

# The Well

The Newsletter of the Hyaets Community

**Welcome...West Powell Kellet!!!**

Born May 29, 2005 at 2:42am

Weighing 9lbs 3oz and stretching a whoppin' 21.5 inches in length

## The Well

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

### All Who Love and Serve Your City

All who love and serve your city,  
all who bear its daily stress,  
all who cry for peace and justice,  
all who curse and all who bless,

In your day of loss and sorrow,  
in your day of helpless strife,  
honor, peace, and love retreating,  
seek the Lord, who is your life.

Risen Lord! shall yet the city  
be the city of despair?  
Come today, our Judge, our Glory;  
be its name, "The Lord is there!"

\* Words: Erik Routley

The other night I passed a man sitting at the end of an exit ramp in Roanoke. He was holding a sign that said "If Jesus were sitting here, would you pass him by?"

As I think about the mission of "The Arbor", the words to this hymn keep playing in my mind. Christ is in the city. That may sound silly, but I need to be reminded of that truth.

Growing up in the country-side, I knew God existed in the peace and quiet and annoying chirping

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## Hyaets: An Overview

By Helms

For many of you, this may be the first time you have read an edition of "The Well". This newsletter is a ministry of a newly forming nonprofit called "Hyaets". Hyaets is a *faith-based, non-profit organization covenanting to enrich, inspire, and embody community*. The ministries of Hyaets include an urban hospitality house, a camp/retreat center, community living, connecting with congregations, and written publications such as this one. Partners of Hyaets include Helms and Greg Jarrell, Joanie and Jason Williams, Christine and Michael Kellett, and others.

The Summer 2005 edition of "The Well" will be used to tell you a bit more about the community living aspect of Hyaets. We hope that you'll find out more about our passions, vision, concerns, and ideas by reading and (maybe someday) contributing to "The Well." Before you move on to the other articles in "The Well", take a minute to read an overview of the mission and ministries of Hyaets.

Hyaets (pronounced "Hi-eights"; Hebrew for "tree of life") is a faith-based organization covenanting to enrich, inspire, and embody community. The ministries of Hyaets include:

**Shade for Sojourners** – an inner city partnership

**Seed Exchange** – connecting with congregations

**The Well** – ministry publications

**Little Tree** – Camp/Retreat Experiences

**The Arbor** – community living guided by the Traditional Practices of Christian Faith

Hyaets will be supported monetarily through gifts, grants, donations, and the work of its partners. Hyaets will be based out of Charlotte, NC. More specifically, the community of Hyaets will be located in an inner-city neighborhood of Charlotte known as Enderly Park.

There are many ways that you can support Hyaets. One important way is

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# Editor's commentary

by Christine

Over the past six weeks I have experienced something of what true community is all about. On May 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:42 am, Michael and I had our first child, West Powell Kellett, and our friends were by our side the whole way through. They visited us Friday night before we went to the hospital, they slept in the waiting room while we all awaited the blessed event, and they came to the hospital everyday until West and I went home. Since then, they have been there to give Michael and I much needed "date-nights out" and have even fed West in the middle of the night so that mommy and daddy could get some sleep! What a labor of love!

About three weeks after West was born, I was talking to my brother and sister-in-law who were both present for the birth and met our wonderful friends. During our conversation, they commented on how devoted our community of friends was during such an important time in our lives. I remember my brother-in-law saying, "We don't have friends like that. I wish we could experience the love and support from such a close community as you and Michael have."

It is this community that we have chosen to be a part of that has gotten me through many difficult times and joyous occasions. It is this community that will be there in years to come when we have more children, when we lose a loved one, when we are feeling blue, and when there are times of celebration. To be a part of such a close network of people who truly care for your well being is truly remarkable and something that not everyone can experience. I am truly lucky to have such a community as a part of my life.

any place takes a community. Those of us involved in *The Arbor* sense the importance of community and appreciate that we are not alone in our search for God.

By Joanie

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of crickets. When I moved to Richmond, there was some time before I realized that God also lived in the sounds of sirens, bright lights, and heavy traffic. However, my experience has taught me that God is in the inner-city..

