

The LIGHThouse

The online newsletter of Wildwood Community Church



Inside this month's issue:

- What happened at the Awana Grand Prix (pg. 1-2)
- What the Moorman's Love About Wildwood (pg. 3)
- Getting to know Jeremy and Michelle Horton (pg. 4-5)
- Equipping U Recap (pg. 5)
- Wildwood events and activities calendar (pg. 6)

April 2008

Awana Grand Prix

Throughout the Scriptures, God frequently addresses the importance of raising children in environments saturated with His love and truth. Deuteronomy 11:19 exhorts parents to use every opportunity to teach their children the ways of God: "Teach [God's words] to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

Also, both the Old and New Testament are rich with examples of God speaking to and preparing young people to be active and influential leaders for His kingdom. For instance, God called Samuel by name when he was just a boy in the temple. The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, setting him apart to speak His truth to Israel. In the New Testament we learn of the young boy Timothy whose grandmother and mother faithfully taught him God's word from his childhood. Timothy later became Paul's ministry partner and a leader of the early church. I think God reminds us in these stories of the great value He places on children and also of our responsibility to guide them into a knowledge of Him.

One way that Wildwood has sought to ensure Biblical training for children is through the Awana program, which stands for Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed, from 2 Timothy 2:15. Awana has at its core a Scripture-rich setting for kids. Awana also provides fun activities for children and their families to enjoy together.

One such activity, the Awana Grand Prix, was held at Wildwood for the first time since 2001 on the evening of February 27th, 2008. According to Bryan Sagebiel, our Awana Commander, the Grand Prix is "a pine box derby to promote good sportsmanship, healthy

competition among the participants, and glory to God. The Grand Prix is designed to be an outreach ministry to the community. It's a chance for parents and kids to work on a project together. As with all Awana events, it's a venue where a clear message of the Gospel of Christ is presented."

Each participant's car was judged for design and also for speed in the races. The winners were as follows:

Continued on the next page



Awana Grand Prix, continued

Design:		Speed:	
Cubbies:	1st Carter Buchanan 2nd Trevor Greene 3rd Jesse Hodgson	Cubbies:	1st Blake Stevenson 2nd Jonathan Berryhill 3rd Parker Shaffer
Sparks:	1st Jarod Williams 2nd Brooke McIntosh 3rd Kenzie Middleton	Sparks:	1st Brooke McIntosh 2nd Carl Sabatelli 3rd Grace Berryhill
Truth & Training:	1st Josh Hodgson 2nd Blake Buchanan 3rd Jonathan Hodgson	Truth & Training:	1st Ellyn Wirth 2nd Jaden Herbert 3rd Anthony Boyd
Open:	1st Holden Sagebiel 2nd Jerika Herbert 3rd Bryan Sagebiel	Open:	1st Bryan Sagebiel 2nd Holden Sagebiel 3rd Ron Mager
Overall Winner:	1st Josh Hodgson 2nd Carter Buchanan 3rd Blake Buchanan	Overall Winner:	1st Bryan Sagebiel 2nd Brooke McIntosh 3rd Jaden Herbert



This year's Grand Prix was the largest in Wildwood history, with a total of 85 cars participating. It was also the first time the entire club has had the event all together at the same venue. This means that the Cubbies, Sparks, Truth & Training, leaders, and parents were gathered together to celebrate and have fun as a group. Margaret Miller commented, "I was impressed with the turnout we had, since it was the first Awana Grand Prix for many of the kids and parents. It was good to see parents and even grandparents getting involved in an Awana activity. It amazes me that this ministry reaches so many children!"

Bryan Sagebiel also shared his excitement of sharing the Gospel with everyone at the Grand Prix. He said, "The Gospel is the cornerstone of the Awana ministry. Sometimes Awana is the only place where a child or adult will ever be exposed to the Gospel of Christ. Lives are changed when this happens."

