

MAIDEN LANE ... a Life-Changing Place



GOOD & FAITHFUL SERVANT of the Month

*This month we are honoring a dear sister in Christ who has demonstrated exemplary Christian servanthood by being completely committed to accomplishing God's purposes for her life and that of God's church. She faithfully serves the Lord and His church here at Maiden Lane as a key leader in our young adult ministry and in our worship ministry. As a young adult she is an excellent model of faithful Christian service to her peers and to our entire fellowship. We thank God for **STEPHANIE RILEY** and name her our "Good & Faithful Servant of the Month" for July 2010. Therefore, we express our gratitude to Stephanie for being a faithful and obedient servant of Christ who helps make Maiden Lane the wonderful church it is.*

COMMUNITY Connection

It hardly seems possible that June has come and gone, but as I write from my office on Thursday, July 1, I am cognizant of each day of the past month. I write also to express sincere gratitude to the church for your gracious allowance of this sabbatical time for me. June 2010 will always be a significant benchmark for me in ministry. In these four weeks, I have experienced a refreshment in my relationship with the Lord, a restored spirit to serve the ministries to which I am called, a restful and wonderfully relaxing time with my family, and a renewal of joy and passion to live as a Kingdom of God citizen in the city of Springfield, Ohio.

If I could identify one word to describe my time away [yes, I know most of you think it's impossible for me to choose ONE word!] it would probably be *savor*. As a verb, savor can mean many things. We often think of it in terms of enjoying a meal ... savoring every bite of a well-prepared feast. To me, so many moments of sabbatical felt much the same – slowly and intentionally taking it all in. Savor can mean "to have the experience of." I am deeply enriched by the variety of experiences I was availed in my time away: a personal prayer retreat, a conversation with a counselor who was interested in hearing what ministry means to me, the time to be a "stay-at-home" mom with Elijah, valuable reading time with challenging theological and emotional texts. Savor can also mean "to delight in." On sabbatical, I was able to delight in each day as extended rest, delight in every moment as an opportunity to experience God at work in and around me, and delight in the sim-

ple joy of small things and typically insignificant tasks. I am acutely attuned to God continually at work in me to mold and shape me for His will. I thank you sincerely for the opportunity to pay even more attention to His Spirit working in me as I was able to step away from the demands of pastoral ministry for an important time of self and family care. My thankfulness is deep; words cannot adequately express my appreciation for the privilege of this rest. I only pray that, in service God and His people at Maiden Lane, I am more effective, more aware of His leading and more tender and compassionate towards each of you because of this season of renewal.

With much love,
Pastor Joy



With the return of fall come caramel apples, apple cider, falling leaves...and LCT! Below are a few dates you will want to note if you are interested in singing in this fall's Worship/LCT choir.

- Wednesday, August 11 6 pm: Weekly choir rehearsals resume.
- Saturday, August 28, 9 am-12 pm: Choir Lock-In for LCT music.
- Sunday, September 12: Sunday afternoon rehearsals begin.

As always, anyone interested in participating in costuming, drama, worship dance, or back stage help should contact me for more information. clund@maidenlane.org.

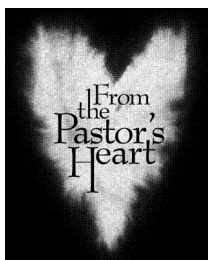
In September, we will enjoy a special morning concert by Laura Kaczor. You may have heard here music already on WEEC or other Christian stations. You can get a sneak peak of her music by visiting her website at www.laurakaczo.com. Watch the Sunday News for more information as this event gets closer.

I pray you all have a blessed and happy remainder of the summer.

Pastor Cynthia



Upcoming Events
Unleashed 2010 Men's Conference—August 7
@ Maiden Lane Church of God
Conference 8:30— 12:30 pm
Speaker: Cedarville President, Dr. William E. Brown. Tickets (\$10) are available in our church office.



It seems good to me to continue my thoughts from my Independence Day message dealing with faith and freedom in America.

There is no doubt that an overwhelming majority of our founders identified themselves as Christians in their religious connections. It is equally true that many of them did not take their faith with the seriousness that some would have us believe. Surely we understand the difference between professing to be a Christian and the reality of living as one. That being said, it is also true that many of our founders were serious-minded Christians and strived to live out their faith with authenticity. I chose to quote Alexis de Tocqueville in my July 4 message because he is an outside observer who objectively recorded his observations of America and as such saw a direct link between the Christian faith and the political beliefs and values espoused in America.

He states with emphasis how strongly America's church and government leaders felt about the important principle of separation of church and state. I do think that there are well-meaning brothers and sisters in Christ whose thinking has become clouded on this issue and who have so given themselves to political activism that they have lost sight of the greater and God-given mission of proclaiming the gospel and of making disciples.

