

# Walking Together

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 9

MAY 2008

MIKE & BETH MATTES  
CCO MINISTRY

TRANSFORMING COLLEGE  
STUDENTS TO  
TRANSFORM THE WORLD

*If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.*

*Philippians 2:1-2*



## Spring Planting

Written By Beth

May Newsletter  
at a Glance

- Flowers from our new neighbor
- Planting & life-on-life discipleship
- Did you know? CCO Facts & Dates
- Spring retreat & paintball fun!
- Tim Keller share on faith & apologetics
- Prayers, student living with us!
- A low support month, budgeting

### What we are Reading

**BETH**

Blue Like Jazz (Again)

**MIKE**

Creation Regained (Again)

**Together**

Harry Potter Book 4 (Still)

Now that it is getting warmer and sunnier outside, we are able to enjoy spending more time outside working on our yard. This also seems to be the sentiment of the neighborhood as many of our neighbors are now working on their yards as well. One of our neighbors (behind us) has even given us many of her extra flowers! It has been fun working on creating new flower beds in our yard and we now have daisies in full bloom! We have been enjoying seeing what plants and bushes are coming up in our yard.



Katie & Beth replanting bushes from backyard

We have been busy weeding and transplanting different bushes and flowers in the yard in hopes to make the most of the plants we have discovered. Some of my students have taken to our buying a home as an opportunity to do the “home things” they miss while in college. Katie, who I disciple, is one such student. We ended up spending the afternoon replanting some bushes that were dying in hopes to bring forth new life. Sharing in the experience has allowed us to form a stronger bond in intentional life-on-life discipleship.

## Spring Institute

Written By Mike

“Spring Institute” is a time set aside at the end of May for ongoing training and professional development within the CCO. We gathered with the rest of the CCO staff at University of Pittsburgh Johnstown campus for a week and enjoyed seminars, classes, worship, activities, and much more as the whole CCO community.

As an Area Director, I sat in on a series of supervisory seminars along with other supervisors within the CCO. One of these seminars covered the history of the CCO, as it is important to know where we have been in order to understand where we are going! During this seminar I learned insightful dates and facts that I thought you might enjoy... Did you know?

- The CCO was chartered in 1971 by John Guest (musician, evangelist and pastor) and

other key youth ministry leaders in Pittsburgh.

- The CCO statement of faith was written by R.C.Sproul. He played an important role in the training of the first CCO staff.
- The CCO’s first church co-op was with Graystone Presbyterian (Indiana, PA) and our first college co-op was with Waynesburg College (now University, in Waynesburg, PA).
- The first official Jubilee conference was in 1978 (the year I was born!).
- In the 1980s two books were written by CCO staff (“All of Life Redeemed” and “At Work & At Play”)
- The present core purpose and core values of the CCO were put together in 1999.

## Spring Retreat

Written By Beth

To continue the tradition of a Spring Retreat between OSU Students and members of West Second church, we spent a weekend in May camping with one day playing paintball (the pastor had received several free tickets). Now you can imagine that many of the male students were really excited about a paintball excursion though many of the female students were a bit skittish of the idea of shooting paintballs, or rather, getting shot by paintballs (myself included)! Though after talking the female students into the excitement of going to play paintball, we had a couple of girls who were willing to stand up to the challenge of this male dominant sport. We even had a little bit of a competitive spirit growing the days leading up to the Spring Retreat.

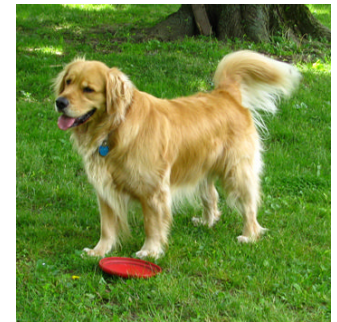
We camped for an evening with a couple of students along with Kevin (pastor of West Second church) and his family. It was relaxing - sitting by the fire and sharing fun stories with each

other while we cooked hot dogs, s'mores, and mountain pies. The students enjoyed the family like atmosphere with two little boys running between the tents chasing a raccoon with their flashlights! The camping experience allowed the students to open up with one another differently then when on campus. In the morning we headed to the paintball grounds. There were fourteen of us in our group and so we split into two teams to play games against each other for most the day. As there were only four girls, we teamed up and watched each other's backs. At the beginning it was intimidating; but after a couple of games we were all enjoying ourselves and becoming more daring - and even having fun.

