



Mission Center Lights

Alabama-Northwest Florida Mission Center News

Volume 1, No 3

Community of Christ

October 2004

The past month has been extremely hard on many of our members, our families and our congregations. With four major hurricanes hitting in the southeast in six short weeks, our patience and resolve have been put to the test. Many of our fellow Saints have had damage to their homes – in some cases, very significant and catastrophic damage – and a number of our churches, as well as the campground, sustained heavy damages. Those of us who have fared better through the storms carry each of our affected church family members in our hearts and prayers. Hurricane Ivan was a very damaging storm, both physically and emotionally to many of us. Our family was glad to be able to open our home to the Lenfestey and Peavy families, and the Montgomery congregation hosted other families from the Pensacola area who evacuated for Ivan. Of course, as Craig Lenfestey said, “What sane person flees from a hurricane to a location still in the direct path of the hurricane?” Luckily, other than losing power for about 30 hours and a lot of branches coming down, we fared very well.

As the calendar at the back of this newsletter will reflect, Hurricane Ivan has caused some significant changes in the Mission Center calendar over the next couple of months. Please make sure to update your personal calendars and let those in your church family who may be out of touch know of the changes. The Mission Center Advisory Council members are here to assist you in any way we can. Please feel free to call on any of us at any time.

As some of you may know, and many will not, I joined the ranks of the full-time employed the end of July. I am now the bookkeeper for a primary school here in Montgomery. It has been quite an adjustment for the whole family, but one we are making fairly well. I still check my email a number of times during the day and can be reached on my home phone or cell phone; I may just be a little slower in responding than before. I also now have a fax machine that runs off my home phone line. If you need to fax me something, the answering machine will pick up during the day and go to fax when it receives the tone after the message. If you need to fax me something in the evening (after 4:30 p.m.) or on weekends, give me a call first so I can tell the family not to answer the phone.

I pray for all of you a safe, quiet and uneventful Fall. I look forward to seeing many of you either at Mission Center Conference or at one of the Solid Rock Cafes held in our area. I will be on the road a fair amount this Fall/Winter season as we travel for the holidays.

For the next newsletter (submission deadline Dec. 1st), I would like to include Holiday Greetings and Wishes from Congregations and Families. So be thinking about what you and your congregation would like to share.

Lisa Houk, Editor





Information Online

Don't forget the wealth of information available from the World Church and Mission Center websites online. You can find out information about events happening at the World Church level and things happening around the Mission Center. There is also information, directions and locations for the branches that make up the Alabama-Northwest Florida Mission Center. Drop in today and check us out.

World Church Webpage

www.cofchrist.org

Alabama-Northwest Florida Mission Center

www.al-flmission.org

Youth Website

www.cofcyouth.org

Gulf Mission Center

www.gulfmissioncenter.org

Bluff Springs Campground

www.bluffsprings.org



Mission Center Clusters

In July, the Mission Center under the leadership of Evangelism Coordinator Vic Peavy kicked off the Mission Center Clusters. The intent of these clusters are to allow smaller groups of congregations that share a common geography, as well as deeply rooted family and historical connections, to work together, support each other and share in the life of the Saints.

These cluster groups have been meeting once a quarter on the Mission Center level and also once a quarter on the Cluster level. These meetings are designed to facilitate sharing of ideas – what is working and what isn't – for evangelism and outreach, to support the congregations as a whole, and to provide effective training and communication tools to the members of the clusters. The individual cluster meetings focus more specifically in what each congregation in the cluster is doing and how the other congregations can support them.

A lot of wonderful ideas and fellowship have been coming out of these meetings. A number of our congregations have some exciting events planned in the next couple of months. We look forward to supporting each of these ministries and to the renewed Spirit that they can bring in the lives of the Saints.

If you would like to be a part of the Cluster team for your congregation, get in touch with your Pastor and see where you can help out. Each of us has a vital role to share in building the Kingdom of God here on earth and taking it out into the mission field.

The next Leadership Community Team meeting will be in Dixonville on December 11th from 1 – 4 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact your Pastor or Vic Peavy.

Bay Minette, Alabama Congregation

We would like to announce that we have another beautiful baby girl in our congregation, born on July 7, 2004. Her name is Kylie Jean Hall and she weighed in at seven pounds, three ounces. Kylie Jean's mother is Ashley Johnson, daughter of Cathy and Kenny Johnson. Her father is Greg Hall, son of Becky Lineberry and Norris Hall.