Exposing children to the love of God and accepting them with warm hearts is exactly what Jesus did in Mark 10 when He welcomed the little children into His presence and instructed His disciples to, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

Part of what makes events like the Awana Grand Prix successful is the support and help of the whole Body at Wildwood. Bryan Sagebiel wanted to thank "Wildwood Community Church for their commitment in Awana as part of their Children's Ministry. It has been a core ministry for the church for over 24 years. Thank you to all the directors, leaders, parents, and kids who make the program such a success for the Kingdom of God."

If you are interested in more information about Awana, please contact Bryan Sagebiel at bsagebiel@yahoo.com



What I Love About Wildwood

The Moorman's

What We Love About Wildwood

It would be easy to say “everything” - and that would be true – but we’ll try to be just a little more precise. In order of the experience, on any typical Sunday, we are “in love” with the following:

The Friendliness -- From the time you hit the half-way point on the front walk, you know you are welcome. Whether you are in store for a great big hug from Dave Robbins (an experience in itself) or a friendly handshake from any one of the other greeters you are made to feel like family, like you have a home at Wildwood.



The Worship Experience – It would be almost impossible to say too much about the tremendously inspiring worship experience at Wildwood. Not only is the worship team incredibly talented, they have a way of leading one right into the presence of God. Through the songs that are chosen, and way they are presented, one can experience both the sense of community worship and private time with God all in the same morning.

The Preaching of the Word – The presentation of the Word is inspired, clear and applicable. Bruce and Mark are both so able to challenge the hearer to think, to consider, and then to apply the scripture to daily life.

The Adult and Youth Fellowship – The Koinonia class has given us the opportunity to make friends that we have come to cherish and that we know we can count on. We have been absolutely blessed by the teaching and inspired by the daily walk of our classmates. Mike Strauss is a tremendously gifted teacher and the Strausses and Wesnidges are great group leaders.

Stephen and Rebekah LOVE the youth group experience – and anyone with children knows what an important aspect of church life that is for any family. Their classes, fellowships and fun times have helped them develop solid Christian friends, have fun, and most importantly grow in the Lord. Rebekah has been specially blessed by Jennifer Hess, her shepherd. Jennifer is awesome and takes a personal interest in the individual lives of the girls, making them feel special and important. Rebekah has been challenged to go on the Mexico Mission trip this summer.

And There is More – Doris has attended the Ladies Bible Study on Thursday mornings and feels that it has helped her develop a more intimate relationship with Jesus and loves the fellowship, encouragement and support of other women of all ages. We are involved in an absolutely wonderful Community Group! We are all at about the same stage of life and are experiencing many of the same issues. Our evenings of sharing, prayer and fellowship have given us the chance to develop deeper relationships with some fantastic folks and it is a blessing to be able to support, encourage and challenge each other.

There are so many other things that we could share but we’ll close with this – our experience at Wildwood has been absolutely GREAT. And it has been a total family experience, one that we have shared as a family and one that has been a blessing to each of us. Thank you Wildwood!

Getting to Know the Hortons

After an overwhelming congregational affirmation, we are excited to welcome Jeremy Horton as Wildwood's new college pastor! Jeremy and his wife Michelle will be moving to Norman this summer and beginning at Wildwood on July 1st. Here is a brief interview with Jeremy so that you can go ahead and start getting to know him and Michelle.

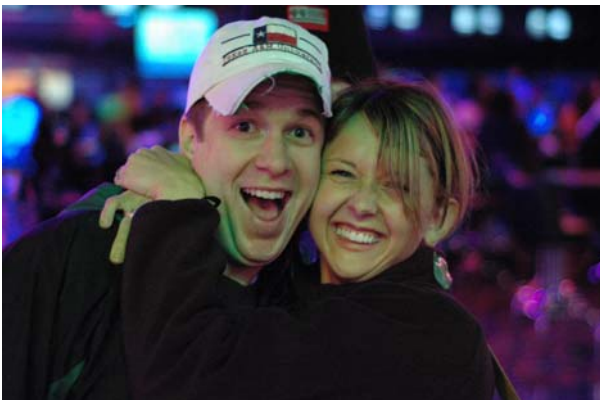
Tell us a little about yourself and Michelle.

