



The Well

The Newsletter of the Hyaets Community

For this issue of The Well, we have all been asked to respond to the question "What have you learned through Hyaets?". What follows are the answers to that question. We will continue to address the thoughts that come up in future editions.

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

Granddaddy can grow
A tomato like
You've never. He's
Not exactly a
Farmer, but neither
Is he not a farmer.

What he's not is a
Revolutionary.
I would say nary a
Thought of such has yet
entered his mind. But
Without pretension

He grows tomatoes whose
mention makes a
Visit a must, and soon.
Juice on chin, sandwich
Sized slab gone in one
Fast bite then two slow
Ones, or three.

I've grown a tomato
Or two myself. While
Digging and sowing
I've said, "This is
Radical, man. I'm
Apart from the system."

How obnoxious. Who
Wants self-righteous fruit?
I praise not ignorance—
The system is broke—
But tomatoes don't
Require diatribe.

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The Update...

by Michael

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Summer is over! As it always is, the summer calendar has been full –trips to Richmond to participate in mission, trips to Longwood University for a week of youth camp, trips to Ray's Splash Planet, trips to the pool, trips to the gym, trips to Carolina Cross Connection to be on mission, trips to Vacation Bible School, hosting trips from local and non-local churches on mission, hosting children who make trips down the street to hang out, hosting and providing hospitality to adults who are needing help taking a trip across town on the bus – are you tired yet from all the trips we've taken and hosted? We are, and school starting yesterday has been a welcome trip to a more sane place for all of us.

What did help our chaos was to have 2 summer interns – Anna Thompson (her 2nd year) and Krista Harbinson. They were helpful in planning activities and the logistics, but, more importantly, they spent time building relationships with the neighbors.

Derek Zika is a newcomer to Hyaets. Derek is very involved in the Christian Peacemaker Teams. He has spent some time in the Israel-Palestine area. Hyaets and Derek are currently discerning what our relationship will look like as we go forward. You can find more information about him on p. 3. Anna Thompson has also spent time discerning and has felt a strong leading toward being part of the Christian Peacemaker Teams. Our prayers are with them both.

Hyaets also has a vital ministry with the adults of the Enderly Park community. One ministry in the beginning stages is being a program site for the Christian Women's Job Corps. This ministry provides a context in which women are equipped for life and employment, and a context in which people begin to build personal relationships. We are looking forward to the time that this ministry is up and going.

Hyaets has recently begun *Living Room Lectures* – a time for folks from adults in the community and outside to gather to talk about and experience different topics related to faith. This summer we watched a documentary and discussed what it meant to express your faith through the arts, we gathered to sing hymns, fellowship together, and discuss, centered around the Lord's supper, and we gathered to learn more about photography and discuss spirituality through photography (this will be re-scheduled). These lectures are a wonderful opportunity for discussion and fellowship – for folks who live in the Enderly Park Community and for folks outside the community to come and spend intentional time together, discussing issues of faith and the arts.

Many groups on mission have provided some needed updates on some of the buildings in the Enderly Park area, including those at Hyaets. Two churches from Richmond, VA spent a week at Hyaets on mission. One ongoing project

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Some thoughts...

by Joanie

I have learned so much from my neighbors that I can't help but ramble. So, the following is some rambling:

"What Jesus is calling us to is living with and among people that are different from us, actually getting to know them—meeting their needs but not seeing them as a need, but one of us." This was preached by Julie Merritt at the CBF General Assembly in July.

That's what I've learned from my neighbors. In reality, I sometimes see Jesus shining through the lives of my neighbors more than I recognize Jesus in myself. The reality is my neighbors have taught me to slow down.

Just a couple months after we had moved to Enderly Park and family from New Orleans that was effected by Hurricane Katrina moved in next door. I was spending time with the kids one day while the parents took care of business. One of the little girls asked a meaningful question that went something like this, "How come white people never have time? I mean black people are always spending time with one another, but it always seems like white people don't have enough time." Well, that question still haunts me.