Early in July Sharon Clark's son and his family, Senior Airman Sean Clark, his wife Meg, young sons Russ and Teddy, returned stateside. They had spent three years at Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany. Sean is now stationed at Biloxi, Mississippi and is an instructor at Keesler. We are glad to have them near home again. We had several families that attended and enjoyed family camp at Bluff Springs the first week of July. Also we had several counselors and C.I.T.'s that worked at the Junior, Junior High, and Senior High Camps. We had campers at all of the camps as well.

School is going again and our congregation has a lot of people involved. We are blessed with several teachers and many students. They are all involved in extra curricula activities, including band, various sports, etc. We wish them all the very best year!

Our
congregation enjoyed a visit to

the Atmore Branch on May 2, 2004. The Huxford congregation was also there and we all enjoyed good food with singing afterward. We look forward to a visit from Huxford and Atmore on August 29th. The Bay Minette, Atmore, and Huxford congregations are planning a branch retreat at Bluff Springs Campgrounds on October 8th, 9th, and 10th. We are very excited and look forward to a relaxing and spiritual weekend.

Pearl May Baggett White went home to Jesus at 12 o'clock noon, Sunday August 29, 2004. "Mis Pearl" was a wonderful witness for Christ in this part of his vineyard for 101 years. Besides being very active in her church she worked in the high school cafeteria and canteen for over 40 years. She was a member of the Eastern Star Chapter #26 for over 45 years serving as worthy matron. She was R.S.V.P. volunteer of the year and a North Baldwin Hospital Auxiliary volunteer for over 40 years. In 1954 she was voted Rotary Woman of the Year for her youth work. Her love and compassion for her fellow humans has been an inspiration for the many people whose lives she touched. She will be sadly missed by family, friends, and the people of Bay Minette.

Faye K. Warren, Reporting

Crestview, Florida Congregation

Greetings from the Crestview, Florida Branch. As our summer comes to an end, our youth and many of our adults head back to school. (We have many teachers and school board employees in our branch.) Since we are able to touch so many youth in our area, we started a Baptismal Class on Wednesday evenings. At first, only 6 youths attended. Soon, more youths, then teens, and even an adult wanted to attend the class, so separate youth and teen classes were formed. We baptized Josh Miller on Sept 12th, and by the time you read this, four of the original six will either already be baptized, or have plans to be baptized soon.

Our Spiritual Endowment Team continues to meet on Sunday evenings. These gatherings are open to all who wish to attend. The purpose of the group is to keep the needs of the members and of the branch in the forefront of our prayers and support each other through prayer and sharing. This group meets at a different member's home each week. We encourage everyone to come and receive your measure of Spiritual Endowment!

The blessing of babies has been a recurring joy for us this summer. Miracle Walton and Amiya Bacon were recently blessed. Emma Harper (granddaughter of Tom and Denise Buscavage) is next. We can't explain how one branch got so lucky to have so many

babies in so short of a time, but we highly recommend you don't drink the water if you come for a visit!

Special "Thank-you's" go out to our guest ministers, Lina Wolf, and Jim Marcombe. As a branch we are blessed with many priesthood members, but it is a special treat to have dear friends come to join us on occasion.

We continue our Wednesday night tradition of dinners prepared by the "best cooks" within the Mission Center, followed by a Prayer and Testimony service. If you are in the Crestview area around 5:00 on any Wednesday evening, please stop in and enjoy.

Solid Rock will continue on the 3rd Saturday of each month for 6th through 12th grade students. All youth are invited to attend. You can expect to worship, laugh, praise and share together. Don't forget the time - exactly 5:33 PM (that's right - 5:33 PM).

We hope your summer was as blessed and fulfilling as the one we experienced here at the Crestview congregation. Our doors remain open to anyone who wishes to visit, and our pulpit remains open for guest speakers. Until next time, we remain yours in Christ!

Jeff & Wendy Werner,
Reporting

**Dixonville, Alabama
Congregation**

Greetings from the Dixonville
Congregation,

Our members appreciate
the ministry and support of
Merle Wright from Montgomery,
Larry and Faye Shaw, and Jake
and Della Goodson from
Crestview, Wayne Morris from
Brewton, Dehryl McMcCall from
Tallahassee, Bruce Richards
from Milton, Bubba Buntz from
McKenzie, and our Mission
President, Craig Lenfestey.
They all shared messages of
encouragement for our
congregation.

