

BRIDGES



STARS Newsletter
College Church in Wheaton
Summer 2009

Dawn Clark, Director of Disability Ministries
Phone:(630) 668-0878 ext. 265
E-mail: dclark@college-church.org

RUN FOR THE STARS

Don't forget Run for the STARS 5k Race and Fitness Walk on **Saturday, June 13 at 8 a.m.** A special feature of this year's race is a **bib drawing for a free week on the Carribean island, St. Maarten, with a \$750 air voucher.** To be eligible, all you have to do is run or walk. Strollers, walkers and wheelchairs are permitted in the 5k. If you can't run or walk, volunteer! We still need about 15 more volunteers to fill different tasks on race day. Contact Rick, pfled@sbcglobal.net.

All STARS are welcome to participate in the **Dash for the STARS** - the short walk/run finishing off the 5k event. At 8:45 a.m., STARS will start their dash down toward the Billy Graham Center, turn around and return on Washington St. in front of the Sanctuary. If you'd like to participate in the dash, just show up at the Information Booth between 8:15 and 8:30 a.m. on June 14 to pick up a free bib number.

This year we have a **pasta dinner kick-off** on Friday evening, June 12, at 5:30 p.m. Following the dinner you will be able to hear Olympic runner, Jim Spivey, tell his story. You won't want to miss this. RSVP for the dinner to 630-668-0878, ext. 123.

Please encourage your friends and family to participate in this event. We are hoping for 500 runners this year and more than that number would be fantastic! God can do anything! Online registration is at **www.runforthestars.com**. Registration forms can also be obtained at the church office.

Run for the STARS provides scholarships for our STARS to attend different Christian camps as well as assistance for STARS families to attend Joni and Friends Family Retreat and our own STARS Family Retreat. You should have all received your scholarship notification for this year. **Please contact Dawn Clark at 630-668-0878, ext. 265, if you have any questions about your scholarship.**

Belonging to Each Other

Our theme for Disability Ministry Sunday, May 3, was "Belonging to Each Other," from Romans 12:4-5.

"Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body and we all belong to each other."

We are all gifted by God, but we also all have things that are hard for us. God puts us together in such a way that one person's gifts, helps another person's weaknesses. We experienced that truth in a variety of ways on Disability Ministry Sunday.



When Ed forgot to stay and play the piano for Abbey and STAR Daniel's duet during the offertory at

the first service, they sang accapella and sounded beautiful. Instead of being upset with the "mistake," we all laughed and recounted different times that we "forgot" something. For the next two services, our pianist had more freedom in playing than ever before because he experienced the gracious spirit of Abby and Daniel.

Before the second service, one of our STARS vomited in the choir loft. One of our Wheaton College student volunteers said, "Don't worry! I worked in a camp last summer and did a lot of this." He then proceeded to do a better job at cleaning up than "Mr. Clean," while another volunteer tenderly helped the STAR offstage. That STAR then came back and participated in the third service with great joy because he had been served joyfully.

During the 11 a.m. service, some of our teen STARS helped with the ushering.

This was a new venture and we weren't exactly sure how it would go. Usher Doug took STAR Matt under his wing and even allowed Matt to handle the offering plate a few times. Matt just beamed. That



afternoon he told his mom he wanted to go out and buy a suit—ushering was the job for him!

We have become a family.

-Marilyn Cepuran

Then on Sunday evening we had a video showing how our STARS were memorizing God's word. This was great, but the music in the video was "Jesus Loves Me" and this is a hard song for STAR Tony because it reminds him of his dad who died a few years ago. We forgot to have Tony exit before the presentation, but STAR Maria was sitting next to Tony in the autoharp



choir. As Tony's face became pained, I feared an outburst, but Maria gently patted him on the back

and spoke gently to him and he became at peace because she exercised her gift of encouragement. Tony then proceeded to play his autoharp joyfully during the offertory.

As Marilyn Cepuran said on Sunday Morning, "We have become a family."

-dawn

Up close

AND PERSONAL...



THE BRINKER FAMILY

How long have you been a part of the STARS family? Let's see- Kristin was 2 and half and she is now 19 - so it has been almost 17 years.

How did you first hear about STARS? I (Kathy) kept seeing Olena Mae Welsh, a previous director of STARS, around Dupage County at a variety of events. If you knew Olena Mae, she didn't take no for an answer! She kept encouraging me to bring my family to STARS. We are so glad for her persistence through God's leading. She became a friend and wonderful example of a Godly woman for me.

