

Rockside Church

JANUARY-JUNE 2011



Rockside Kids smile to capture the fun they're having at the picnic



Rockside volunteers serve nachos at the Beach Blast



Britton Roberts and David Swidrak play at the National Day of Prayer concert at the bandstand

Theme of 2011: DISCIPLESHIP

Jesus demonstrated & left with us a model of true discipleship.

The sermons this first half looked closely at how Jesus disciplined others, what Jesus said about discipleship and the example we are to live to reproduce who we are. Just a few reminders of Jesus' model...

1. Time alone with God (Mt 14:23)
2. Walking and talking (John 9:3-4)
3. Asking questions (Mark 8:27-30)
4. Unconditional love (John 8:4-11)

Discipleship Opportunities

On Wednesdays in **March**, Ann Graham Lotz' series, *The Magnificent Obsession*, stirred the desire to see God like Moses did: face-to-face as a friend. Diane Ehrlich led in **April** to discovering deep levels of "God Confidence."



Rocksidiers experience a simulation of a secret church gathering

Special Services & Guests

Who could forget the simulated *underground church service*, when our guests gave a taste of what our Christian brothers and sisters face around the world when their lives are endangered for public worship? Or the powerful testimonies of the ladies from *Columbus Teen Challenge*? Sports writer Terry Pluto gave an inspiring message on Father's Day and on *Palm Sunday* Rabbi Eric Lakatos brought to life Biblical truths by introducing us

to traditional Jewish symbols like the horseradish representing the bitterness of Israel's days of slavery.

A Church of Influence

Rockside hosted March's Chamber of Commerce breakfast and presented materials from Peacemakers Ministry, focusing on Biblical conflict resolution skills. The Mayor asked that a repeat of the session be held for all city leaders later in March. Additional four week sessions were facilitated by Cathy Monnin at IWU in May. Attendance included staff from Cornerstone of Hope, IWU, and Youth for Christ!

Cross Generational Ministry: seeking to bless and be blessed by Christians across the generational lines

The Music of Worship

Months of guest worship leaders (including Brian Campbell, Bryan Karas, Britton Roberts and our own Katie Suhodolsky) grew us as a church centered around worship that **exalts and praises Jesus**.

Rockside Youth

The teenagers have enjoyed times of Bible teaching, discussion and worship as well as intentional moments of building relationships. So far this year the youth have turned IWU into the perfect hide-n-seek arena, laughed hysterically at the movie, "Diary of a Wimpy Kid", visited over Chipotle and Subway, created a new holiday, *Seis De Mayo*, and celebrated one another's musical and artistic gifts at our own local Fine Arts Festival service.



Rockside Youth celebrate Vaso with words of appreciation, cards and songs on her last youth service as youth director June 17

National Day of Prayer

Traveling prayer meetings gathered at stations throughout Independence, increasing city-wide participation. The stations included the High School/Middle School flag pole, the Civic Center, St. Michael's Catholic Church, Cornerstone of Hope offices, the memorial on Public Square and a concert at the outdoor bandstand near Old Town Hall that we sponsored.

Prayer and Missions

Watch and pray through the newly created slideshow of Rockside's supported missionaries as a guide that helps our church remain intentional about covering our missionaries and their fields in prayer. (Posted on www.RocksideChurch.com)

Without Words: Moving Against the Sex Trade was a beautiful and inspiring modern dance piece created and performed by local artists, including our own Elizabeth Pollert and Mackenzie Clevenger and Mikaela Clark. We hosted the creators, bought an ad to support them, prayed at Connection Points and sponsored tickets which were given to people of influence in the city.

"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" **Romans 10:15**



Top: Matthew brings his dad, Michael Wisniewski, to the National Day of Prayer concert.

Bottom: Ethan leads the pack of racing children at the annual picnic in June

Rockside Kids

Kid's ministry keeps their eye on the world! Missionary Becky Young was guest leader in January and *Boys and Girls Missions Challenge* is remembered on the 5th Sundays. The new children's leaders bring a unique perspective, with Juan a graduate of Masters Commission in El Salvador, where he met Tracy on a mission's appointment with King's Castle.

Staff and Leadership Development

The first half of 2011 was marked with changes in our Staff and leadership as...

Johnny Wyatt was elected to the church board and Joe Bocanegra rotated off after serving from the church's inception on the advisory committee that evolved into a board position.

Amber Helms returned as Team Pastor for January through Mid-May while itinerating then returning to IHOP-Kansas City. She was such a blessing during that period leading prayer times, serving our students, assisting our pastor administratively and engaging in relationships.

Bryan Overbaugh continues his practicum as a grad student with Ashland Theological Seminary that began in December 2010. His duties have included Sunday preaching, leading prayer segments and teaching our students.

Vaso Suhodolsky rotated out as youth director after over seven years and continues to serve as an assistant in administration/finances. We celebrate the great impact she's made in the lives of teenagers at Rockside and around Ohio!

Britton Roberts officially joined our team in April overseeing all areas related to music. He was prayed over by our first worship leader, Lydia Travnik, and his pastor/dad, Ken Roberts, who both happened to be visiting that morning.

Juan and Tracy Orosco have joined the team to focus specifically on ministering to our children. We're grateful to have this family running with us!



Top: Britton Roberts playing frisbee while his wife Amanda (far right) enjoys the show

Bottom: Juan and Tracy Orosco introduced by Pastor Donna then after Juan prayed in Spanish for Mother's Day