Our congregation was
saddened by the death of one of
our long time members, Mae
Travis. Mae always had a ready
smile for everyone. She
faithfully supported her
husband, John Travis while he
was pastor of the
congregation. Mae was a
faithful servant of the Lord.

Dale Calhoun, brother of
several of our members died
several weeks after Mae's
death.

We've had several
activities since the last news
report. The congregation
planned a dinner for Edward and
Glenda Ward on their 50th
Wedding Anniversary.

Several weeks later
several members from the
Coldwater Congregation joined
us for a peanut boiling.

We would like to invite
you to Dixonville's
Homecoming, October 31, Song
Service at 10:00 followed by
11:00 o'clock worship with
Seventy Vick Peavy sharing the
message. A covered dish lunch
will be served at 12:00.

Glenda Ward, Reporting

East Brewton, Alabama Congregation

East Brewton has had some
pretty exciting things
happening lately!

On August 20, Josh
Rhodes & his bride, Karen were
married at the Church by
Brother Wayne Ellis. Josh is
stationed with the United
States Navy in Japan.

Then, on August
22, they started their marriage
out right by being baptized in
the Church.

On August 29, we
officially became a
congregation after being a
Church Plant for many years.
Some of our guests were -----
Marie & Merle Wright (who put
out the paper for us for a long
time before becoming a
Mission), Vic Peavy, Craig &
Brenda Lenfestey (who performed
beautiful music), Gary & Marsha
Howard (Marsha played piano
music that was "music to our
ears"), Jim & Wanda Marcombe
(Jim gave a very inspiring
sermon), Jesse & Wilma McNeil
(Wilma & her mother, Lula
Jernigan, go back a long way
with Wayne & Betty Ellis & all
of us), Wayne & Jackie
Crutchfield (Jackie gave us a
great spiritual experience at
last year's Women's Retreat
that this writer will never
forget), & the Kali-Oka Congre-
gation (they presented Brother
Wayne with a symbolic wooden

cross).

On August 29, we also celebrated several birthdays that day. Among them was Betty Ellis. Happy Birthday, Betty! How many years is it?

On September 5, we had a Baptism service & a Baby Blessing at the Church. We had an adult male who had gone through life in another church. But now later in life, he knows this is the right place to be. On that day we had a Father & Daughter Baptized, & Son/Brother Blessed! We also had a young lady Baptized who is the 4th generation there in our Church. A young man Baptized that day comes to Church with his Grandparents, but he keeps praying to get his parents there!

Reported

By: Roberta Evans

Evergreen, Alabama Congregation

Greetings to all from Evergreen!

As the summer winds down, it is a good time to look back over the past few months at what we have been doing. We continue to have a Birthday/Celebration on the 2nd Sunday of each month; Bible Study on Wednesday nights and a Book of Mormon study every other Sunday night. On July 29th, we hosted an Appreciation Dinner for all City of Evergreen employees. We had about 45 city employees come by

between 11AM and 1:30PM and either eat at the church or take out a plate.

Two members of our congregation, Diane Sosebee and Fred Salter, attended the Congregational Leaders Workshop in Lamoni, Iowa, the first week of August. Both reported the workshop to be well worth the time and effort to attend.

On September 2nd, a Fellowship Supper/ Planning Session was held at the church. Those attending made plans and set goals for the next year, the next two years and a five-year goal.

On September 18th, our congregation will be participating in a Praise Festival in downtown Evergreen. This is the 2nd annual Praise Festival, which is sponsored by the Unity in Christ Outreach church with lots of good gospel singing and praising the Lord. We will be giving away hot dogs/hamburgers and drinks along with information about the church. We have ordered tee shirts to wear for this event and other upcoming activities.

Evergreen is part of the North Cluster Group for the Mission Center and five members of our congregation are regular attendees at these meetings - Fred and Alice Salter, Ron and Edith Roberts and Diane Sosebee.

On November 6th, we are having an International Dinner at the church. Three groups have been formed to provide food, decorations and info on Mexico, Italy and Africa. This

promises to be fun and educational event.

