained often controversial, but never boring in his lengthy career as an essayist. He pushed boundaries and challenged people to think deeply. One wonders what he would think if he knew that today students from a public elementary school that bears his name are being tutored in reading, but also being exposed to ideas and ways of living through a partnership with a local church. Can a public school be aligned with a church to help children read and live better?

A few years ago as the Northwest church was pondering ways to impact its neighborhood, Rose Carr, the principal of the nearby Ralph Waldo Emerson Elementary School, welcomed the congregation with open arms. From that initial contact, a school supply and backpack give-away program was developed, but the church also wished to have a more ongoing and personal connection with stu-

dents and their families. The equation of Carr's openness plus Northwest's eagerness and the industriousness and energy of lay people like Vicky Ostry, eventually equaled



Ralph Waldo Emerson

the congregation's *Reading for Success Program*, which begins its third school year in October.

From 5:00-6:00 p.m. on the second and fourth

Wednesdays of

each month, October to May, the church provides trained tutors to work one-on-one with students. The ratio of tutors to students for the past school year was 22 tutors for 25 students. After the session, students and their parents are invited to join with the tutors and other church members for a light meal, which is then followed by *Team Kid* (an energetic mission and Bible study program) and an informal prayer and share session for the adults who remain.

Pastor Tom Harrington emphasizes that no pressure is placed upon the children to avail themselves to church activities, but several remain for *Team Kid*. The tutoring sessions are completely open for parents or anyone else to observe. They are a 'no strings attached service to the community,' says Ostry. Both she and Harrington give Principal Carr enormous credit for the partnership's success. Harrington mentions that in other similar situations, school leaders have been reticent to accept help from the church, perhaps out of a concern for church/state issues. In

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WELCOME TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

In its well-written monthly newsletter, the Northwest church makes the following statement as an ongoing reminder to its members and as a disarming invitation to guests:

At Northwest, we feel that it's OUR responsibility to 'clear the way' for you to come to church. We want you to be able to experience great music, encouraging messages, friendly people, and an enjoyable atmosphere that are a part of Northwest.

What would Emerson think? (cont. from p. 1)

these cases Northwest's overtures are met with a blizzard of paperwork and red tape which they politely decline.

Many at Northwest note that seeds sown a generation ago or longer through the church's bus ministry continue to germinate and bear fruit to the present time. Ostry believes *Reading for Success* can will have a similar lasting impact in the neighborhood where Northwest has been located for almost a half-century, and where it intends to remain with a new building program in the works for next spring.

What would a free-thinker like Emerson make of the arrangement? Perhaps one of his more famous quotations provides a clue:

Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.

The Northwest church and the Emerson school would seem to be doing just that. Can a public school be aligned with a church to help children read and live better? Apparently so.



Members of several Lakeland Association churches received training for **disaster relief** August 10-11 at the Parkside church. Among those trained for the food service unit were several volunteers who only two weeks later were part of the MWBC's disaster relief response to flooding in Winona, MN. Dave and Jeanne Wedekind, disaster relief co-directors for the MWBC, anticipate additional training opportunities in the LBA area in 2008. Diann Dill is the association's coordinator for DR.

Pictured left is Troy Rose, leader of the convention's chain saw unit, instructing Holly Jones of the Parkside church. Regrettably, during a short lunch break, 4 Stihl chainsaws valued at almost \$1800 were stolen from the church property.

The ministry of disaster relief is underwritten in part through the state convention's annual "Care and Share" or "State Missions" Offering, currently being collected in churches. Dave and Jeanne Wedekind, disaster relief co-directors for the convention, serve under the auspices of the "Mission Service Corps" (MSC). A fund in memory of Jim and Marion Wiersma, who were honored in 2001 as MSC missionaries of the year, has been established through the Minnesota/Wisconsin Baptist Foundation. For information on how you can contribute to this fund which supports the MSC ministry, contact the state convention office at (507) 282-3636.

Lakeland Association Fall Meeting, Saturday, October 13, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Join with brothers and sisters in Christ from across the Lakeland Association for a time of celebration, prayer, inspiration, and encouragement. It's also your church's opportunity to be 'in the know' regarding possibilities for mission involvement, training, and partnering with other churches in service and ministry. The meeting will be held at the Parkside church in Kenosha (see www.lbaonline.org for directions).



The MWBC's "Care & Share," Offering (known also simply as the State Missions offering), is collected to support a broad array of ministry and mission projects in the two-state convention area. Whether it's urban ministry, collegiate work, disaster relief, construction, or helping to start new churches, your Care & Share dollars go a long way. In some ways, your gifts help to leverage and increase funds from the North American Mission Board. Please give generously.

Mt. Horeb church hosts community event

The Mt. Horeb church in Milwaukee hosted a community outreach event on Saturday, September 1, which featured, among many other things, healthcare screenings and entertainment for children. The event involved numerous social-service agencies and advocacy groups, organizations like the Cub Scouts, and the Salvation Army, which provided free hot dogs. Free



The Salvation Army, which provided free hotdogs, and a local barbershop were among the organizations participating in Mt. Horeb's community outreach event.

hair cuts, a three-on-three basketball tournament, and a clothing distribution were also a part of the day's offerings.

