

Rockside Church Newsletter

July – December 2009



◀ Rockside Church represents at the annual Independence Fall Fest. Kim and Aaron Holsopple and Katie Suhodolsky smile as they sell cotton candy at the booth!

Community Involvement:

- Participating in the Independence Day city celebration helped to raise over \$800 for Youth for Christ, earmarked for the future Independence High School Director. Thanks Tina Caruso for organizing our efforts!
- Fall Festival Cotton Candy booth (pictured left)
- Holiday Fest Cookie Decorating Station, led by Vaso Suhodolsky, raised funds for Rockside Youth.

Transitioning With Excellence in 2009

After time away at the Heartland Conference Retreat Center to pray, Pastor Donna shared a metaphor of a rest stop and a fleet of buses to explain where we are as a church as we face several changes in key leadership positions (team pastor, tech director, missions director, head usher, first board election).

Through a series of Sunday sermons in October and November, we looked at

topics to help us chase the vision for Rockside Church together. Topics include:

- Leaning in to Do Change Well
- Dangers of Nostalgia
- Servant Leadership, Practicing for Heaven (Our Design and Our Destiny)
- What's in Your Hand?

Saying Goodbye to Amber Helms

Amber Helms has been a gift to this church over the last two years, serving as Team Pastor. As she follows God on to the next chapter of her life, Amber is leaving Rockside Church better than when she found us in many areas, but especially in prayer, relationships, administration and the sending arm of missions. The church honored her during the service on Sunday, December 13th with words of affirmation, hugs, cards, cake and a new cell phone! She expressed heartfelt gratitude for this place and a final encouragement to continue loving one another.

Let's continue praying for Amber and watch what God has in store for her as her path continues to unfold!



▲ The board and children of Rockside pray over Amber on Sunday morning



▲ Jason Winkler helps at the Independence Day booth



▲ The Wisniewski's decorate cookies at the Independence Holiday Fest

2009 at a Glance...

- **PRAYER:** *Guests to our weekly Connection Point included Carol Engelbert (NEOIN), Carlton Smith, and missionary Peter Jorgensen. The **Week of Prayer and Fasting** was November 9-13. People came and went from Rockside throughout the day, praying in one-hour slots.*
- **LEADERSHIP:** *The **August leadership huddles** gathered volunteers from the tech, ushers, greeters, and kid's areas to evaluate and vision cast. The **Randy Young Luncheon** provided leadership training and a Q & A in September.*
- **SOCIALS:** *August and September **Biking Socials** took place on the Tow Path trails.*



▲ The first of four bike hikes this summer, hitting the Tow Path trails

Rockside Youth Ministry Highlights

Cedar Point in August • See You at the Pole **Rally** and His Name High **Concert** in September • **Acquire the Fire** in October • **Youth Band** leads Sunday's worship in November



▲ An intense 3-legged race at FUSION!

- Youth **Service** every 1st and **FUSION** every 3rd Friday of the month!

Sending and Receiving in Missions



▲ Patt loves and prays over the Chifundo children

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Patt Wadenpfehl went to Malawi, Africa in the fall. She lead kid's church prior to her departure, giving our students a chance to hear stories, pray and make cards for the Chifundo children, with whom Patt would be working. Rockside Church was challenged by the stories, pictures and rich ministry Patt presented December 6, ever expanding our worldview. Thanks for your obedience to love and serve people all over the world!

The Reckoning International

Rockside's former worship leader, Dan O'Keefe, received prayer and blessing from Rockside Church before he left with a team to photograph and raise awareness for the people of Kenya. On November 15, Tim Karas joined with Dan to bring a report of the trip. We enjoyed Dan leading worship and sharing his photos, and Tim sharing a challenging message of love. Tim returned the following week to present a "Part 2" of his message.



Dan uses his gift of photography to raise awareness for missions

2009 Christmas Celebrations!



◀ Christmas Party

Tobogganing at Rockside's annual Christmas party makes a fun night for adults, teens and children of all ages at the MetroPark's Chalet!



◀ Christmas Sunday

Rockside Church celebrated Christmas with a special morning, which included carols and their history, as well as enjoying a presentation from the children.



◀ Decorating

Kevin Bryant, along with many others, helped put up the Christmas decorations after Connection Point prayer. The church looks beautiful!