

# The LIGHThouse

The online newsletter of Wildwood Community Church



November/December 2007

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## A WonderFALL Success



Only one night of the year sees over 800 people gathered at Wildwood decked out in costumes, eating handfuls of candy, and going on a Narnia adventure. That night would be WonderFALL! On October 31<sup>st</sup>, over 120 volunteers served food, handed out candy, manned games and booths, judged costume contests, and helped create the magical land of Narnia for families of the community and church to enjoy together.

Shawn Yohn shared her excitement about the evening, "God was just amazing in how He provided over 800 people this year! 300 kids were able to walk through Narnia and hear the gospel presented by our Aslan (Murray Tabb) and Mr. Beaver (Matt Burget). That made all the work, time, and prayer worth it!"

Marti Bushore said she loved helping out with WonderFALL because of its great potential as an outreach to the community. Many fliers were handed out in the surrounding schools, and Marti loved getting to see some of the kids from the community at WonderFALL. She commented that it was encouraging to see the friendliness and giving hearts of the whole church body working together that night. This year's Narnia Adventure was bigger and more interactive than last year's WonderFALL.

One of Tina Greene's favorite memories from the evening was



*Murray Tabb (as Aslan) with some of the children*

watching the children's excitement at being able to help save Narnia and fight for Aslan. Tina watched as Murray Tabb asked the kids, "Who will come and fight for the land of Narnia?" The little warriors yelled with enthusiasm, "I will!!!" What a creative and interactive way to share the Gospel! Overall, this year's WonderFALL was a fun-filled evening for children and adults alike. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and helped to shine as LIGHT in the community.



## What I Love About Wildwood

*In this month's edition of the LIGHthouse, we have a special "deluxe" version of 'What I Love About Wildwood', featuring one of our young adults, Sarah Farris, and one of our college students, John Rodgers. I hope you enjoy reading their stories and praising God for all He's doing in the Body at Wildwood!*



### Sarah Farris

I've decided that in my life, there are two things that must be kept in balance: community and adventure. When one is off, everything in my life, in my relationship with God and in my relationship with others turns upside down.

When there's an overabundance of community and not enough adventure, I am probably nestled, security blanket in hand, in my comfort zone. My muscles, no longer accustomed to the hard work of intentionality, have atrophied, and my eyes are glazed over, having grown used to seeing only the familiar. I am fluent in Christi-

anese.

But then when I am living in adventure and have no community, I am without accountability, support, friendship and prayer. Without community to keep me prayed up and grounded, I am at risk of thinking I can do it all by myself. And that's a very dangerous place to be.

On January 19<sup>th</sup> of last year, I stood at an international terminal, passport in hand, ready to embark on a season of life that would be marked by adventure. Moving to New Zealand for six months by myself to work with Focus on the Family was the bravest and scariest and most amazing thing I'd ever done. With my family gone from the airport and my friends having all said their goodbyes, all I could think was "What have I gotten myself into?"

My time in New Zealand was grand. It was fun and challenging. In New Zealand I had the single most frightening experience of my life as well as some of the most exciting moments. But the whole time I was there, I knew I wasn't alone. I knew that my email prayer requests and my blog updates were streaming through cyberspace and landing into the hands of Bill Fix, the Wildwood prayer team and the Young Adult group, and that made everything I did matter more because I was and am hooked into community. Likewise, I received weekly prayer requests from the Young Adult group and was able to pray for them a hemisphere away.

My first Sunday back from New Zealand was surreal. Severely culture shocked, I met familiar faces and got lots of hugs. I was home, back from adventure, but having never left community. And now nestled back into this community that embraces intentionality, builds each other up and seeks to do things yet to be done, I am constantly reminded that adventure has nothing to do with geography.

Adventure and community. That's what I love about Wildwood.

## What I Love About Wildwood!

### John Rodgers

After reading through some other editions of the “Why I love Wildwood” section there is something very distinctive between most participants and me: I have been attending Wildwood for two years while the other participants have generally been attending almost as long as I have been alive. (No offense to any of the earlier contributors!) Having said this, I suppose that I should offer a unique “college-aged” perspective on why someone could love Wildwood. So, I offer these reasons as to why I absolutely love Wildwood:



**Where else can you learn about God from a former Spy?** Although Scott Goodspeed will never admit this, I honestly think that he may well be Wildwood’s version of James Bond—I mean how much better could that get? Seriously speaking though, the pastoral staff is amazing and in my short tenure at Wildwood I have developed the utmost respect for the character and wisdom of the staff. The Sunday morning teachings of Pastor Hess and the insights of Scott and the rest of the staff have had a truly significant impact on my spiritual growth over the last two years.