Most of our neighbors hang out outside—on front porches, on picnic tables, on side streets, etc. The way I have gotten to know most of our neighbors well is by being outside. And in my world, I have to be intentional about being outside. But when I'm outside, there are no walls, no closed doors, and life seems to slow down. I can take a deep breath. When I allow myself time outside, I remember that I am one of my neighbors. I am a resident of Enderly Park, too. And now it's not only important to me and Jason, but also to Joy Kate. As soon as I walk out the front door with Joy Kate there is a neighbor there to welcome us. Our neighbors have shared so much with her already—wipes, toys, clothes, time, chants, dancing, swinging, peek-a-boo. And most of that has happened outside. Robin always comes running doing her "J-O-Y, JOY" chant. Joy Kate will know how to spell her name from Robin before she says "mama!!" When I really get to know my neighbors, I don't see needs, I see brothers and sisters. When I get out and make time to just be with my neighbors, I know that they are more of an offering to me. How much time have you spent on your

Write the Vision...

by Helms

Habakkuk 2:2-3

There I stood with three boys huddled together saying a prayer through tears. We'd gotten through four days of camp and were waiting to enter worship on our last night of camp. Emotions were high. It was our first year at camp and one of our youth had caused quite a scene earlier and had embarrassed us and threatened our opportunity to return. We had enjoyed a full week of new experiences and new relationships and we were tired and grieving this our last night.

After our prayer, we made our way to the front row where we were to sit so that we could be the offering takers. Towards the end of the service, the proclaimer asked the youth ministers to come to the front of the auditorium and invited the youth to come and pray at the altar or share their decisions of commitment with their minister. During invitational songs, I was surprised to see my boys singing with passion. It looked as if they were meaning the words they were singing. I hadn't seen this before. I couldn't help but joyfully grin in amazement.

The DVD player didn't stop playing the camp pictures and videos once we got home. The boys wanted to relive every moment over and over again. In a desperate attempt to pause the repetition, I called two of the boys onto the front porch for a chat. "What was your favorite part of camp? What lessons did you learn? What did you think of the food?" I tried to ask any question I could think of to get them away from the couch and DVD player.

After a while, we got quiet. Out of the silence, Cali asked, "Why didn't you go up there?" Not sure what he was talking about, I asked what he meant. "Why didn't you go up to the front when youth asked the youth ministers to go up?" he said.

"Well, I just didn't think ya'll thought of me as your youth minister and since we don't really function in that way, I thought I'd catch ya'll off guard if I went up there. I thought ya'll would think I didn't need to be up there." I said

He responded, "If you had been up there, I would have gone up."

Jamar chimed in, "Me too."

"I'll be sure to go up there next time." I said, and then we continued our conversation.

I think of this conversation often. I am humbled to indeed be seen as a minister by the boys and am reminded that my own view of self might not be that of others. Thank goodness for that!

A reflection...

by Jason

Almost from our beginning, we have used the word *family* a lot around Hyaets. Of course we use it to refer to our biological relatives. But we also use it intentionally with one another within the Hyaets community. We call our neighbors family. We speak of our intentional community as family. And we sometimes refer to our various partners and supports as part of the Hyaets family. Hyaets founders have always said that we are family and are about family.

In our society, we sometime designate friends and mentors as *family* or *kin* because we feel a close connection or special relationship or kinship to them. However, over the past few years God has been teaching me that being family is not about the way we feel or choose to connect to someone else. Family is about those people we cannot choose to be connected to because God has connected us whether we like it or not and regardless of how we feel. We do not choose our families. We do not *feel like* family. Rather, *we are family*.

The amazing gift that God gives us is the freedom to *be* family. Being family is not about freedom of choice or action (true freedom is not about those things). Rather, it is freedom to recognize who and whose we are and to embody and realize the identity and form God has given us as family.

I think part of the traditional Christian wedding ceremony quoting from Matthew 19:6 (cf. Mark 10:9) speaks to God's gift of family: *What God has joined together, let no one separate*. Marriage involves the creation of a new family because of God's action within and between two people. Through these words, Jesus reminds us that family is not created or dissolved because of our feelings, emotions, or desires. Rather, family is something that God does. And the teaching on divorce from Matthew and Mark above is an especially appropriate reminder during a time when divorce is all too common because two persons cannot get along or no longer *feel* love for one another. God joins us together (not the law or the state or any judge or piece of paper) and we cannot and should not separate.

Family is God-given gift and therefore the appropriate response is to receive family as God gives it to us. It is God who connects and joins us together in all our relationships. We must learn to humble ourselves to receive the gift of family, particularly as it makes us uncomfortable, challenges us, and crosses the lines that we draw between one another, such as race and class. Living in Enderly Park, I have come to realize through the many struggles within the Hyaets community and through the challenges of my neighbors that it is because of God's work through Christ that I can sit around a table with members of my community and walk the streets with my neighbors and live as family.