Tell us a little about your family. David is 25 and is looking forward to making a life of his own as he says as "an adult". Matthew will be finishing his last year of public education at the CASE transition program this fall. Kristin just finished her first year of college at ISU majoring in "the family business" (special education). Tim teaches 5th grade and enjoys reading. Kathy stays busy teaching, coaching and mentoring other professionals in teaching.

What are some things each of you enjoy most about STARS? Well, if you talk to Matt, he would say hanging out with the cool HYACKS and college students. David enjoys it all—Wednesday chimes, Friday Night Fun and Sunday morning. Mostly David likes worshipping with all his friends! Kristin has enjoyed serving in inclusion, DMT and Joni and Friends Family Retreat. She is looking forward to reconnecting with the body while home for the summer from college. For me it is worshipping and serving with the STARS and their families.

How has being a part of the STARS family impacted your life? College Church has been God's avenue to allow us to hear the word clearly from the ministries and the pulpit. Through God's providence and grace I have found a saving grace in Jesus. My children have as well. I have a peace that can only be given through Jesus' death for my sins on the cross. My little response to a big God has been to tell others about Jesus's saving grace and serve others in the body.

Help in Times of Need

Cathy Schmidt's journey with breast cancer

Tell us a little about your journey.

I was diagnosed on my birthday, September 10, 2008 with Triple Negative Breast Cancer. They had taken out 15 lymph nodes and 10 of them had cancer in them. My doctor didn't have high hopes for me. They did a lot of scans (bone, brain, lung, blood stream) to see if it had gone anywhere else because this cancer loves to attach itself to other places. They all came back clear - which floored my doctor!

They did a heavy dosage of chemo (and hoped I would live through that) to kill off the cancer. I had 8 doses every other week. Then I had 28 radiation treatments and returned to my doctor, who looked at my bloodwork and pronounced me in remission! I have another surgery coming up in October. All the prayer is did it. My doctors were shocked I had come through it.

What are some tangible ways you have seen God work through his people, the body of Christ?

Oh boy. Watching Carol Casey using her gifts to administrate meals for several months, every week... when Carol sent out emails for people to bring us meals, the lists would be filled up with a waiting list within days! My Hopie's Helpers would come over in the mornings and help me get Hope fed, dressed and off to school. Someone else would come back after school til Greg came home. Greg was an amazing helper. He is an amazing man. My son Wesley was a great help too. The body of Christ was amazing.

But the prayers. The prayers were crucial. The cards, the phone calls, just knowing that

people were praying was amazing.

How are you doing now?

I feel better than I have in two years. I feel strong. That cancer was a sweet experience I wouldn't take back. I was slowed down so that I could spend more time with God. He carried me.

A note from Carol Casey:

Thank you, God!!! I don't think I've ever had the privilege to see how wonderfully the Body of Christ functions until now. As I prayed a little while ago, I said, "God, I have an idea...please God...the doctor said this cancer was going to be a marathon for Cathy, not a sprint...but God, could it be a relay? You could line up all the people who love Greg and Cathy, line them up ready to take the baton and run with it. Take that cancer away from Cathy for a time until the next person wants that opportunity... we could run that relay together until we finish in victory!" I realized that the Body of Christ is kind of like that...we can't take the cancer from you, but we can take other burdens. I've seen HYACKers take the 'baton', STARS parents, Bible Study friends, wonderful neighbors, and so so SO many people who love you guys...all eagerly taking the baton to run the marathon with you.

I see you, Cath, I see that God is using you in those doctor appointments, to be a light...those nurses, and other patients, and doctors must be wondering...where does her joy come from at a time like this?

You are an example to all of us!



Cathy with Carol and Deby on their trip to the wig shop. (Dawn's taking the picture)

Young STARS on Sundays

Enjoying one another, learning together, building one another up



determination to challenge each student weekly as we are together, to polish and learn a bit of the gems of scripture, that can be applied to our lives as we glorify God.

-Victor Covarrubias
Young STARS teacher

Listen to the time-tested wisdom of Proverbs 22:6 that commands us to "train up a child the way he or she should go." This is great advice because we are all unique and have a special way we learn best. This is the object of our Young STARS Class. As teachers, we learn each child's language and then we can communicate God's word through many different approaches: visual, audio, tactile. All of this has expanded our vision and



BACK TO BIBLE TIMES!

Fun pictures with a background that Victor brought in for our STARS.

