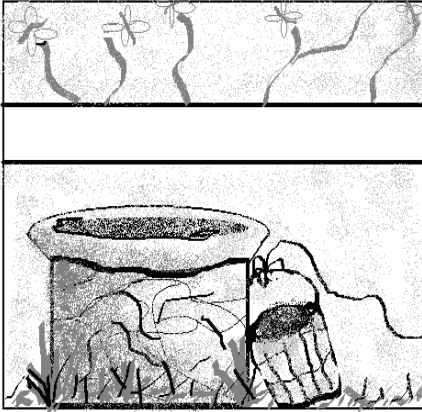


April 2007



# The Well

The Newsletter of the Hyaets Community

Vision, Dreams, Calling,  
Community, Compassion,  
Care... The Well...

by Jason

"Be Still and Know"

The water upstream is slower, yet its sound is much quicker. There is an old beaver dam, long abandoned. The water has overtaken it and funnels through it making a sizeable rushing sound. The beaver dam rapid sounds much bigger than she is. The water flows down several steps like one of those rock "waterfalls" you might buy at a store for your home just to have an echo of the river in your living room. It is one of those inescapable sounds that pierces into your head and down through your body permeating you with a certain serene peace that is utterly mesmerizing.

Every time I pass the sound of flowing water as I walk along "Beaver Trail", I have to stop and search for the source. It is as if I am stalking a sound not of my own will but because it draws me in to its presence inviting me to find it, sit with it, and listen to it.

I've begun to see that these

## The Update...

by Michael

We bring you greetings from Charlotte. The ministry of Hyaets continues to grow in new and exciting directions. We continue to pray that it is Christ's light and not our own that shines forth in our ministry. As our ministry become visible to more people, we continue to receive invitations to share about Hyaets - with CBF of NC, with the Alliance of Baptists, and with many local congregations. Both Hyaets and her individual members are staying busy.

Helms continues to minister with BCM at UNCC (Baptist Campus Ministries at UNC Charlotte). Helms has begun to give some of her time and energy to starting a similar group at Queens University. One of Helms' goals for the new year is to take up more painting and other creative ventures.

Jason is now the youth minister at Christ United Methodist Church. He is relishing the time he has to use his gifts in ministering with teenagers. Jason has also devoted countless hours to the inner workings of the website, much of which is rarely recognized. Go to [hyaets.org](http://hyaets.org) and spend some time searching all the ins and outs. It looks great!

Michael spent a few days in the mountains of New Mexico at the Christ in the Desert Benedictine monastery, thanks to Christine who sent him there as a gift for ordination and Christmas. Experiencing solitude and silence miles away from civilization was a life-changing experience. He is gearing up for the craziness that is summer youth ministry!

Christine will graduate from the BTSR this May. She's looking forward to being done! All of the members of Hyaets will be traveling to be a part of this important nodal event in Christine's (and Hyaets') life. Christine is also dealing with exhaustion as she's carrying Kellett baby #2, who is due in late August.

West is getting ready to be a big brother. He's not so sure he's ready to share the attention quite yet. West is changing every day, speaking more and more (often, no one, including his parents, have a clue what he's saying).

Joanie is spending countless hours preparing her congregation and choir for Easter music. She takes on more than just directing the choir - she is fully engaged in the ministries of Christ United Methodist Church (same church as her husband) including pastoral care and worship planning. She is also working hard at helping Hyaets to build relationships with local congregations. She also does a lot of behind-the-scenes things that have to be done but aren't often recognized (writing thank-you notes, putting together a job

*(Continued on page 6)*

# Commentary

by Greg

I am finding a couple of favorite places around Charlotte now that I have been here for a little while. Among those places are a wooded bike trail about a mile from our house, the front porch of our house, my usual lunchtime walk around uptown Charlotte, and a little Catholic retreat center in Rock Hill, SC called The Oratory. The Oratory is very similar to our community—a group of priests and brothers who live together in community and practice Christian hospitality for their guests. In their case, the guests are retreatants who come to stay in one of the several houses on the grounds of this beautiful center, located right in the middle of the town of Rock Hill. Both structured and unstructured retreats are offered, along with individual spiritual direction. I often visit, as some of my work responsibilities require me to be in Rock Hill as much as once a week. Simply having a place of repose—an inviting rocking chair, a walk through the labyrinth—is a welcome centering activity for a day filled with tasks.