Moving to an inner-city, low-income area of Charlotte and living with another couple is about finding God in Charlotte. God is already there and working. Just as the man on the street reminded me the other day, Greg, Helms, Michael, Christine, Jason, and I all know that Christ may be sitting on the side of the street in Charlotte. We want to find a way not to pass him by. We want to find God in the inner-city, the often "looked-down-upon" areas. And surprisingly enough, that is where I find relief from all of our anxiety and excitement — God is already in Charlotte.

*"But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." (Jeremiah 29:7)*

In this commission God did not send just two people to think about the welfare of a city. Rather, God commanded "all the exiles". Recognizing God in

## Write the Vision...

by Greg

### Habakkuk 2:2-3

We are moving soon to live 'in community,' that ubiquitous term that can mean any of 1000 things. Christian communities are as different as the people who live in them. There are common threads amongst communities, but each is unique. Our vision as a group is guided by a call from God to live in community among a marginalized people. In trying to live out this vision, though, we are always tempted to the idolatry of worshipping our vision rather than the God who makes any sort of vision possible. In trying to navigate the narrow strait before us, we are reminded by Dietrich Bonhoeffer that "Christian community is not an ideal to be achieved, but a divine reality" (from *Life Together*). Our vision does not have a final form of perfection, but rather reaches perfection each day through our best, though finally incomplete, efforts, and a healthy dose of God's grace administered through the laughs, tears, hugs, and 'hallelujahs!' that we hope will fill our house. We hope that some of them might even be yours.

## Passion, Calling, Desires...

by Jason

*"You're crazy!" "Why would you want to do that?"  
"What about your family?" "That's not normal."  
"What about your privacy?" "It's your life, so do what  
you want!"*

These are all reactions I have received over the past year or so as I have told various friends and family about the vision of Hyaets to live in an intentional Christian community. Each one is, no doubt, an honest reaction to something that sounds strange, unfamiliar, and certainly "not normal" by the standards of mainstream US society. Yet I believe each one also represents an element of the brokenness of humanity. I do not say this as an indictment. Rather, I wish to suggest something about humanity and community that is fundamental to a Christian understanding of life.

I have to believe that reactions like those above arise precisely because what is unfamiliar or unknown cuts into the heart of something deep within each of us. The unknown often evokes fear within us. This is true not so much because the unknown is inherently frightening, but because the unknown often hints at those areas of life from which we run, hide, or distance ourselves. Perhaps each one of us truly is an Adam or Eve running through Eden from the very Presence which is central to our existence.

From the beginning of scripture we read of a place and a people created to exist with and for one another freely and unashamedly in community (see Gen 1-2). According to scripture, creation was not complete until there was a human placed within it "to worship/work it and guard/keep it" (Gen 2:15, author's translation). Nor was creation complete until there was a suitable "partner" for this human (Gen 2:18). Through this story, which sets the stage for the entirety of scripture, we find one being created for another, one part created to be with another part. It is more than fitting that the culmination of this story is found in the one called Jesus the Christ who lived so completely

for others that he gave his life for all humanity.

It may not be a coincidence that the Hebrew word for 'life' (ḥai, as in Hyaets) can also mean 'community'. In some sense, life is community; community is life. We might say that life means living in community or that living in community constitutes life. Ḥai, as a concept, finds expression in the practice of the Eucharist, or Communion. During this sacramental act, people of faith sit at the same table to partake of a meal. This practice vividly depicts the community to which Christians are called – a community which is the body of Christ. Therefore, the concept of ḥai as practiced through communion constitutes a foundation for a Christian understanding of life.

So, how do any of us in the Hyaets community respond to the reactions above? I believe we respond with who we are – a people created in the image of God to live in community, with and for one another. I believe we begin by suggesting that community is fundamental to life, particularly life in the Triune God as seen in the Eucharist. And I believe we implore each person to look within the unknown, within the depths of his or her life to discover something fundamental about human identity.

In these depths we find that we long for someone or something beyond ourselves. Surely that someone or something is the Presence we call God. Yet it is also the person sitting beside us – the stranger we meet on the road or the person we call mother, father, wife, or friend – for it is through each of us that God lives and reigns and works for the good of the Kingdom of Heaven. It is through every living being that Christ calls us to return from our running and hiding and meets us with outstretched arms welcoming us back into the garden so that we might take our place within the body of Christ. May we, each of us, do so faithfully through families and strangers, through rich and poor, through those at the top and those on the margins, through saints and sinners, and, ultimately, through both friends and enemies.