I do not believe that the responsibility for bringing the citizens of our nation to faith resides with the American government, although I equally believe that the government should not seek to obstruct the free exercise of faith in the nation. I strongly believe that God has given the American church the sole responsibility to work in the strength of Christ and the Holy Spirit to bring her fellow citizens to a vibrant and vital personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and the church is to do this through persuasion. *(Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21)*

So what would persuade our fellow citizens who are outside of the Christian faith that they should consider the truth claims of Christ and the Bible as being applicable and relevant to their lives? This may surprise you since I am a bit of wordsmith by vocation, but I don't think it will be our words. Although our words will be used by God and they will play an important role in our persuasive efforts, in the end they do not carry the greatest weight in persuasion.

This will discomfort some of you, frankly it discomforts me, but it will not be our facilities, our institutions, our use of technology, great music, excellent sermons, or creative expressions of faith which will in the end turn the tide of our fellow citizens and the nation from being unChristian to Christian. And please do not take that to mean that I believe that these are matters of no importance that we should ignore, for I do not believe that to be true. They are important matters in their own place, but they are not going to be the key point of persuasion.

So what is the key to persuasion? Simply, it is the gospel of Jesus Christ lived out in our lives in the power of the Holy Spirit. It is the Christian faith authentically expressed in your life and mine and most certainly in our life together as the Church of God. I believe the spiritual awakening of the nation is waiting on the renewal and revival of vital Christianity among professing Christians who attend our churches. The key to persuading others to Christ is seeing the power of the gospel lived out in our lives. It is our authentic lives accompanied by words of truth that will persuade them! So with God's help let us authentically live the gospel before others so that our proclamation of the gospel will have persuasive power.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Pastor Mark



ENON News

We just completed a great Bible School again this year with 38 kids and a host of adult and youth helpers.

Thank you to all who helped make this year's Vacation Bible School a success from transforming the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall into a barnyard, to teaching music, making sets, helping with crafts or food to just being a mentor, you were all appreciated. This year's theme was Son Harvest.

Thank you also to all the kids for raising almost \$125.00 for the Enon Emergency Relief Center and bringing in a whole bunch of canned goods.

We had a great time on July 4th with the Soul'd Out Quartet! Matt said to tell you all that you are the friendliest congregation he has ever visited! He said he really meant it too!

On July 25th, we will begin a new Sermon Series on Worship featuring the hymns of the Church of God. You won't want to miss this series as we learn about the heritage and doctrines of the church.

ENERGIZERS *News*

We have several trips fast approaching that are filling up. If you are interested in the Bearcreek Farms or the Marietta Riverboat Trip, make your reservations soon. These two trips in September and October will be sold out. In August, we are having our annual picnic at the Campgrounds. This year is Hawaiian themed and will feature some good pulled pork, scalloped corn and baked beans along with some homemade cobbler for dessert.

The Pigeon Forge Trip only has two empty seats left.

If you are interested in helping with shut in visitation, see Pastor Dan.

Pastoral Prayer Partners

August 21—9 to 11 am—There will be a light brunch for all current prayer partners, pastors, and those in the congregation who would like to become a pastoral prayer partner. Our goal is to fill each day of the month for prayer for each pastor. If prayer is an important part of your life and you sense the need to pray for your pastors, be sure to sign up.

YOUTH *Ministries*

- ...teens fellowshipping
- ...teens serving
- ...teens loving
- ...teens crying
- ...teens being loved
- ...teens sweating from hard work
- ...teens communicating
- ...teens playing
- ...teens worshipping
- ...teens embracing little ones
- ...teens washing one-another's feet
- ...teens appreciating
- ...teens helping others
- ...teens sleeping
- ...teens laughing
- ...teens putting others first
- ...teens working together
- ...teens learning
- ...teens looking for hope
- ...teens sharing hope
- ...teens singing a hymn
- ...teens processing their day
- ...teens working along-side of their parents
- ...teens reflecting
- ...teens asking for more work
- ...teens learning a different language
- ...teens saddened by other's pain
- ...teens searching for words to say
- ...teens getting up early
- ...teens asking to go to bed at night
- ...teens forever changed

What is all of this you ask?

This is just the beginning of what God can do with teens when they go on a mission trip to Honduras!
Thank you, Maiden Lane. for your love and prayers for our young people!!!

Pastor Missy

August 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Unleashed 2010
		Central District Church of God Camp Meeting Week				
8 Youth Workers Meeting	9 Handbells Board Meetings	10	11 Reg. Services	12 Women's Study Game Day EMOT	13	14 Outreach House Reds Game
15 Y.A. Lunch Teachers Meeting	16 JOY Circle Meeting Handbells Church Council	17	18 Reg. Services	19 Women's Study	20	21 Pastoral Prayer Partners Renewal
22 Newcomers Class	23 Handbells EduCare Open House	24	25 Reg. Services	26 Women's Study	27	28 Outreach House Choir Lock-in Energizer Cookout
29 Newcomers Luncheon Youth /Parents/ Workers Meeting	30 Handbells	31				
				<i>Abbreviation Code</i> EMOT = Enon Ministry Oversight Team		