Evergreen will also be presenting our Christmas Journey again this year as a community event. If anyone would like to participate, please call Elaine Booker at 578-5224 or Diane Sosebee at 578-2350.

Edwin and Elaine Booker continue to be in the forefront in inviting people to church. If all of us would follow their example, we would have a full sanctuary every Sunday- in fact- we would probably have to build an addition! Praise the Lord. May each of us go forward each day as a witness to the love of Jesus Christ.

In Christ,
Diane Sosebee

**Montgomery, Alabama
Congregation**

The Montgomery Congregation sends greetings to all in the Mission Center and hopes that each of you is happy, healthy and safe.

Our saints have been busy over the past couple of months. Many of us have been on the road - either preaching in other congregations of the Mission Center, visiting with friends and family in far off places, working at the campground for camps & retreats, or helping out with the hurricane cleanup.

School is back in full force and the first report cards have gone home. We are

proud of all of our students - both on the grade school and college level - and wish them the best for the school year.

Montgomery opened its Activity Building for three families from Pensacola who sought shelter from Hurricane Ivan. We were able to provide them with a safe, dry environment to stay in, complete with kitchen, showers and local TV (until the power went out). Our facilities are always available in the event of another storm, so please feel free to give us a call.

Congratulations to Matthew Houk for being selected as Boy Scout of the Quarter for his scout troop. Matthew helped to plan a canoeing trip down the Coosa River in September. He also planned a backpacking/wilderness camping trip to Connecuh National Forest for October but that has been delayed until spring because of storm damage. Matthew's Boy Scout troop was recognized by the Montgomery Police Department for community service they provided to an officer who has cancer and is at Walter Reed Army Hospital receiving treatment. The troop has been taking care of the officer's yard and spent a day helping to clean up the damage done by Hurricane Ivan. Way to go Troop 206.

All of us from Montgomery wish you all the best for the rest of this year. If you ever have the chance to travel to our fair city, please stop in and see us.

Lisa Houk,
Reporting

ROCK News

The ROCK has contracted with the Bellview congregation to start having services in September. The two groups will focus on different ministries. They will collaborate on family, youth, and providing social events.

The ROCK is providing a food pantry the 3rd Sunday of each month from 12 - 2p.m. We have been certified with the Pan Handle Food Bank to distribute food to those families who are in need. Due to Hurricane Ivan, our first date was cancelled.

We would ask an interest in your prayers as we reach out in our community.

The ROCK
Brenda

Lenfestey

Youth & Children News

The youth of the Alabama-Northwest Florida Mission Center are taking it to the road. They have formed a traveling group of youth (grades 8-12) and chaperones called "Venture Forth For Christ Ministries." This ever-changing group of kids travels to a different congregation each month. They arrive on Saturday morning ready to do a service project for the congregation. On Sunday

mornings, they provide ministry for the morning worship service. If you would be interested in having "Venture Forth For Christ Ministries" visit your congregation, contact Della Goodson at 850-626-2185 or email her at goodson@networktel.net (make sure you mention the church in the subject line).

Also, don't forget the ongoing youth events in the Mission Center. Every 3rd Saturday the Crestview Congregation has its Solid Rock Café from 5:33 - 9:00 p.m. The 4th Saturday of every month there is Solid Rock Café in Pensacola, FL. And keep a look out for a new Solid Rock Café to be starting in Montgomery, AL after the first of the year.

At the Mission Center Conference on November 6th, the youth will have a chance to meet with Della Goodson and look at plans for the rest of this year and to make plans for next year. Make sure you check out the calendar at the back of the newsletter for upcoming youth events.

Young Adult Ministries

Dear Friends,

I know that we have young adults in the Mission Center but I don't know how many and I don't know where all of you are. I'm in the process of gathering information on each of you, your interests and needs. You can help with this by filling out and sending the young adult questionnaire to me

if you haven't done so. This will aid in getting a database started of our young adults in the Mission Center. It's difficult to contact you if I don't know where you are. Please let me know that you are out there.

I would like to establish a young adult council for the Mission Center. The council members will work together to plan and organize various events and ministry opportunities for congregations and Mission Center young adult gatherings. Also, I need a contact person from each congregation to help get the word out and to let me know what's going on in your congregations concerning young adults and how I can help. Please let me know if you are interested in serving on the council or as a contact person.