## Schedule of Events and Contact Info

Helms and Mt. Hermon Youth to Passport — July 10-16  
Greg's last day at Church Hill Wellness Center — July 22  
Kellett's move to Charlotte — July 22  
Helms's last day at Mt. Hermon BC — July 24  
Jarrell's and Williams' at Beach — July 24-30  
Michael at IMPACT VA — July 25-30  
West turns 2 months old — July 29  
Jarrell's and Williams' move to Charlotte — August 1

Joanie starts work at Christ UMC — August 7  
Michael's last day at Grace BC — August 7  
Helms starts work at UNC-C — August 8  
Jason starts work at North Mecklenburg HS — August 8  
Michael starts work at Park Road BC — August 21  
Christine starts school — September

Until the end of July, you can reach us at...

310 S. Pine St.

804-648-2158

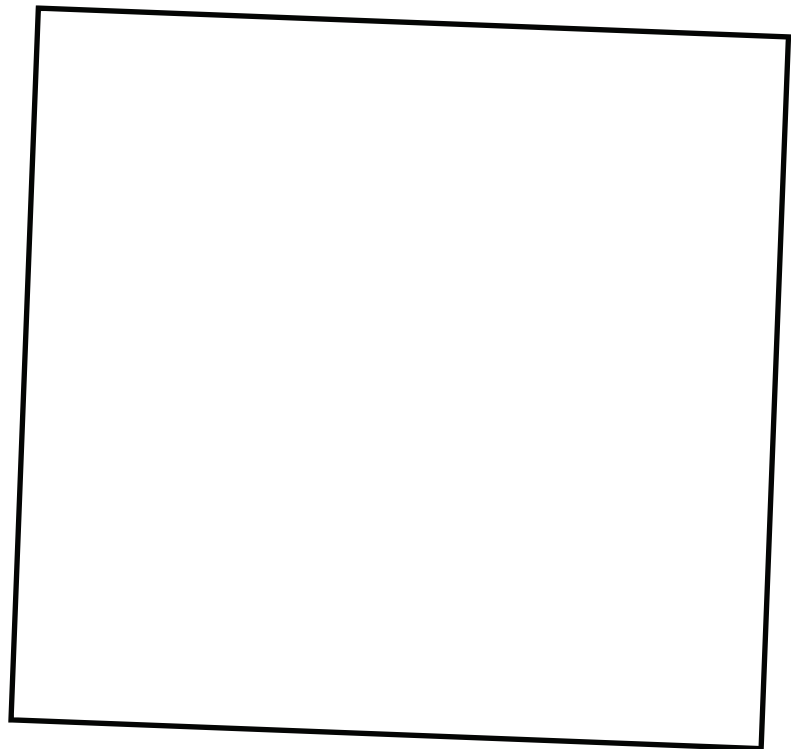
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## The Well

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## Hyaets: An Overview

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through prayer. Please pray for the community of Hyaets, “The Arbor,” as we move from our homes in Richmond to new homes in Charlotte. Please pray for us in this time of transition and change. Please also pray for clarity of vision and faithful discernment of God’s call. We covet your prayers and thoughts in the days ahead.

### Our Favorite Places and Things in Richmond (that we’ll miss)!

Mamma Zu  
821 Café  
Ellwood Thompson’s Natural Food  
Pronto’s Pizzeria  
Baker’s Crust  
Ukrop’s  
Pasta Luna  
Stir Crazy Café  
Seminary Library (no, really)  
Byrd Theater  
The Rivah  
Traffic on 64 and 95  
Biddle talks

Living in a commonwealth, not a state  
Grace Baptist Church  
Tabernacle Baptist Church  
Belle Isle and Maymont  
Swift Creek Berry Farm  
Christmas at the James Center  
Fan, Carytown, Oregon Hill, Moseley, Mosby Court  
Old Rag Mountain  
Gene Cox and Sabrina Squires  
Dr. Ballenger’s tirades about the state of America  
1317 Westbrook Avenue – Kelletts’ first home  
Monument Avenue  
Being in Hurricane Alley