



Quarterly
Newsletter
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**A Message from:
the Executive Director**

There is an old saying that says, "You should never talk politics and religion with a friend if you value their friendship". Earlier this month, I had the privilege to participate in a Rochester Christian College event called the **House of God**



Rufus Harris

Sessions. It was a panel discussion / debate on the subject *BIG CHURCH / little church: A conversation about church growth, evangelism, and church in the age of marketing.*

Imagine a college classroom where there are seated - facing one another on living room furniture - six ministers (some of whom are pastors) and a student moderator / interviewer Calvin Moore. Around the ministers and moderator are seated students and/or visitors. The ministers came from fellowships which have been deemed as: large, medium and small congregations. In this event, the large fellowships represented 22,000 and 6,000 members; the medium fellowships represented 200 and 1000 members; and the small fellowships represented 10 – 15 members (and I'll add our case "on a good day" 10 – 15 members).

By the moderator; students; and/or visitors, we were asked; talked and debated about questions like the following and more:

- What is the Church?
- Is numerical growth a sign of an effective church?
- What is the responsibility of the church to keep people from falling through the cracks?
- And a similar question, what is the responsibility of person who is in danger of falling through the cracks?
- Do large churches spend too much money on the church building?

- What is the responsibility of a pastor to have a personal relationship with the people in his or her church?

We agreed with one another and at times even heatedly but respectfully disagreed with one another. It was a great event and probably the most significant public spiritual event I've ever been a part. We talked openly and frankly. You can listen to these sessions at the following link:

[**BIG CHURCH / little church Panel Discussion**](#)

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In preparation for the event, I looked to the Scriptures and *not* to what has been called "the Church" the last 1700 years. The Greek word for "church" is not a "religious" word at all it is simply defined as "a gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public place; an assembly of people"¹. In scripture, the word is used to describe a group of folks that are together to discuss a topic; the Israelites gathered together; a mob; and it is also describes a meeting of Christian believers. It is translated: as an assembly of any kind of people *secular or the followers of Christ.*²

I found that the Lord Jesus used the word and it was translated "church" 3 times in scripture to:

1. Indicate that this assembly believers which are built upon the fact (or opinion) that Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah) the Son of the Living God. That is, the assembly of people that even the gates of hell will not overcome.
2. And twice Jesus used the word when judgment on issues was required in the assembly of his followers.

These instances of the word "church" are worthy of prayerful thought and consideration.



¹ SC 225 Thayer's Greek Lexicon

² See Acts 2:47; 7:38; 19:32-41

However another instance of the word "church" absolutely blows me away is found in 1Timothy 3:15.

... God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. (NIV)

It says that the church is God's household, the assembly of the living God, **the pillar and foundation of the truth!** Wow! Those who follow Christ are the support and establishment of **the truth** – that is, they are the support and establishment of what is true in *any* matter under consideration (opposed to what is insincere, fictitious, or false)³. What the Scripture says about the Church is truly significant.

That old saying that says "you never talk politics or religion with friends if you value their friendship" to me that is false, especially if you humbly believe that the Lord Jesus and his word are the truth. Christianity is not about just hugging the folks that agree with us. We need to be willing to share the truth we understand; willing to listen; and truly consider the opinions being shared.

It's something to think about...

Rufus

Get ready... Get set... Here We Go!



We are gearing up for the first show of the year and we're looking forward to seeing you there. We'll feature the band – "The Choir Visible" formerly know as No

Other Name from Owosso MI and poet – "Angel Rivers." But first, a look at what happened at our October show.

Beth Stalker

Beth performed at our last show of 2007 accompanied by **Jim Rawlings** on acoustic Guitar. She shared a combination of songs from her current CD – "Here with You" and some great new songs from her upcoming CD to be released later this



year. Of course, her set was chuck-full of her rich vocals and tremendously inspiring lyrics about God and relationships.



Beth's passionate delivery coupled with Jim's skill on guitar made the night wonderfully complete. We hope to have Beth

and Jim back very soon to share songs from the new CD. As a side note, Beth was recently featured as a contestant on **American Idol**. She is listed as **Elizabeth Stalker** on the show and she made it through the first round. If you are a fan of the show, make sure to look for her in upcoming episodes.

Tracy Price

In our **Poet's Corner** our resident poet shared inspiring readings written by **Michael Hildebrandt**. The first entitled *Fallen* spoke about man's deliverance from a fallen state because of God's mercy. The 2nd was called *The Heavens Declare*. This piece dealt with the wonders of creation and the sacrifice of Christ.



Andrew Hively



Andrew is always a real treat at **4thFridays**. He performed a great combination of songs from his acoustic project – *Peacefully Blue* and his new Electric CD – *The Awesome Immensity*.

He shared thoughts behind the music and performed songs that evoked images and sounds of everything from raindrops falling to petals of grace. Andrew's set was melodic; very tasty and absolute skillful.

rufus harris

The house band (**Jeannine Gardner-Washington, Mo Jones**) was great – Rufus and the band performed well opening and closing out the show.

³ See footnote 1



faith). Her unforgettable words coupled with her expressive delivery and creative rhythms have made her one of areas finest Christian poets in town. She'll share pieces from her latest CD entitled *This is Poetry*.

rufus harris will – of course - share some tunes opening and closing the show with new keyboardist – **Martin Stuart**.



