

January-June, 2009 update

# Rockside Church

4100 Rockside Road | Independence, OH 44131 | [www.RocksideChurch.com](http://www.RocksideChurch.com)

## 2009 Theme Verse

*Acts 2:42 All the believers devoted themselves to the **apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to the breaking of bread, and to prayer...***

## Making Rockside History

Superintendent Rev. John Wootton spoke during the morning service and then conducted a history-making congregational business meeting following lunch on Sunday, March 15. Advancing to General Council status means we adopted our own Constitution and by-laws (previously governed by the Ohio District), our advisory committee became our official church board, all members became charter members under the new structure, and our pastor was elected by the congregation instead of being appointed annually by the District Office. It is the goal that every new church plant eventually mature to this advanced status of being a sovereign congregation with affiliation with the national office of the Assemblies of God. It was a mile marker of celebration and thanks is given to the Lord, the builder of His church!



The board & leaders smile with Rev. Wootton



Bowling with some of the guys

## Special Services

- ▷ Friends Day with musical guest, David Baroni
- ▷ Spotlight of Ancient Path's ministry
- ▷ Good Friday Service for the community
- ▷ Jim Thacker, missionary to Togo, Africa
- ▷ Pam Ecrement, staff pastor and family therapist



Keeping score at Cloverleaf lanes

## Community Involvement

Rockside Church sponsored the **National Day of Prayer** for Independence along with the Kiwanis and other area churches. The Middle School auditorium was used as our community station for prayer. ▶ Participating in February's **Beach Blast**, we hosted a nacho station at the community Civic Center. ▶ **DivorceCare**, a support group for the community, was sponsored by Rockside Church and held in the Indiana Wesleyan University building. Thanks to all our volunteers who served the community this year!

## Getting Together

In March, it was the **House Party** at Rockside. Then in April, we were inspired by the movie **"Fireproof."** Hitting the **Cloverleaf** bowling lanes in May, Rockside supported the community organization of 25 & Alive. And in June, we celebrated at the **Annual Church Picnic**.



John & Scott fire up the grill



House Party with food and games



Winnie the World & "The Interviewer" visit the kids

## Prayer at Rockside

Some ways that Rockside Church is involved in prayer includes:

- ▷ National Week of Prayer, January 2009
- ▷ Connection Points, Thursday evenings
- ▷ Pre-Service Prayer, Sunday mornings
- ▷ SW Suburbs Pastors' monthly prayer meetings
- ▷ Collaborate for a Greater Cleveland
- ▷ National Day of Prayer



Kids Church on the move

## Honoring the Past...Welcoming the New

In May we said *goodbye* to Dan O'Keefe, Rockside's faithful worship leader for three and a half years. Pastor Donna lead us in a foot-washing service to honor Dan's leadership. A reception followed Sunday's service to express our personal thanks to Dan for all he's done.

We welcomed the Wadenpfehl's as our new worship leaders, officially joining the team on May 10, 2009. We have been blessed by their musical skills and leadership and are thrilled to have them as a part of the Rockside Church family!



Ken, Patt, Hana, Jacob, Leanne, and Poppy

### ► **BMGC Spotlight** *Rockside Kids & Pebbles*

France, Colombia, Ireland, Madagascar, Bangladesh, Mongolia, Tonga, Chile...BGMC (Boys and Girls Missionary Challenge) has taken our kids around the World to learn about culture and missions. What stamp will we get in our passport next month??



Amber in Sierra Leone

## Developing the Sending Arm of Missions

In June, Rockside blessed team pastor, Amber Helms, as she departed for Sierra Leone, Africa for six weeks. Supporting her through prayer, encouragement, and finances, Amber was sent out from our midst to do God's work overseas. She was enthusiastically welcomed back and shared the good report of what God is doing internationally. She challenged us to believe the story which the Author and Perfecter, Jesus, is writing for both our lives and for the nations.

## Rockside Youth and FUSION!

*Meeting for youth service on the 1st Friday and FUSION on the 3rd Friday of every month, Rockside Youth Ministry's goal is for students to **encounter** Jesus and build **community**.*



**School Assembly** Bob Lenz & Harlend were brought into the Independence Schools for an assembly and an evening come back rally. The Gospel was presented and many students accepted Christ!

**Encounter** A ten-week discipleship series covered both the books of John and Romans and helped to deepen friendships as we shared life together.

**Convention** Joining with teens from all over Ohio, the youth hit 2009 off right, staying overnight in Columbus for Convention! Hundreds of students gathered to worship and encounter God.

**Fine Arts Festival** In art, photography, music, drama, and preaching, our students used their gifts to honor God at this state-wide festival in Dayton, Ohio. They also displayed their work at Rockside and youth services.

**Summer Camps** Jr. High. Sr. High. Camp X. Students and leaders enjoyed their week away at Heartland to have fun and refresh!



Harlend playing at the rally

*"Taking the unchanging love of Christ to an ever-changing world."*