We Welcome Derek Zika



Derek has come to serve with us as a resident volunteer. We are excited to have him as a part of the community, as well as to employ his considerable energy and skill in building peace within our neighborhood.

Derek introduces himself...

Watching weeds push up through cracks in the pavement, causing the cold slabs to heave and buckle...this feeds my soul. At night sleep evades me as I remember the faces of those I know who are tonight feeling the boot of this filthy rotten system on their backs, grinding them into dust. My guilty pleasure is to avert my eyes, and go polish the egos of the rich who call me a saint as long as I leave the corpses' voices howling in the wind against the door (though the wealthy do serve amazing treats...). But then I return to the reality that my highest possible endeavor is to be a seed that falls into the crack to push it open just a bit more....

I find joy in playing with children, especially infants...and tending gardens. I also have a strange sense for fashion. Tribal folk music is a passion of mine. The forbears I look to for guidance are Dorothy Day and the Berrigan Brothers. And although I am an aspiring vegetarian, I still find the occasional slab of bloody red meat or salmon to be irresistible.

A note from our partners in Richmond...

Huguenot Road Baptist Church has had the joy of serving with our ministry partners at Hyaets for the last three years. We have been afforded a wealth of opportunities to be and experience the presence of Christ in this community. Through the breadth and depth of these opportunities, God has opened many doors for ministry, reflection, and growth. Here is just a taste of what God has taught us:

We have learned the value of relationship that happens when we return to the same ministry site over and over again. Yes, there are practical and silly things like knowing where the nearest grocery store is or where the cups are kept in the kitchen. But the true value of relationship is seeing how our lives are enriched by getting to know the community. Each visit, we find immediate connection with those we know in the neighborhood, and we pick up where we left off in the stories of each others lives. We begin to see how those stories are connected to the greater story of God’s work in the world.

We have also learned the value of time. We rarely allow time for “unscheduled” moments. Everyone from the Hyaets residents to the people of the Enderly Park community continue to teach us how to simply “be.” Rather than being caught up in the next thing to accomplish, we have learned to take moments to be with a neighbor and share the gift of presence. In the silence, the smiles, and the conversation, we experience God’s presence among us.

We have learned to see the vastness of the kingdom of God in a whole new way. As we join brothers and sisters from other churches and the Enderly Park community, we gain a better picture of the richness of the kingdom. As one of our youth observed after our last experience spent doing community activities, “The people here are so neighborly, and grateful, that here is the kingdom of heaven.”

I hope that you have heard just a little of what makes Hyaets so special to us...it’s the experience and encounter we have with the living presence of Christ each time we connect with one another. I hope you and your faith community have similar places and moments for experiencing God, and I hope that Hyaets can be that place for many of you as well!

Melissa Fallen
Huguenot Road Baptist Church
Associate Pastor for Senior Adults & Pastoral Care

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Lingering works just as well. The fruit of their Spirit is joy,
Gentleness, patience
Hanging from a vine
Waiting on some darkness-
Soil, stomach, rot—to
Begin again the
Silent revolution.

Greg



Demarcus says, “This is what I’ve learned at Hyaets: To show kind and respectful attitudes, how to come in on time, how to have the right priorities, having responsibility for myself, how to be joyful to one another, and how to care about myself.

Check out our updated website!- <http://hyaets.org>

Passion, Calling, Desires...**by Anna**

Anna Thompson has become a very valuable part of our community over the past year. She has shared her life and gifts with us for two summers and part of another year, and is becoming a permanent part of the Hyaets family. These reflections are excerpted from her recent sermon preached at Christ United Methodist Church.

...Somehow that same summer I found Hyaets, or you could say Hyaets found me. I moved into the Enderly Park neighborhood. I had finally found something that filled the urgency to make a difference; something that was actually worthwhile. Little did I know I found something that would be life changing and it was only a 15 minute ride down the road—it was in my own back yard. Hyaets is a faith based organization that strives to inspire, enrich, and embody community. The people of Hyaets are courageously loving and constantly pursuing a life that is dangerously reflective of the life of Christ. During my first walk around the Enderly Park neighborhood I was mesmerized by the joy that naturally flowed out of the children. They were kicking around an old ball along the street while cackling at who knows what. I thought to my self, “Wow, if only I could be that happy despite all the things going on in my life”. The children had huge smiles on there faces, always happy, and always excited to see a new neighbor. There was something peculiar about the people in this neighborhood, even the adults too. What was so intriguing about my new neighbors? My neighbors were so full of life!

