

August 2007

Apostles News

Radical Commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ

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Apostles Changes
Youth in New Orleans

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**Men's
Retreat
Saturday,
October 27**

Mark your

Church Picnic This Sunday August 19

**Immediately following the
service at the Dillon's house
in Fairfield, CT
Ending at 5pm.
(Rain Date August 26)**

Bring a lawn chair, bathing suit, and towel.

Food to bring based on last name:

A-F Salad and/or Fruit

G-L Dessert

M-Z Side Dish

**This is an important time for our community to be
together in joy and fellowship, so mark your calendars
and we'll see you there!**

We have a saying at Apostles: To be a Christian in our day takes a radical commitment to Jesus Christ. For this reason, we devote ourselves to worship, to the study of His word, and to serving Him in mission.

This has been a summer of mission. The youth have come back with incredible testimony of their time in New Orleans (see story and photos below.) The Blackwells and Barnums went to Rwanda. Colleen Morey has been two weeks with Sister Valeriana in Bogotá. Earlier in the summer, Justin Molfese and Abby Wolff were in Ghana, Africa. We are growing as a young church in our love for missions.

Excelling in Local Mission - Saturday, September 29

I want to call your attention to this special Saturday. On this Saturday we will be sending out teams to serve in two Bridgeport communities (including the Women's Shelter with Nancy DeMaille). Will

calendars now for this one day event based on C.J. Mahaney's book "Sex, Romance, and the Glory of God".

Prayer Peaks - June 24

It was really exciting to know that we were joined under the same sky as Christians around the country praying in the high places.

We had a team of five (photo below) and climbed the highest peak in Connecticut. It was a picture-perfect day and we had about an hour on the top to eat, talk with people and let them know what we were doing. We then had a sweet time of prayer for about 20 minutes as we prayed for the advancement of the Kingdom of God through His church.

-Keith Guinta



Upcoming Events and Church Calendar

August 2007

you mark it on your calendar? We will have specific details to come in our next newsletter.

Make mission a priority in the life of your family!

We will be posting coming Fall Events in our next newsletter. For now, I want you to know about some staff changes.

Seasons of Change

Dan Fox

For two years, Dan has served as our Worship Pastor. In early July, after an extensive time of prayer and evaluation, Dan made the decision to step down from this position and pursue what the Lord has for him next. I have personally walked through this time with Dan. I am convinced the Lord is in it, directing and leading. Now that it is known at Apostles (with the announcement on Sunday, August 5), I am asking you to join in prayer for Dan and Kimberly as they take this step forward. On behalf of the Staff and Leadership Team, I give thanks to the Lord for Dan's ministry these past two years.

(Please note: During the next weeks ahead, I have asked Keith Guinta to step into the role of worship leader. I ask you to pray with us as we seek the Lord for His direction in the worship ministry at Apostles.)

Jeff and Jan Buchanan

From the earliest days of Apostles, Jeff and Jan have served in our Youth Ministry. When Tucker Currie came on Staff to lead our Youth work, he asked Jeff and Jan to stay on for another year, which they were glad to do. With the blessing and success of the New Orleans mission trip in July, Jeff and Jan are stepping aside on a high note! Again, let me say, on behalf of the Staff and Leadership Team, I give thanks to the Lord for Jeff and Jan's ministry with the Youth at Apostles.

Penny White

The Pastoral Care Ministry at Apostles, under Penny's direction, has simply flourished by the grace of the Holy Spirit. In recognizing this, the Leadership Team has extended to Penny a part-time position at Apostles. In the coming months, Penny will be training others to join her in this ministry, under her supervision. I believe the Pastoral Care Ministry will continue to be a great resource and outreach at Apostles to many. I give thanks for Penny and the ministry the Lord has entrusted to her at Apostles.

Much more to come in this Newsletter! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all,

Thad

Apostles Youth in Mission New Orleans - July 21-27, 2007

Some of you may be familiar with the slogan that emerged shortly after Katrina hit the Gulf coast - Renew, Rebuild, Remember. Well we actually put these words on our team T-shirts not knowing how much these three words would sum up the work we did in New Orleans and the work God did in us.

Rebuilding

Yes, we did actually, physically help rebuild New Orleans (including knocking a few things down. Just ask Monica how therapeutic that can be). But what I think surprised and excited us even more was seeing how little things like handing out food and water, loving children, and helping a woman move stuff out of her house brought such joy to the community, our hearts and ultimately to the Lord. In other words I believe God was opening our eyes to see that rebuilding is so much more than nailing wood, or putting up drywall. It's about being willing to serve Jesus. It's so simple we don't have to wait for the next missions trip to

[Church Calendar](#)

August 19: Church Picnic

Prayer and Praise

1. Pray for the AMiA churches in the Northeast. In particular, Church of the Resurrection on Capital Hill in Washington, D.C., is launching a new church plant in Northwest D.C.

2. Prayer for the orphanages we support: Hogares Luz Y Vida in Bogota, Columbia; the Sonrise School in Rwanda and the Mustard Seed Project in Uganda.