Pastor Roy Hopgood and Salvation Army leader, Tom McMinn, who first became acquainted during Milwaukee's response to Hurricane Katrina victims two years ago, plan to continue collaborating, and they share the hope that the event can expand several more blocks to the south on 6th Street to involve other organizations and churches. Hopgood sees this kind of ministry as part-and-parcel of Mt. Horeb's mission to share the gospel in its immediate neighborhood.



A benefit of being a part of an association is the ability to seek help from other congregations which have offered ministries your church may be considering. Mt. Horeb church, for example, has several leaders who know how to coordinate and carry out a street fair. Others in the association and state convention can lend advice and support as well. Don't hesitate to reach out to 'family.'

Lakeland Baptist Association & 7th Platoon Entertainment

Invites all youth (7th grade and above) to

F.L.O.W. — The Jump-Off The Official Back-2-School Celebration

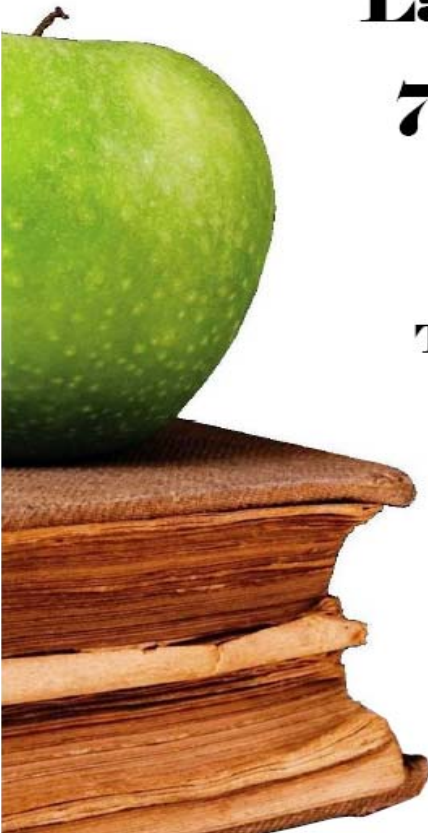
Featuring...

Dredknox Andy Vick
Jennifer Torres Vessel
Lance Kane III Grammar
and more!

Sat., Sept.22 at 7:00 p.m.

3022 W. Wisconsin Ave.
(inside Our Savior's Lutheran)

For more information, contact Ra'Shi at 414-732-1554
or visit myspace.com/lbafLOW



MISCELLANY

Jeremy Webb, pastor of the **Layton Avenue** church in Greenfield, resigned August 19 to pursue church planting options in Austin, TX. Webb had served the church since September 2005. A pastor search team will be elected later this fall. Resumes may be sent to Pastor Search Team, Layton Avenue Baptist Church, 9000 Layton Avenue, Greenfield, WI 53228.

Brittany Gilmore, the daughter of former church planters in West Bend, **Bret and Alaina Gilmore**, was killed in an automobile accident in Louisiana on July 7. The Gilmore's are currently stationed at Fort Polk, LA, where Bret continues his duties as an Army Chaplain. Those wishing to contact him may do so at bret.gilmore@us.army.mil.

Dr. Joel Gregory is holding two **Proclaimer's Place** training events this fall. One is scheduled for October 10-14 in Rockford, IL, and the other for November 2-5, at Georgetown College in Kentucky. If interested, click on gregoryministries.org for further information.

Add to your church's 2008 calendar the **LBA Winter Jam Retreat, March 7-9**. This event, for students in grades 7-12, will be held at the Sky Lodge Camp in Montello, WI, the same site used for children's camp. Registration is \$90. The first 25 paid registrants get this amount reduced by \$15. All registrations before January 1 receive a \$5 discount. **Parents**, this would make an excellent **Christmas gift**. For further information, contact Pastor Roberto Torres, 414-241-6016.

The Minnesota/Wisconsin Convention is sponsoring a **mission trip to the Amazon River area from January 25—February 3, 2008**. For more information, contact Larry Creamer at the Valley Baptist Church in Appleton, 920-733-8823.

The **Graceland Community** church, long-featured on this page with available space in its apartment complex, is pleased to announce a formal open house for the facility on Sunday afternoon, October 14, 1:00-4:00 p.m. In addition to apartment units, the building also has meeting space available with a full kitchen. Pastor Clyde Hamer especially hopes that all those who assisted in the construction of the building will drop by to see the building in its *almost* finished state.



Graceland Manor Apartments, 6859 N. 43rd St., Milwaukee



Mark your calendars for these events

- | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------------|
| Sept 22 | <i>FLOW</i> (for youth) |
| Oct 1-3 | MWBC Pastor's Conference, Green Lake, WI |
| Oct 13 | LBA Fall Meeting at Parkside BC in Kenosha |
| Nov 9-10 | Annual MWBC Meeting, Eau Claire, WI |

Is your church having special events or programs in the coming weeks and months? With a simple 'heads up' the LBA is happy to share information and invitations to these events.

Also send your digital photographs of special happenings to the association at lbaklc@tds.net or mail prints to the association office to be featured in the newsletter or on the association website.



Give generously to this year's Care & Share Offering through your local church.

News and Notes from the...

Lakeland Association

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