I quickly figured out that not only do I have something to offer them, but my neighbors have something even more important to share with me about life. Despite the fragile neighborhood they lived in they had something special and I was determined to figure out what this was. The summer was over before I knew it but I believe I developed a little bit of culture shock. I was dealing with this but it became very hard for me enter into my “normal” life again. I was very disturbed by some of the things that I experienced while I was there. I wasn’t disturbed by my neighbors; in fact, I was mostly disturbed by the reaction I got when I would tell others about my experience. People just couldn’t understand the passion I had for Hyaets and the relationships that I had made. I was disturbed by the inability to see a human need and our ability to just walk away from the needs we saw. We often brush it off as those people are lazy and never ask, “Why?” We can be so caught up in stereotypes, prejudiced thought, and racist thinking that we forget to see them as children of God. We are one of the richest people in the world, yet my neighbor can’t find a job, or even if they do have a job they are unable to put food on the table when making minimum wage. For my whole life I had lived in a bubble, unable to see reality: the reality of drug addiction, being evicted, living on the streets, having to depend on one another.

I was blinded by my comfortable life style and my comfortable lifestyle soon became very uncomfortable. I had seen a homeless person before, I had even worked with Room in the Inn, but I had never immersed myself into the life of a person marginalized by society. I was mostly disturbed by the inability to value human life; to see a person in need and the inability to meet that need because of pride or fear of the unknown. I was paralyzed by some of the reactions I received and conversations I had with certain people. I didn’t know where to go and most of all I didn’t know how to apply what I experienced to my journey with God. Before my life was somewhat planned out. Even though I had a desire to do something to make a difference, I had still planned to eventually go to college, graduate, get a good paying job, meet a nice guy, marry the nice guy, get a nice house in a nice neighborhood, have nice kids someday while trying to pursue the American Dream...whatever that is. After spending time at Hyaets it was very obvious that God has called me to live a life very different from what I had planned. I couldn’t just leave Hyaets after the summer, they became my family, my support system, and my friends. I needed my neighbors to show me how to live simply and to joyfully appreciate life.

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

Hyaets: Update

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they are involved in is restoring a shed at the Parkway house, which will eventually be a place for children to gather after school. Recently, Berkeley Machen, a youth at Park Road Baptist Church, completed his Eagle Scout project by restoring the entirety of the roof (rafters and all). There is also a new coat of paint on the Parkway house, thanks to Myers Park Baptist Church Youth group. Space precludes me from mentioning all the projects that have been completed this summer.

While these restorations are easy to see, so much ministry that has occurred this summer isn't so obvious. We give thanks for our ministry in Enderly Park, for our neighbors who continue to teach us so much about God and how to live in community, and for our partners who provide money and your presence to us and our neighbors. We give thanks for the seeds that have been planted this summer and trust God that God and all of us will continue to nurture those seeds.

Upcoming Calendar

Community Meals— Sept 18, Oct 2 & 16, Nov 6 & 20, Dec 4 & 18; 6pm

Sept 27— Helms speaks at FBC Raleigh

Sept 28— CMS out of school kids activities

Oct 3— Service project day

Oct 9th-11— Mission project weekend

Oct 16-18— College Visit Trip to Raleigh

Oct 23-25th— Youth Fall Retreat

Oct 31— Hyaets Halloween

Nov 4-7— HRBC comes to Hyaets

Dec 18th— Christmas Caroling

See our website calendar, blogs, and other info at:

<http://hyaets.org>

You can help to sponsor the ministry of Hyaets by

sending a donation to :

Hyaets; 2904 Tuckaseegee Rd.

Charlotte, NC 28208

Wish List for Hyaets:

Healthy Individually Wrapped After School Snacks

Use of your tilling machine

Volunteers to work on Ms. Rosetta's house

Use of your truck and trailer

Mulch/ good top soil

Use of your really tall ladder so that we can finish painting the Parkway House

Volunteers to scrape and repaint lead paint areas on Parkway House

Free House/dog/babysitting for Hyaets partners

Volunteers to take youth to sports practice

Computer upkeep/repair

Homemade meals that we can freeze

Invitation to come and speak to your small group

Car repair