Finding significant places is important to the spiritual life. Certain places ground us, help us to feel at home in ourselves and in our God in ways that nothing else can. Outside of Charlotte, certain mountaintops, creek beds, a Richmond neighborhood, grandparent's homesteads, and sacred childhood spots keep me grounded. I need to return to these places on occasion, to remember who I am—the beloved of God—and where I have been. We long to be one of those places, for ourselves, for our neighbors, and for the others that we encounter along our journey. Whether in our urban setting, with our current house on Tuckaseegee Road, or at some point in the future in a rural setting, we recognize the importance of creating a space that is welcoming, memorable, and meaningful for guests.

I will keep listening for the way that God speaks in certain special places. Certainly, I will encounter new spaces that speak to the depths of my being. I will also be stretching to learn how to be attentive to God in every place and time.

There is a day  
when the road neither  
comes nor goes, and the way  
is not a way but a place.

-Wendell Berry

sounds are everywhere, if only I can listen for them. Though I tend, like many, to race through life with plugs in my ears, I find that the trees are the wise ones, for they sit all their life in one place listening to all that is around them. They are the creatures who actually obey the exhortation to "be still." Would that I could obey as the trees!

If only I could heed God's word to "be still", then I might hear all the watery words around me and "know" that incapable grace that calls to me, saying, "I am God."

**Best of any song**

**Is bird song**

**In the quiet, but first**

**You must have the quiet.**

**-Wendell Berry**

Write the Vision...

by Christine

## Habakkuk 2:2-3

As most of you know, Hyaets is made of up 5 different components. But did you know that one of the first dreams and visions that we had was the component of Little Tree? Some of you may ask "Well how did they get to where they are now if they first dreamed and longed for a retreat center?" And that is a very good question. We felt it necessary to create bonds and relationships with those in an urban setting before we set off into the wilderness. We felt it important to start a ministry in inner city neighborhoods so that one day we could take children from these neighborhoods to our camp to enjoy time away from the stresses of life. We felt it necessary to have a firm foundation with a number of churches that could help us live out our call to run a retreat center. So this is where we have found ourselves at this moment in time. But one day we see ourselves living under the shade of many trees on our very own piece of land somewhere in the mountains. We long to bring people to this setting for times of Sabbath, study, fellowship, or solidarity. We yearn for a place that we can bring those who have never experienced wide-open spaces. We dream and hope for what will become Little Tree. But until that time, we will continue to offer retreats to those who need guidance, a place to live for those who do not have shelter, and a warm hug for those who need love in our city and neighborhood.

## Mission Unidiversity trip



Last summer's trip to Unidiversity youth camp was amazing! We sang and played and ate and made all kinds of new friends. The four boys who were brave enough to go have now convinced half the neighborhood to attend this year (more on that in the next issue!). Three guys who attended last year's camp week at Mars Hill College showed a tremendous amount of growth and maturity, to the point that we are taking them to Wilmington the week of June 24 for Mission Unidiversity, a week-long mission project sponsored by the same folks who put on the camp each year. While there, Jamar, Demarcus, and Raeshawn will participate in some construction projects, Backyard Bible clubs, and some time of relaxation at the NC coast. We are hoping this will be another big step of maturation for these guys, as they are discovering themselves and discovering faith. Here's how you can help:

- Pray for Jason, Joanie, Jamar, Demarcus, and Raeshawn as they prepare for the trip.
- We may need a few supplies to take with us. Check the website as the time nears to see what we items we may still need for the trip.
- Consider sponsoring the trip monetarily. Every small gift helps put us a little closer to getting everyone there, and to feeding hungry teenage boys for the week.

About the upcoming mission trip, Demarcus says, "I can't wait because it's fun, and I always wanted to build houses! We'll be able to hang out with the Park Road kids, and build houses. We are going to be helping a family, which is good, because, well, I've always wanted to build houses. Plus, it motivates you, keeps you out of the street and stuff." Please be in prayer for our youth and adults who will be serving for the week.

