

CONNECTED

YOUTH FOR CHRIST of Northern Ohio - Newsletter

Connecting Teens To Jesus Christ And His Church

May 2024



Guest Writers | Steve Pausch

This month we are excited to have two people share who have been vital to our work with teenagers for many years. They both serve in different ways but have a lasting impact on the kids with whom we work.

Barb Engler is a member of the team that ministers to young people who are incarcerated at the Sandusky County Juvenile Justice Center (SCJJC) many days throughout the week. This team of committed, caring adults shares Bible lessons, motivational talks, and even teaches teens how to play chess.

Jon Wertz has been a blessing to our ministry site in Wadsworth, The Garage, by providing pizza weekly for our Thursday night meetings, because we all know teenagers like to eat. Jon has been willing to not only provide pizza, but he also gives up an evening at least once a year to prepare and deliver a message to the teens. The young people relate well to him and speak very highly of having him there.

Eternal Investment | Jon Wertz



My name is Jon Wertz, and I have been the owner of Fat Boys Pizza for over twenty-six years. I have had the privilege of donating pizzas to The Garage almost since its beginning.

During my time here on Earth so far, I have learned that the two most precious commodities we have are time and money. These two things monopolize much of our headspace as we spend much of our time deciding what to do with them. We ask ourselves things like, “How do I get more? How do I spend them?”

The world will say the answers to these questions revolve around me, asking, “What do I want to do with my time and money? What will make ME happy?” But God asks us to see things differently. God asks us to answer those questions through the lens of trusting God and loving others; therefore, when we invest our time and money, we aren’t looking for a return for US but a return for GOD and His Kingdom.

I have had multiple opportunities to teach the kids at The Garage about the true God of the Bible—about a God who says you are never too far gone and wants you to come home. The time I have spent with them has been invigorating for me, looking into the eyes of kids who know little to nothing about Jesus and how much He loves them. I truly can’t think of a much better way to spend my time. Most importantly, I have witnessed Matt Mountjoy loving on these kids and making sure they know they are known, loved and cared for. What a gift The Garage has been to me and to our community.

I recently became an elder of my church. In our last elder meeting, we made the decision to double our support to The Garage because we firmly believe that this ministry provides us with a powerful way to invest in our community by growing and supporting our youth for Jesus.

I am personally energized and excited to see how The Garage will continue to pour into students who need Jesus just as much I as I do. An investment for kingdom work is never futile. When we make decisions about time and money with US as the focus, we will never feel satisfied. When we use our time and money for the glory of God, we feel full and entrust our commodities to a bigger purpose—leading souls to eternity with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Relationships Lead to the Lord | Barb Engler

On Wednesdays, I meet with the girls who are in the SCJJC. Every Wednesday before going to the JJC, I stop and visit my friend Carol at her new home in Valley View Nursing Home. She is a retired middle school teacher and a former volunteer with the girls at the JJC.

Carol and I often discuss the challenges with the JJC girls and how gifted they are yet how troubled and lost. Our conversations have recently focused on one specific student, Abbie.

Abbie is a gifted poetry writer who appears to have much common sense. Abbie is 17 years old and has been in and out of the JJC four times. We have developed a special relationship, and she accepted Christ as her personal Savior July 31, 2023. Abbie spent Christmas and New Year's alone in the JJC girls pod designed to house 12 teens. Abbie is a perfect example of Romans 7:14-25.

I have shared Abbie's poetry with Carol as we discuss Abbie's issues. Upon leaving one day, Carol said, "Barb, tell Abbie I will be praying for her."

When I met Abbie, we discussed Carol and her situation in the nursing home. I told Abbie that Carol would be praying for her. Abbie then asked, "Barb, will you take me to meet Carol when I get out, I would like to thank her."

Abbie was released on a Monday. On Wednesday my scheduled day to visit Carol, I received a call from Abbie asking to go visit Carol that afternoon. Abbie's step-dad agreed to bring her to Valley View. We met in the parking lot. Abbie and I then walked thru the nursing home halls to meet and surprise Carol. Surprise it was! I had the honor of introducing my praying friend, Carol, to Abbie. There were hugs and tears. Carol then handed a folded note to Abbie saying "This is my prayer for you – I was going to send it with Barb, but instead I can give it to you today." AND that she did! Truly God's Plan.

As of this date Abbie and I have connected. She is doing well as she still struggles with the up and downs of life. This time she is not alone – God is with her. She wrote a poem for Carol, expressing her heartfelt thanks for Carol's prayers. It is printed on the back page.

Abbie's Poem for Carol

To the person I have not yet met
To the person who cares about me so much
To the person who spends their time praying for me
To the person who has all the faith in me
Without a doubt you believe in me like no other
However I don't think I believed in me
Till now
To the person who makes me feel special
To the person I care for so much
To the person who inspired me to never give up
Never the less, you, Carol, have made me believe
To the person I'm going to become
To the person who will never give up
To the person who is me.
Thanks to you I'll never put this pencil down.
I BELIEVE

 <p>YOUTH FOR CHRIST P.O. Box 323 Wadsworth, OH 44282 330-273-5794 www.northernohioyfc.com</p>	<p>Steve Pausch Executive Director</p>	<p>Local Ministry Directors:</p> <p>Scott Hulet Herb Miller Matt Mountjoy Roger Seward Stacey Stender</p>	<p>Board Members:</p> <p>John Heese Barbara Moran-Engler Eric Pfeiffer Bobby Puls Kathy Stehno</p>
	<p>Laurie Beal Director of Ministry- Wadsworth</p>	<p>Barb Pfeiffer Office Manager</p>	