

Thank you

Dear Michael, Rydell, and College Park Members,
Please accept our utmost appreciation!

First, we were *thrilled* to learn that you had selected Heifer International as the designated recipient of the 2006 Christmas Eve offering. Second, we were overwhelmed by the generosity of College Park members and their guests at the Christmas Eve service. As Michael has announced, the offering surpassed the goal of \$840 substantially, yielding several extra llamas (or water buffalo – or ducks – or sheep – or pigs....) for deserving families around the world.

We can attest that you truly have changed the lives of eight or more families through your gifts. Incredibly, your animals will allow these families to provide protein to their children, gain income for other family and community needs, build the self-esteem and pride of family and community members, and, in some countries, encourage peace among warring tribes who now will work together and support each other through “passing on the gift.”

Heifer International clearly is (and was, from the beginning) a faith-based organization, although it is not affiliated with any one denomination. Today, *spirituality* is one of the “cornerstones” of Heifer’s work. In fact, we drew spirituality as the cornerstone we were to observe, record, and report on at the reflection meetings during the November 2005 study tour trip in Perú. We laughed because we had spent the summer/fall of 2005 listening to a series of sermons from you, Michael, challenging College Park members to act out/on their Christian service (vs. lip service only), and had reflected on those messages while planning for our trip. In Perú, we constantly observed respect and dignity for all human beings – the essence of Heifer’s definition of spirituality – which certainly reflects the practices of College Park.

Heifer International is one of several organizations (Habitat being another shining example) that builds sustainability – people’s ability to maintain and build on the gifts they receive. Of these organizations, Heifer International – and especially Heifer Perú – is deeply dear to our hearts. We are immeasurably grateful that this cause was so honored by our church community during the 2006 Christmas Eve service.

Sincerely,
DiAnne & Jacob Borders
www.heifer.com

Michael,
Thank you for your church’s recent financial gift to Project Ruth. This donation will help provide education for a student at the Ruth School.

I have enclosed some information I mailed back in November plus a photo of a student. Please use the photo as a focus of prayer.

Thanks to you and your church for partnering with Project Ruth.
Blessings,
Ellen Sechrest

Dear College Park Friends,
Thank you so much for the calls, cards, visits, food and prayers during our father’s illness and following his death. The church was an important part of his life and of our growing up as a family. We feel fortunate to be a part of such a caring group. Our sincere thanks!

Shawn Chamberlain
Torren Snipes

Prayers for the World

Dear God, many people this Christmas are not happy or healthy. We pray for the soldiers in Iraq who won’t be coming home for Christmas. We also pray for the people of Iraq who’s land is torn up. We remember the people having Christmas on the streets. For people who have concerns more serious than this afternoons Panther’s game. For people who have to be in the hospital over Christ. And lastly, for the kids who will have no toys or trees this Christmas. For all these and more, we pray: Our Father . . .

Zachariah Usey

Dear God,
In revisiting our baptism today, we are reminded of the water than changed us, and we are reminded of the paradoxical and powerful messages of water. We see these messages in our world today:

- Melting icecaps and glaciers belie our actions that destroy the environment you gave us, yet
- Hydro power plants bring the first electricity to 3rd world villages and families.
- Tsunamies and floods result where there is too much water,
- Parched earth and parched children wither where there is too little water.

It is water that sustains life, yet sometimes endangers life.

The paradoxes of water remind us of the contradictions from our baptism:

- That we promised to obey and follow your call, yet over and over again we lose our way.
- That we promised to make a difference in our world, yet so easily are overcome by the problems we know we cannot solve on our own.

Help us remember, our God, that we are not alone in our desire and our efforts to obey and follow you, to make a difference, somewhere, in this world.

We are not alone; we have this church family, and we have our brothers and sisters in the community of faith around our world.

Our Father, today we seek to know our small place. May we be a drop of the water needed to change the fates of your hungry and hurting children around the world. May our acts baptize them with our love, concern, and commitment. Through us, may they be led to know you and learn the prayer your son taught us, saying,

DiAnne Borders

Liturgical Dance

Any girls k–12 interested in liturgical dance, please sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin board outside Rydell’s office.

Baptism Class

Baptism class for children in grades 3–5 begins Sunday, February 11, at 9 a.m. in Michael’s office. It continues for 4 weeks. Donuts every week! Sign up sheet is on the board outside Michael’s office.

Winter Wednesdays

The list of options for winter Wednesdays which began on January 3rd at 6:30 p.m. are:

- ♦ Book discussions: *Letter To A Christian Nation* by Sam Harris and *Simple Christianity* by N. T. Wright, both of these are led by Cheryl Prince
- ♦ *God of the Universe: Astronomy & The Stars* led by Chris Griggs
- ♦ Yoga in the Fellowship Hall

These sessions will run through March 28th.