---

## *We need YOU this summer!*

*Imagine having a house full of neighbors, children, youth, and adults, visiting and hanging out everyday, all summer long!*

*It is such a joy to open our home to our community. We love playing, eating, and sharing with our neighbors.*

*Every once in a while, though, it gets too be tiring and taxing on our physical and spiritual lives.*

***Help us to keep our sanity this summer!*** Volunteer to be "on duty" for a day, an hour, a week, or more! There are all sorts of things we can do to help you prepare for your on duty time. Just say you'll volunteer and we'll help you with the rest!



## Annual Spring Beach Trip



“Mr. Greg, why do they put salt in this water?”

“That’s an awfully good question, Jenerian.”

With exchanges like the one above, how could we resist another trip to the beach? On May 11th, we will leave with neighbors, both children and adults, for a fun-filled weekend at Fort Caswell. We will play, eat, sit on the porch, and swim in the ice-cold May water. We may even try to catch a few fish for Ms. Crystal to fry up. As usual, it is your generosity that makes these trips possible. We will relish in the beauty of one another and of God’s creation thanks to the kindness of the many gifts of support we receive. Raynard is our top-flight chaperone for the trip. He says, “I am very excited to go, because we have fun, and because I get to help the kids out as a chaperone. We will get to talk and to learn, and going makes me happy!”

### Invite a Hyaets member to come and share!

Over the past few weeks, Hyaets members have been privileged to speak with several different groups regarding our lives together. At denominational conferences, women’s groups, and worship services, we have been able to share a little about the way the Spirit is moving in our lives and in our neighborhood. We enjoy sharing, being able to tell our story, and to hear of how the Spirit is blowing all across our land. We would love the opportunity to share with your congregation or group, and to have a chance to interact and learn from one another. Our presentations can last from five minutes to a full day. If you are interested in hosting a Hyaets partner, contact us at [hyaets@bellsouth.net](mailto:hyaets@bellsouth.net), or by phone at 704.391.8529 to discuss. We look forward to continuing to share with many of you in a wide variety of ways!

#### Possible speaking topics:

- Urban Ministry
- Seeking Christian Community
- Intentional Community living
- Stewardship of life
- Simple Living—the joys and difficulties, mistakes and more

### Website now online!

After hours and hours hunched in front of a screen, Jason has emerged with a published website! You can now visit us at <http://hyaets.org>. On the site, you will find several special features—descriptions of our ministries and of our way of life together, a calendar of upcoming events, and a forum you can join to discuss with us what is happening in your life and in our lives. We even have individual blogs up and running. They range in use from creatively and often (Jason, Joanie) to ‘what’s a blog?’ (Greg). Be sure to explore the whole site, including the calendar and the ever-changing wish list. We also have email addresses through the site. You can contact us by typing the member’s name, and then [@hyaets.org](mailto:@hyaets.org) (e.g., [helms@hyaets.org](mailto:helms@hyaets.org)). Many thanks to Jason for the hours he put in to make the site look so good!

**Passion, Calling, Desires...**

by Helms

For many years, I have had the dream of having a camp/retreat center. In taking the time to discern my call to ministry, I have come to find that the dream of a camp/retreat center is a part of that call. By now, you have probably heard of passion for camp and retreat center ministry. I have dreamt of owning and running a camp since high school. I think that this dream and calling of mine is at times crazy and way too big, but at the same time within our grasp and worth the risk of following it.

My most favorite parts of this dream center around **place** and **program**. I dream of a beautiful **place** with gardens, cabins, nature trails, a ropes course, and sacred space. I also dream of all the wonderful programs we could host: youth weeks, spirituality retreats, storytelling festivals, creative expression seminars, Sabbath weekends, and individual silence retreats.

The Little Tree dream team, Hyaets' brainstormers and discussers about a camp/retreat center, has recently been in dialogue about **place** and **program**. The air (especially in NC) seems right for taking steps to follow through with our dream and we're ready to add some action to our words and brainstorm. Most recently, our Little Tree Dream Team discussions have centered this question: If Hyaets is going to start up a retreat center or camp, where do we begin? And do we begin with **place** or with **program**? **Place** involves space, land, shelter, amenities, money to build, shared resources, and more. **Program** includes: planned retreats, marketing, finding retreatants, speaking at churches and conferences, leading break out sessions, and more.