Jeannine and Mo

Coffee – The Coffee Brew mister invites you to stop by the coffee table and enjoy this month's featured flavor.

Raffle - With admission, you'll receive a ticket for our raffle. The drawing is held near the end of the show. You can win music and coffee in a little blue jean tote

Here's what's coming up this Friday January 25th

Other News

Institutional Ministry

3rd Mondays in Milan – Okay, that's not the official name but it is a unique opportunity for the CAMP to work in conjunction with Prison Fellowship doing Prison Ministry at the only Federal Prison in Michigan. Every third Monday of the month from 7-8:30pm, the CAMP will bring in gifted musicians, poets, comedians and speakers to this Milan facility. If you would like more information or would like to participate, contact the CAMP at: 248-872-1197 or Prison Fellowship at 248-886-0881. Note: You will be required to take a training class in order to participate in this event.



The Choir Visible (Formerly No Other Name)

The mission of Choir Visible begins with the desire to glorify God through Spirit led music. From big progressive rock with symphonic twists to intimate piano/vocal praise - their latest album is a fulfilling musical experience. What started as the No Other Name project has blossomed into The Choir Visible: A very meaningful collection of songs of worship which incorporate elements of classic rock, moving improvisation, and artistic beauty. Their skill and beautiful melodies will amaze and delight you. Don't miss them on Jan. 25th. www.thechoirvisible.com

Festivals & Special Events

The CAMP is planning Storytellers 2008. Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 31st, 2008. We are also seeking sponsors for the event.

Angel Rivers

Angel started writing poetry in the summer of 1998 as a result of a difficult situation that she encountered in her life. She believes God has used her gift of poetry to deliver and heal her through the turmoil she faced and that He now uses it to inspire all who lend an ear. What makes her style of poetry unique is the strong apologetic lyrics (defending the



Media

JustRadio.NET is still going strong. It continues to attract new listeners from all over the world and receives great reviews.

Artist Resources

The artist workshop entitled "Effectively Sharing the Good News" will be offered in the spring. Stay tuned for dates and times.

2ndFridays in Flushing – We are so pleased to announce a new venue we are planning with the

wonderful folks at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Flushing. The folks there like what we do at **4thFridays** and want to host a similar event at their church which is located in the Flint area. We will hold three 2ndFridays shows from March thru May to test it out in that area. It will be another opportunity for independent artists to share their gift. If you are interested in performing, email us at: info@theCampOnline.org

Angel Tree concert featuring rufus – Come and Listen: A Christmas concert and benefit for Angel Tree was held last month was a success despite the inclement weather which caused the event to be rescheduled for Dec. 28th. Rufus shared songs from his Christmas album (Come and Listen) to benefit the children of prisoners. The event was held at Dexter United Methodist Church. It was great to see some of our attendees from 4thFridays. And surprisingly, they won three out of the four raffles that night. **Special thanks to the wonderful people at Dexter UMC for all of their hard work.**



www.redletterrecords.com and support these independent artists by purchasing music downloads for only .99 cents and entire albums for only \$9.50.

Ways to Give... You can give financially (by check, cash or online), via eBay, by giving flowers, or by donating your used vehicle. Valentines Day is right around the corner. Consider purchasing flowers at BloomDepot for that special someone. And you can support the CAMP at the same time. Visit www.theCampOnline.org/giving_flowers.html

Make a financial donation – Your generous gift will help us reach our goal of promoting independent Christians artists while providing spiritual enrichment to the community through the arts. All donations are tax-deductible. You will receive a letter from the CAMP stating that you donated to our organization. Help us make a difference today. For those of you who donated to the CAMP in 2007, you will be receiving a statement shortly. Thank you for your support.

Cowman - The Moosical Fundraiser
Cowman featuring funnyman **Joe Gautier** is scheduled for this May. It will be a fun event for the whole family. We'll keep you posted on dates, times and locations.



Red Letter Records – Some of you know that Red Letter Records is the co-sponsor of 4thFridays. The RLR site as been down for several months due to an unfortunate mistake made at the hosting site, but it is being rebuilt and will be up again very soon.

The site features many of the artists featured at 4thFridays. When it is back up please visit



4thFridays is presented by the CAMP
(Christian Artists & Musicians Project)

The CAMP is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization
Come check out 4thFridays

This month in **Studio A**

At the *beautiful*

Ford Community & Performing Arts Center

15801 Michigan Ave. Dearborn, MI
between Southfield & Greenfield Roads

Doors open at 8pm/Show starts at 8:30pm

Admission: \$10 (checks and money orders accepted)

Please make them payable to: "The CAMP"

Contact Us

248-872-1197

info@theCampOnline.org

Visit us on line at www.theCampOnline.org

Board of Directors:

President - Denise Strong
Vice President - Michael Brewer
Treasurer - Lawrence O. Strong
Secretary- Mildred Sheats
Board Member - Paul Kelley
Rufus Harris - Executive Director

Other helpers:

Rod Sledge – sound engineer
Paul Kulik - lighting
Kim Strong – coffee brew mister's assistant



Credits:

October performance photos by Denise Strong and Rufus Harris
Written and edited by Denise Strong and Rufus Harris

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