3. Pray for our spiritual leaders; Most Rev. Emmanuel Kolini, Rt. Rev. John Rucyahana, and the Rt. Rev. Chuck Murphy.

Ministry Quicklinks

[Our Church Website and Online Sermons](#)

[Anglican Mission in America](#)

[Ariel - Ministry of Proclamation](#)

[Rwandan Coffee](#)

get started. We can all do it right here, right now.

On a different level God was rebuilding in our lives. He was revealing to us what needed to be torn down in our hearts, sweeping out the dirt and cleaning up the mold. Then He beautifully restored a passion for Him and for His glory. It is in times like this that a joy swells up inside because we realise that God loves us, cares for us, believes in us, and has huge wonderful plans for our lives. Seeing this movement in the lives of the team members was for me the greatest treasure of the week.

Renew

Adventures in Missions has a practice of leaving an unplanned block of time into the otherwise much planned schedule. They call this time ATL (Ask the Lord). Although this was a new exercise for us, God was faithful in answering. In fact, I know that for many this was a life changing experience: God does speak to us regardless of age. He gives us a vision and a calling, and if we are willing to respond, there is great joy as a reward because we get to be a part of His kingdom work. Some of us felt the Lord calling us to go into the inner city to distribute water and share Christ's love in a practical way, while others in this time were lead by the Holy Spirit to the City hall where they met and prayed with some of the city leaders including the mayor!

Remember

On our last night in New Orleans we gathered for a time of worship after which there was a speaker, a former NFL player with the Saints named Gordon Banks, who challenged us to step out in faith and follow God. He used the example of some of our forefathers in the faith (Moses, Abraham, David, and Daniel) to illustrate how God desires to be our friend, and how He has big plans for our lives. He reminded us that when we get back home it will be hard to stand for Jesus, it will be hard to follow Him into the unknown, but there is a promise - He will walk with us, He will be our strength, He will be our guide. For those of you on the team who are reading this, I hope that you remember God's Word spoken to us that night, and I pray that God will give us all the courage to stand for Jesus.

God bless and be encouraged that our Mighty Savior is indeed alive and working.

Tucker Currie and the Apostles Youth in Mission Team



Confirmation Class

Confirmation is a sacrament admitting a baptized person to full participation in the church. From September to April students study Scripture alongside the Apostles' Creed as they begin to understand and own their faith. This is a time of transition for each student as they take all that they have been taught and declare (or confirm) to the body of believers at Church of the Apostles: 'This is mine now.'

I believe and step into my Christian life fully.'

This course is a commitment of time and energy. Class meets before the Sunday service from 8:45 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. (during Adult Study). Each participant must also serve the Sunday school, the nursery and/or in the service throughout the year.

Students considering Confirmation should be beginning 8th grade, or older, and should discuss and pray with their parents before committing to the class. The completion of the course is marked with a one-day retreat and the Confirmation Service.

Please see Jan Buchanan (jbuchanan@apostlesct.org) or call the church office to register. Class for the 2007-2008 school year will begin 9/17 contingent on number of participants.

Bridges - International Student Ministry

Dear Brothers and Sisters at Apostles:

We have had the privilege for the past four years of serving international students through the Bridges ministry at Black Rock Congregational Church. As we shared in the service last month, Black Rock hopes to partner with Church of the Apostles and other churches in the area to expand the ministry. We would encourage you to consider participating in this ministry.

Bridges formed about four years ago as a way to minister to the international students at the area universities, especially those at the University of Bridgeport, which has more than 800 international students. Working with these students has been a blessing for us in many ways. We have been able to form strong friendships with some of these students who are eager to make connections in a new place. Many of these students have had very little exposure to Christians in their home countries, and many are eager to learn about Christianity while they are here. It is a wonderful opportunity to share Christ with them by meeting their needs of getting to the grocery store or figuring out how to get a driver's license, and most importantly, by forming friendships.

Here are some ways you can get involved:

Become a **Personal English Partner**: Get together about once a month with a student who is interested in working on English and making a friend. You might have him/ her over for dinner, meet for coffee, or whatever you like.

Come to a **Friday Night Dinner**: Two Fridays a month, Black Rock hosts an International student dinner. These dinners include times of socializing, teaching about Christianity, and sometimes teaching about American holidays or culture. They are a great place to get to know students and lay the foundation for deeper relationships. Visit one if you think you may be interested in getting involved in this ministry.

Make a Meal: We are hoping to get home groups involved by cooking and serving a meal (for about thirty five people) at a Friday dinner once during the year. It would be a great opportunity to serve together as a small group.

If you think you may be interested in getting involved in this ministry in any of these ways, you can contact us or Keith. We would love to share more about the ministry with you. **There will be a prayer breakfast at Black Rock on August 25th from 8:30-9:30 to kick off the school year.** We encourage you to attend if you think you may be interested in becoming involved, although attending the breakfast is certainly not required to participate in the ministry.

Peace in Christ,

Beth and Kyle Hubbard