Belonging to Each Other

Disability Ministry Sunday, May 3, 2009



STAR Performances

STARS Talent Show, May 8, 2009

HERE ARE A FEW OF OUR PERFORMERS SINGING, DANCING, & SHOWING THEIR GOLF CLUBS OR ARTWORK!



Calendar

JUNE

- 12-14 College Church Summer Celebration
- 13 Run for the STARS 5k
- 14 Sunday classes go to 9:30 hour only for summer
- 27 Glen Ellyn Cardboard Boat Regatta, 11 a.m.

FRIDAY, June 12

- 5:30 p.m. All-Church Dinner
- 7:00 p.m. Real Life People Event with Jim Spivey

SATURDAY, June 13

- 8:05 a.m. Run for the STARS 5k & Fitness Walk
- 11:00 a.m. 3 v 3 Soccer Tournament
(at Wheaton College Soccer Stadium)

SUNDAY, June 14

- 9:30 & 11 a.m. Morning Worship Services
with Paul Tripp
- 5:00 p.m. All-Church Dinner
- 6:30 p.m. Evening Preaching with Paul Tripp
- 7:30 p.m. Dessert Under the Stars



Summer Sundays at 9:30 only! This is just a reminder that STARS will meet for class from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. only starting on June 14. The 11:00 a.m. class will pick up after Labor Day. This applies to the young, teen and adult STARS, and inclusion.

Out of Office Dawn will be out of the office from June 27- July 31. Please direct any questions during that month to Kristin Knosp, 668-0878, ext. 265 or Annie, ext. 178.

STARS Resale Shop is making a profit! The STARS Resale Shop made a \$2,000 profit in April! Due to startup costs, etc. we are still "in the hole" year to date, but April was a fantastic month. At this rate, we'll be in the black very soon. Praise the Lord!

Summer Intern Kristin Knosp will be the STARS Summer Intern and will be working 10 hours per week. She will be doing some special music projects in preparation for our fall music program. She will also be attending STARS events in July while I am on vacation as well as checking my voicemail messages. There is also a possibility that there may be a chimes class. Her email address is kristin.knosp@my.wheaton.edu.

Out of the mouths of STARS...

Several weeks ago at Praise in Action, Caleb, a 13-year-old who has Down Syndrome, was having a hard night. The two of us finally went into another room and I gave him a coloring page of Jesus' enemies taking him away. It was the only one I could find and it had obviously been left over from the Easter Story. As Caleb was coloring, he put a black semicircle around Jesus' head. Then he made the line bigger by Jesus' ears. Then he put X's over the two enemies who were taking Jesus away. Then he continued coloring. My curiosity got the better of me and I asked,

"Caleb, what's the thing around Jesus' head?"

"Earmuffs," he replied.

"Is he cold?"

"No," he replied, "So he won't hear the bad words."

"And what are the Xs over the enemies heads?"

"Don't talk," he replied.

Through his coloring, Caleb showed his love for Jesus by trying to protect him from unkind words. Quite a lesson I learned that night. -Dawn

Praise God for

- STARS mom Cathy Schmidt has completed cancer treatment and is in remission
- Successful quadruple bypass surgery for Volunteer Craig Johnson
- Successful abdominal surgery for STAR Noah Tuurie
- New school placement of STAR Dylan Vegeais—he's doing great!
- Great volunteers for STARS Family Retreat
- New STARS 11:00 Superintendent, Jolene Billingham
- STARS Family Retreat—good fellowship, new friendships and encouragement in the Lord

Pray for

- STAR John Evanosky started treatment on May 13 at Duke
- Run for the STARS—God would give us good weather, many runners and sponsors.
- Good recovery for Craig Johnson
- Alleviation of pain in back for STARS 9:30 Superintendent Mary Atkison

Birthdays

March

Gale Wicker	May 13
Lee Nolan	May 13
Lillian Kardasz	May 15
Emma Seeland	May 20
Catherine Seeland	May 20
Joey Kenney	May 22
Logan Davenport	May 25
David Quattrochi	May 26

June

Melissa Beltramelli	June 1
Emma Kuzera	June 9
Caleb Matrisciano	June 9
Aaron Poucher	June 9
Evan Miller	June 10
Cynthia Sommerman	June 14
Samantha Croghan	June 17
Alaina Obert	June 19



**1072 COLLEGE AVENUE,
WHEATON 630.682.1499**

Mary Quiggle, manager
Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Donations accepted till 3 p.m.

STARS "Seeking To Always Reflect the Savior"