My name is Jeremy and I was born on July 12, 1979 in Dallas, TX and have lived there, with the exclusion of my college years, for the entirety of my life. I attended college at Texas A&M University in College Station, TX where I obtained a degree in Construction Science. As I look back, my time in college was super formative for me both as a person and as a believer of Christ. Post-college I took a full-time job as a Project Engineer for a construction firm in the Dallas area until I finally submitted to God's call to vocational ministry a year later when I started at Dallas Theological Seminary. During this time I also married the lady of my dreams, Michelle, on April 8, 2006—but more about her later! During seminary I have had the awesome opportunity of being the College & Young Adults Director for a church in Dallas; it was awesome to have been able to get hands on experience while being immersed in Bible training. Now here we are in the present, I am officially a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary, in the process of transitioning my current ministry to the new director, and getting excited about JOINING THE TEAM AT WILDWOOD AS THE COLLEGE PASTOR!!!!

Michelle is my wonderful, energetic, creative, and passionate wife! She is the energy behind our marriage. She was born on August 2, 1982 and grew up in the small town of Borger, TX, which is just northeast of Amarillo. We met as counselors for a freshmen leadership organization called Freshmen Leaders in Christ. After meeting, we dated for roughly three years, were engaged and were married on April 8, 2006. She is such a wonderful person, opposite but complimentary of me in many ways, and is truly a blessing from God. She teaches underprivileged children in the public school system, and has done so for the last four years while serving alongside of me with our college & young adults ministry. Michelle is also super excited about hanging out with the college ladies and walking alongside of them.

How has God led you to Wildwood?

God was amazingly faithful in his leading during our interview process with churches. I actually graduated from Dallas Theological Seminary in December and we have been looking at churches since September. It was an awesome experience to see different families of God throughout the United States but Michelle and I continually felt like God was calling us to wait and so we waited (which is a hard thing to do for us fellas who want to be providers). Then in December I saw the college opportunity at Wildwood come over the wire and I began dreaming! After my first phone conversation with Mark, Michelle and I began praying that God would provide the opportunity to serve at Wildwood and lay down our roots in Norman, OK. Fast forward to today, Michelle and I are still enjoying God's faithfulness and are super excited about the opportunity of pouring into college kids!



Tell us a little about your heart for college ministry. Why do you love what you do?

Michelle and I truly love the college-age phase of life and the amount of impact that can take place during these short years of our lives. As we look back and reflect on our time in college, we have realized that this was a time where our faith grew exponentially because of the ministries that were able to plug into. It has always been a dream to be able to minister in much the same way that we were invested in. This is why we are so pumped about the opportunity of serving at Wildwood.

Continued on the next page



Meeting the Hortons, continued

What are your favorite candies?

Michelle loves gummy bears but not just any gummy bear, if the package isn't gold with the words "Haribo Gummy Bears" at the top, it might as well say dog food. Jeremy on the other hand goes straight for the Dove dark chocolates and will fight like a wild hyena for that one piece of dark chocolate in a room full of people.

What's cranking on your ipods?

Michelle and I are floaters – never stuck on one genre but always mixing and matching them. Michelle is digging Jack Johnson's new stuff, Boys Like Girls, and is always up for Mat Kearney or Dave Barnes. As for Jeremy, you never know about me, I'm a bit of a loose cannon when it comes to music. Right now I'm checking out the Counting Crows new cd, Lee McDerment, and Jon Foreman's stuff. However I am a sucker for some Phil Collins (which I'm in a recovery group for...), some David Crowder, and Derek Webb.

Hopefully this short interview helped you to get to know Jeremy and Michelle a little bit better, and we are looking forward to July 1st so we can get to know them even more! Continue to pray for them as they begin the process of moving and begin their ministry here in Norman.