**How about a family away from home?** One of the biggest transitions in coming to college has been the distance between my family and me. From friends who are there in the good times and the bad to older mentors who have given advice and guidance, members of the Wildwood family have provided a great support net for me in the void created by my parents’ absence.

**A place that changes my perspective.** Upon coming to Wildwood for the first time I wasn’t totally sold until I actually left the building. Sitting outside of the church is a sign that reads “Shine! You are now entering the mission field!” This church has shown me how we as a body of believers are leaders in the community and that our priority should be in living out our faith so that others may see a difference. From Pastor Hess’s work in “The Weekend to Remember” conferences to the church’s involvement in many service projects (GO WILD!, Latvia Missions, CareNet), Wildwood has shown me how I should “shine” and make a difference in my world.

Thank you for having such a great perspective on God and what He is doing in our community and the world, and for being so willing to invest in the lives of OU students like me!

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## Opportunities with Angel Tree!!!



For 25 years, Prison Fellowship Ministry has been showing God’s love to the children of prisoners by purchasing and delivering gifts to them during the Christmas season. If you are interested in helping out this year with Angel Tree, please contact Ruth Musgrave at 364-0863 or [rmusgrave@cox.net](mailto:rmusgrave@cox.net).

## Wildwood College Ministry Update: Fall 2007

*By Pastor Scott Goodspeed*

In Wildwood College Ministry, the semester is just now finishing up and we've seen God do wonderful things in the lives of college students. The men and women have enjoyed some evenings tailored just for them as we've launched the second annual Men of the Square Table and a series of evening meetings for the girls hosted by Barbara Boyd and Amy Frederick.

Last month, 25 guys met at La Luna on Campus Corner for the Second Annual, Men of the Square Table. This event is a favorite of the guys and a great opportunity as they had a meal of Mexican food and listened to a panel of older Christian men who shared their testimonies and life stories about walking with Christ after college. We were privileged to have Chad Snyder, Jeff Frederick, and Trevor Nutt share with the students things the Lord has taught them.

The girls have enjoyed a series of evenings at Neil and Barbara Boyd's home addressing topics like the myths we learn in college. We were privileged to have Heidi Smith, Tana Schuermann, & Jina Schrader share the things the Lord has taught them with the girls. Most recently, the girls were invited for an evening on the topic of dating and heard from Neil Boyd, Jeff Frederick, and Scott Goodspeed on what kind of guy the girls should consider dating. Said one college student, "This evening was a huge blessing for me. Thank you for coming and sharing your perspective - it was really helpful." Praise God!

*If you would like more information about the college ministry, please contact Tim Ferguson at [tim@wildwoodcollege.org](mailto:tim@wildwoodcollege.org).*



*A few of the guys who attended the Men of the Square Table*

## Catching up with Mee and Por in Wisconsin



When Mee and Por, a newlywed couple from Thailand, decided to move to Norman, Oklahoma, they probably never imagined that they would eventually end up in Waukesha, Wisconsin; yet that is exactly where God has led them. As many of you know, Mee and Por's connection to Wildwood began when Dave Sabatini met them on one of his visits to Thailand. Dave met the young couple at the Bangkok Institute of Theology. Shortly after Mee and Por's marriage, they boarded a plane to come to Norman to study at OU's Center for English as a Second Language in August of 2006. As they were here, they invested much of their time and energy into loving other international students at OU. They also quickly became involved at Wildwood, blessing many with their servant hearts.

Mee and Por's journey has been characterized by complete faith in the supernatural provision of Christ's grace in their lives. So, when they finished their time at OU, they prayerfully considered what their next step should be and trusted God to lead them. It soon became clear that their next step would be to move to Waukesha, Wisconsin, and start taking classes at the New Tribes Bible Institute. So, in August of this year, Mee and Por said goodbye to Norman and made their way to Wisconsin.

Recently, I spoke to Mee and Por about their life in the north. Mee said that their classes are going well. They are especially enjoying their independent Bible study course, and Mee said God is teaching him a lot through it. Most of Mee's free time is spent doing homework, since he has six to eight hours of studying to do each day. Por has made several friends, and they are both adjusting to the chilly weather.

Both Mee and Por said they have been learning how to rely on God for all of their needs, waiting on Him in every area of their life. They have been trusting God to meet their needs for new relationships in Waukesha, financial necessities, grace to do well in school, and transportation. Thankfully, Mee has recently passed his driver's license test! This will be a significant blessing for the couple, especially during the upcoming cold winter months.

Mee and Por asked that we would continue to pray for them as they consider what to do next year after they're done with school at New Tribes Bible Institute. They are also interested in plugging into a Laos church in Milwaukee, and

## Mee and Por, continued

they asked for prayer in making that decision as well.