There will be time set aside during our upcoming Mission Center Conference (Nov. 6th in Dixonville) that our young adults can get together, get to know each other and discuss young adult activities, etc. As an incentive to get as many young adults to the conference, I am personally going to take a young adult out to dinner at a later date! This person will be chosen through a drawing that they will be able to register for while at the conference. Of course, you have to be present to win!! I encourage as many that can come to make an effort to be there for all the conference activities. I look forward to meeting and sharing with each of you at the

conference and in the future. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, concerns or just want to talk.

God Bless,
Reba Martin
135 Twin Oak Drive
Crestview, FL 32536
(850) 689-2570
erniereba@cyou.com



Prayer Net

Pam Cress continues to maintain a prayer net. If you would like to be added to the email list, or would like to add a prayer request/update, email Pam at pscress@aol.com.

*If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call the appropriate person. We are here to serve you and don't know if you have a problem unless you tell us.

Newsletter Deadline

The next newsletter deadline is: **December 1st**

Please have your articles to me by then. You can email them to lkhweb1@yahoo.com or goofyplh@knology.net, fax them to 334-356-4713 or mail them to me at 2948 Willow Lane Dr., Montgomery, AL 36109.

I would like to do Christmas wishes and greetings from the congregations (either group or individual). The wishes can be sent to me either by the Communication Officer or anyone else who desires to submit one.

Calendar of Events

Alabama - Northwest Florida Mission Center

November

6
Mission Center Conference
Dixonville, AL
9 - 4
Apostle Linda Booth

12 -14
Women's Retreat
Postponed - More to Follow

20
Solid Rock Café
Crestview, FL
5:33 - 9:00 pm

27
Solid Rock Café
Pensacola, FL

December

11
Leadership Community Team
Meeting
Dixonville, AL
1 - 4 pm

18
Solid Rock Café
Crestview, FL
5:33 - 9:00 pm

30 - Jan 2
Sr. High Work Camp
Bluff Springs Campground
Director - Steven Smith

2005 Camp/Reunion Dates

June 1 - 5
Gulf Mission Center Reunion

June 5 - 11
Senior High Camp
Director - Steven Smith

June 12 - 18
Junior High Camp
Director - Dan Mahoney

June 20 - 26
AL - NWFL Mission Center
Reunion
Director - Paul Houk

June 29 - July 3
Camp IOS

July 3 - 9
Junior Camp
Director - Liz Crabtree

July 20 - 22
International Youth Forum
Independence, MO
POC - Steven Smith

July 23 - 30
Spectacular
Lamoni, IA
POC - Steven Smith



Alabama/Northwest Florida Mission Center Young Adult Questionnaire

_____ Single _____ Married _____ Divorced _____ Widow(er)

Name (s) _____

Address _____

Phone(s) _____

Email

Address _____

Birthdate(s) _____

Local

Congregation _____

Priesthood Office(s)

Held _____

Do you have children? _____

Names and

ages _____

What are your interests, hobbies, etc? What do you do for fun?

What activities would you most likely support or be interested in?

____ Singles retreat ____ Temple School courses

____ Karaoke night

____ Y.A. Solid Rock ____ Service Projects

____ Y.A. Retreat

____ Parenting Classes/Workshop ____ Financial Planning

Workshop

Pre-Marital Classes Scripture Study Groups
 Fishing Trips
 Beach House Weekend Marriage Enrichment Weekend/Workshop
 Movie/Date Night Out Planning and Participating in
Worship Services
 Mission Center Conferences Other

Are there any activities not listed that you would support or be interested in?

Would you be willing to travel to attend Mission Center Young Adult activities in other congregations? If no, please explain.

If you have children, would arranging childcare be a problem for a weekend activity? If yes, please explain.

If you don't have children, would having children at a Young Adult activity be a problem for you? If yes, please explain.

If you're single, would you support Young Adult activities where couples were invited also? If no, please explain.

In your opinion, what are the most pressing needs of the young adults in your home congregation?

In the Mission Center?

Please add any additional comments, questions or information that you would like to share that you feel would be helpful in supporting the young adults in your congregation and/or the Mission Center.

Thank you for taking the time to fill this out.

Please return to:

Reba Martin
135 Twin Oak Dr.
Crestview, FL 32536
erniereba@cyou.com
(850) 689-2570