Spring Equipping U Classes Wrapped-Up

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom..."
Colossians 3:16



God's word is vital in our lives. The writer of Hebrews described the word of God as "living and active", sharply cutting through to the thoughts and attitudes of our hearts. As we daily walk by the Spirit, we can rely on the truth found in Scripture to instruct us in how to follow Christ in word and deed. One way that Wildwood offers Scriptural instruction to our church and community is through Equipping U classes each fall and spring. This spring's classes have recently ended, and several of the attendees have encouraging feedback as to how these classes have challenged and strengthened them.

John and Heather Meeks attended John Abernethy's "Real World Parenting Class". When asked about the class, they said, "We believe that God used the parenting class in our lives to remind us that we are not the first parents to have real questions about our abilities and skills as parents of young children. We were taught directly from Scripture on many of the issues we had and how to address them in a more Christ-like way. We have been much more patient with our kids and it was great for our marriage to spend time every week together in fellowship with other parents."

Another Equipping U class, "Answering the Tough Ones", was led by Mark Burget. One of the attendees, Carl Lentz, said, "I really enjoyed the class. I learned a different approach and perspective in trying to minister to others. This class taught me a great deal about the factual information behind Christianity and the Bible as well as struggles that many people have in believing there is a loving God out there. The material we covered has allowed me to be more confident having and initiating conversations with others."

For many people, Equipping U offered them a chance to learn more about Wildwood and go through the membership process during the "Starting Point" class. Eyakem Gulilat attended "Starting Point" and said he enjoyed "meeting other people of different ages and from different backgrounds, learning from their questions and discussions. It was good information that painted a picture of the church, where they started, and where they are going."

God's word has important things to say about the many different areas of our lives, and Equipping U gives us a chance to discuss and learn together as a community. If you are interested, more classes will be offered again in the fall semester. Check www.wildwoodchurch.org for updates.

Wildwood Events and Activities Calendar

Major Upcoming Events

4/26	Go Wild!
5/4	Baby Dedication
5/25	All Church Perfect Swing Spring Fling Thing
5/30-6/1	Father/Daughter Campout
6/4-11	Youth WAV Mexico Mission Trip
6/23-26	WildLife Safari
7/14-19	Christ in Youth Conference

During the week at Wildwood...

WEDNESDAY	
5:30 pm	WildLife (grades 6th-8th)
6:00 pm	AWANA
7:00 pm	Open Prayer Meeting (Room 227)
7:45 pm	Break-Away (grades 9th-12th)
THURSDAY	
9:30 am	Women's Bible Studies

Sunday Morning Adult Fellowship Groups

Meet at 9:00 am

Young Couples and Families, 20s & 30s
Fellowship Center East (downstairs)
Leaders: Stan and Cheryl Schuermann
Tim and Ann Riley

Truth Seekers
Fellowship Center West (downstairs)
Leaders: Jeff and Joyce Harwell
Julius Harrell

Meet at 10:40 am

YouthWAV (Grades 6th-12th)
Youth Room (downstairs)
Leader: Dave Robbins

Koinonia
Fellowship Center West (downstairs)
Leaders: Frank and Tammy Wesnidge
Mike and Julie Strauss

Ladies Fellowship
Room 227 (upstairs)
Leader: Jill Brown

Family Fellowship
Fellowship Center East (downstairs)
Leaders: John and Lori Abernethy
Joe and Kit Wiese

Men's Fellowship (1st, 2nd, & 3rd Sunday)
Staff Office (upstairs)
Leaders: Bill Fix & Garry Krueger



1501 24th Ave. NE
Norman, OK 73071

Phone: 405-329-3939
Fax: 405-321-2893

wildwoodchurch.org

The Heart Behind the LIGHThouse Newsletter...

Wildwood exists as a church to glorify God by shining as LIGHT in our homes, our community, and the world. LIGHT is an acronym that stands for the following:

Living out God's truth
Invest in reaching others
Giving of ourselves through service
Honoring God through worship
Team together in relationships