*If you would like to send Mee and Por an encouraging note, please email them at [por\\_hmee@yahoo.com](mailto:por_hmee@yahoo.com).*

## Finding Community in Adult Fellowship Groups

*"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." Hebrews 10:24*

Every Sunday morning many of us gather together in one of Wildwood's Adult Fellowship Groups. For many, these groups offer a haven of renewal and support in the midst of our busy and hectic lives. Not only does an Adult Fellowship Group provide encouraging support, but it also presents us with a chance to study God's Truth with a community of believers. This community truly functions like a family which cares for each other, lifts up each other in prayer, and meets needs.



One of the groups that Wildwood offers is Family Fellowship (a complete list of Adult Fellowship Groups is listed below.) One of the leaders and members of this group, Fran Ryan, shared with me why she loves being a part of Family Fellowship:

"I love being part of Family Fellowship (FF), because it's a real manifestation of the body of Christ. The ways that this group comes together to serve others is just amazing - meals, praying for each other at the drop of a hat, showering new family members with love, deep connections in small group studies, local and outreach missions, moving families, taking care of each other's children in times of need, and just pouring lives into each other. In our year and a half at Wildwood and in FF, it's been incredible to be part of this extended family, our church family. My favorite story that illustrates what FF means to us is from our son, Will, who just turned 6. After he fell off of the monkey bars at school and broke his arm, several of our FF/Wildwood friends called to check on him and brought him cards or little gifts. While leaving church one Sunday, he overheard a Family Fellowship friend asking my husband Dave what his name was, and we told him it was Will so he could pray for him. Will said, "You mean all of the people at our church care FOR ME?" The way Will smiled at this realization is one of those snapshot memories that will stay with me forever, and is a perfect illustration of why Family Fellowship really feels like a family to me and our family."

I also asked Fran what kinds of activities Family Fellowship did together. She said, "What we do together... a little bit of everything! I'm sure my list is not complete, but we learn from the Bible and grow spiritually from the teaching John Abernethy gives us on Sunday mornings, we get together in small group studies for a chance to grow deeper relationships, we have barbecues, we get together as men and as women, we have giant group dates, we support each other and pray for each other, we have great baby showers, we welcome newcomers and help them be part of the family, we care for each other and our families, we serve all over the church, and we love each other."

We would love for any families that are attending Wildwood but haven't connected with an adult fellowship group to come and check us out! I think you'll be glad you did."



Have you begun to see the value in investing yourself in an Adult Fellowship Group at Wildwood? In addition to Family Fellowship, there are several other groups that meet at different times on Sunday mornings. A complete list of the groups is printed on page six of this edition of the LIGHThouse. I hope you consider joining a group if you haven't already. The Adult Fellowship Groups are truly a place where you can learn, grow, and shine as light with your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

*If you would like more information on Adult Fellowship Groups, please email John Abernethy at [johnabernethy@wildwoodchurch.org](mailto:johnabernethy@wildwoodchurch.org).*

To add events to the calendar or suggest a story for the LIGHThouse, email Jina Schrader at [jinaschrader@wildwoodchurch.org](mailto:jinaschrader@wildwoodchurch.org). For information about any Wildwood calendar event, contact Becky Clark in the church office.

For more information about any of these groups, please inquire at the Information center upstairs.



1501 24th Ave. NE  
Norman, OK 73071

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

[wildwoodchurch.org](http://wildwoodchurch.org)

## Staff Update

College Pastor Scott Goodspeed will be leaving Wildwood's Pastoral Staff team this month to take a job as an Intelligence Analyst at Tinker Air Force Base. Scott believes that this job better aligns with his gifts and goals for his life, while still allowing for he and Stephanie to be involved in significant ministry as lay people. Wildwood loves the Goodspeeds and the Goodspeeds love Wildwood. We are excited that they are staying in Norman and attending and serving at Wildwood (just not in a vocational pastor role). Wildwood's Elders have appointed Tim Ferguson (our college ministry intern) as the interim director of college ministry until we find a permanent replacement. We have begun a national search for our next college pastor, and we will keep you posted as details become available. Until then, join us in thanking the Goodspeeds for their time in service here, and pray with us for God to bring the next College Pastor to our church.

## Wildwood Events and Activities Calendar

### Major Upcoming Events

- 12/23 No Adult Fellowship Groups  
12/24 Christmas Eve Service, 6:30 pm  
12/30 One Combined Service, 10:40 am  
2/1-3 Pine Cove Men's Conference  
2/8-9 WildLife to Planet Wisdom  
2/29-3/2 Pine Cove Women's 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