We of Hyaets know of our own interest and passion about our dream, but what we're still unsure of is how to make our dream a reality, who will join

and help us with our dream, and how to start putting feet to thoughts. That's where you come in! Do you have a dream that is similar to ours? Are you interested in helping Hyaets with this dream? Maybe we'll come to find out....this dream may not be as crazy as I thought. There may be others who have similar dreams of a camp/retreat center! You might just be another one of those lunatics (like me) out there that are also sensing very similar crazy and overwhelming calls as this!

Do you have a dream for a camp or retreat center? Do you feel called to providing a **place** of hospitality and solitude for others? Do you dream of thinking up **programs** and activities for a youth week or music week? Let's put our heads together on this!

We who call ourselves "Hyaets" invite you to be a part of our "Dream Team", a group of individuals who will dream, brainstorm, plan, and eventually (we hope) help to start a camp/retreat center. The "Dream Team" members commit to researching, thinking, and brainstorming on the idea and calling of starting a camp/retreat center. We'll be talking together about **program**, **place**, and much more. Occasionally, the "Dream Team" will gather together to share, plan, and pray for the camp/retreat center. Eventually, the "Dream Team" will celebrate together as the camp/retreat center became a reality.

We may as well dream big about **program** and **place** and we may as well dream together! Join our dream team registering with the Forums on our website: <http://hyaets.org>. Once you've registered, you can join in the conversation! I'm waiting to share along with you!

**Hyaets Spring events:**

April 6: Community Meal and Good Friday  
 April 13-15: Mt Hermon group coming  
 April 20: Community Meal  
 April 26-29: Huguenot Rd team coming  
 May 4: Community Meal  
 May 11-13: Beach trip to Fort Caswell

May 18: Community Meal

May 25-26: Community in Richmond for Christine's graduation!

May 29: West turns 2!

June 1: Community Meal

June 15: Community Meal

June 24-30: Unidiversity Mission in Wilmington, with neighborhood youth

**Vision, Dreams, Calling,  
Community, Compassion,**



Hyaets, Inc.  
Greg and Jennifer Helms Jarrell  
Joanie and Jason Williams  
Christine, Michael, and West Kellett

2904 Tuckaseegee Rd  
Charlotte, NC 28208  
Phone: 704.391.8529  
Email: [hyaets@bellsouth.net](mailto:hyaets@bellsouth.net)  
Web: <http://hyaets.org>

**Vision, Dreams, Calling,  
Community, Compassion, Care...  
The Well**

## Hyaets: Update

*(Continued from page 1)*

resource manual for our neighbors).

Jamar turns 16 on March 31. A big bash is scheduled for March 29.

Greg continues to work with RAIN. He continues to seek out ways to enjoy his passion of music. He currently has a regular gig at a place here in Charlotte. Greg continues to work with the neighborhood association, a relationship that is vital to the ministry.

We continue to covet your thoughts and prayers as we seek to be faithful to loving God with all of who we are and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

### Wish List for Hyaets:

Opportunities to share our story with your congregation

Gardening tools

Assistance with landscaping

A hammock

Sidewalk chalk

Bubbles

Long jump ropes

Frisbees

Footballs

Basketballs

Whiffle balls and bats

Individually wrapped snacks and drinks

Visitors

Encouragement

Bicycles/ bicycle repair

Volunteer groups to help with Teacher workdays, Spring Break, etc.

## Joanie is thinking about laughter...

"Laughter can relieve tension, soothe the pain of disappointment, and strengthen the spirit for the formidable tasks that always lie ahead."—Dwight D. Eisenhower

"Humor is a prelude to faith and Laughter is the beginning of prayer."—Reinhold Niebuhr

"The human race has only one effective weapon and that is laughter."—Mark Twain

Things that make us laugh :

-Watching West's excitement over playing with a ball.

-Hearing Jamar and Akeem talk about their experiences leading worship for the residents of a retirement center.



-Walking to down to Big Mama's (a new neighborhood restaurant) for the third time in four days to find out it's still not open.

-Finding a Smurf TV tray during neighborhood clean-up

-Hearing stories of Jamar's incredible speed coming down the ski slopes, but only being able to stop by falling.