Hey! What’s for dinner?!?!?!? CPC Wednesday Night Fellowship

February 7, 2007

Pork Chops w/Mustard Cream Sauce
Mandarin Salad
Yams
Kids: Sweet Potato Fries
Chocolate Pound Cake

February 14, 2007

Asian Salad w/Sausage & Pears
Corn Pudding
Kids: Hot Dogs
Cream Cheese Sheet Cake

February 21, 2007

Sweet & Sour Chicken
Broccoli Salad
Orzo Pilaf
Nanaimo Bars

February 28, 2007

Bourbon Pork Chops
Broccoli
Scalloped Potatoes
Cheesecake Cupcakes

Vegetarian Alert: To the extent possible, all meals will have a vegetarian counterpart or sufficient vegetarian sides to make a perfectly delicious meal.

Kid Alert: In addition to any meal made especially for you, peanut butter & jelly is ALWAYS an option!

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Dear God, we have much to be thankful for:

- family and friends in this time of year;
- for the great warm weather we’ve been having;
- for shelter, and nice homes for Christmas.
- For Christmas trees;
- for presents we receive and give,
- and for the best gift of all, Jesus. Amen.

Zachariah Usey

Oh God,
We thank you for yet another sunrise, another new year, another opportunity to be extraordinary stewards of your many blessings.

In praise and thanksgiving, we pause today, opening our hearts and minds to the possibilities in this new beginning.

In gratefulness, we yearn to hear your call, whether it be loud as thunder or soft as a descending dove.

Indeed, we ask that you help us to know and to discover here today how we may act out our recommitment in the way of your Servant, in praise and thanksgiving for your abundant love. Amen

DiAnne Borders

COLLEGE PARK collage

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SEVEN FOR '07

Earlier in the year I offered you a sermon, *Seven for '07*, in which I suggested seven practices that might revitalize our church and your faith. As we can all use a reminder, the seven were these:

- 1. Pray:** Prayer is not magic; it is merely listening and talking to God. The basis of our faith is a relationship with the Creator of all that is, and we can open ourselves to this untamed God of all.
- 2. Attend:** As I write this, I'm on the verge of a family trip to Florida to visit that famous rodent, so we all miss from time to time. But, if you're in town, I invite you to worship and bible study, to Club Jesus for youth, to our wild winter Wednesdays.
- 3. Invite:** And, while you're at it, bring a friend. It's how most of us came to any church we've ever been a part of, and it's how we easily introduce people to Jesus.
- 4. Help:** There is a long and diverse list of ministries we do inside and outside our church. God needs your help getting done the important stuff that needs doing. If you're asking where God is, look no further than your hands and feet. God needs us, so let's get busy.
- 5. Give:** We do *haiku* stewardship here: deep in meaning and ministry with not very much. We need your time, talents, and money to keep that long list of ministries I mentioned growing and flourishing. Plus, you and I need to give.
- 6. Read:** One of the ways God speaks is through our sacred text, the bible. So this is a challenge to read it regularly. Let its words soak through you, and wash over you. As a record of God's crazy love affair with humanity, nothing beats. Try listing to in on CD in your car, or on podcast. The Message is a particularly excellent version.
- 7. Enjoy ...** your life, this moment, the day. For all the horror—this terrible war, terrorism, betrayal, pain, and suffering, it is still a beautiful world. God wants us both to repair the world, and to enjoy it. Relish the good times with friends and family, and the wonder of creation.

Michael

Every Member a Minister
 Lin Bunce, Interim Associate Minister
 Phyllis Calvert, Treasurer
 Jeremy Fox, Interim Associate Minister
 Rydell Harrison, Minister of Music & Worship
 Juanita Lojko, 50 is the new 30
 Georgia Murray, Office & Media Manager
 Helen Morehead, Sexton
 Barry Shoemaker, Deacon Chair
 David Soyars, Organist
 Ralph & Tammy Stocks, Missionaries
 Michael S. Usey, Pastor

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"I am not made for perilous quests," [said Frodo]. I wish I had never seen the Ring! Why did it come to me? Why was I chosen?" "Such questions cannot be answered," said Gandalf. "You may be sure that it was not for any merit that others do not possess: not for power in wisdom, at any rate. But you have been chosen, and you must therefore use such strength and wits as you have."

"War must be," [said Faramir]. "while we defend our lives against a destroyer who would devour all; but I do not love the bright sword for its sharpness, nor the arrow for its swiftness, nor the warrior for his glory. I love only that which they defend: the city of the Men of Númenor; and I would have her loved for her memory, her ancientry, her beauty, and her present wisdom. Not feared, save as men may fear the dignity of a man, old and wise."

Quotations from Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*

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Our Communion bread is graciously donated
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Alliance of Baptists - American Baptist Churches - Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Mr. and Mrs. William Ingold
 request the honor of your presence
 at the marriage of their daughter
 Jennifer Diane
 to
 Seth Adam Asbill
 son of Mr. and Mrs. James Asbill
 Saturday, the tenth of March
 two thousand and seven
 six o'clock in the evening
 Duke Chapel
 Durham, North Carolina

Reception
 immediately following the ceremony
 Hillsong Church
 201 Culbreth Road
 Chapel Hill, North Carolina

For directions to the ceremony please visit:
 www.chapel.duke.edu

Please RSVP to Diane Ingold at 545-8127 or email her at dingold1@triad.rr.com.