(Though - no matter what people say - when you get hit with a paintball... it hurts!)



Don't mess with these Paint Ball Girls (left to right): Megan, Beth, Rachel, Heather



*"Yep - Frisbee toss is the only true sport, in my opinion..."*

*- Lewis, Our Golden Retriever*

## An Evening with Tim Keller

Written By Mike

Tim Keller is the senior pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian in New York City and has recently written a book entitled, "The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism". The CCO hosted an evening with Tim Keller at Carnegie Music Hall in Pittsburgh which was attended by most CCO staff (including me) and also many from the community of Pittsburgh. Tim Keller addressed how it takes "faith to doubt", there is a "problem without" and the "beauty within" God as understood to be True by the Christian faith.

Keller first addressed how it takes faith to doubt that there is an all powerful God, one true religion, Biblical teaching and the necessity of proof. He explained with great clarity how each of these four thoughts draw unto themselves faith

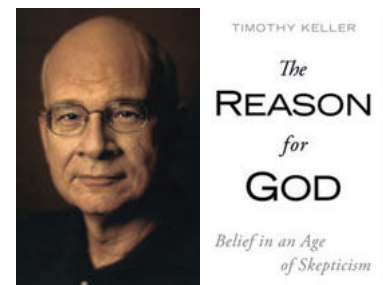
"Every effort to disprove [God], though significant, all fall short.... It is a huge leap of faith not to believe in God if there might be [God]." - Tim Keller

assumptions of their own... and showed quite honestly how it is impossible to live without faith (either in the existence of or the non-existence of God). Tim Keller then worked through how the lack of faith in God leads to problems when addressing: the fine tuning of the universe, significance of love & beauty,

moral obligation and human rights. He was able to show that without God each of these

topics would lack the ability to find any grounds for explanation. Finally, he talked about the beauty within God, the Truth claims of the Bible, and our need for Jesus Christ.

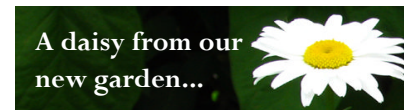
Tim Keller's sincerity of speech and his ability to speak concisely is a gift which he is using to invite others to consider Truth of the Gospel.



Pastor Tim Keller, author of "The Reasons for God: Belief in an age of Skepticism"

## Praises & Prayer Requests

Written by Mike and Beth



The saying “April showers bring May flowers” is definitely true because we have been seeing new growth sprouting throughout our yard as the sun is beginning to shine. The new growth in the flowers reminds us of the new growth we can see in ourselves, our students, our friends and fellow CCO staff.

- Praise for the sunny days and rainy days
- Praise for neighbors who share their extra flowers with us
- Praise for the camping retreat and paintball excursion with students as we learn to play and laugh more together
- Praise for the time we had a Spring Institute with learning and spending quality time with other CCO staff, friends
- Praise for a great evening with Tim Keller, and for those whom may have committed their lives to Christ
- Pray for OSU students as they finish the quarter and head into summer and that they will continue to put Christ in the center of their lives

- Prayer for present CCO position development work in Central and Southern Ohio; specifically at Otterbein College, Ohio Dominican University, University of Cincinnati and Xavier University
- Prayer for Beth’s summer Bible Study with students
- Prayer for Mike’s travels back and forth from New Staff Training, which takes place at Grove City College
- Prayer for our support team growth and development

We are so excited for this summer and the opportunity to open our new house to family, friends, students and our neighbors! We are excited to be having a student live with us this summer which will help to put some of our vacant space to use! There is much that we are thankful for heading into this summer and we are impressed daily by God’s faithfulness and ability to excite our lives as we continually grow in our faithfulness unto Him!

God is Good (All The Time).

## Low Support Month

Written by Mike

Unfortunately after celebrating a high month of support in April, we must report a low month of financial support for the month of May. This actually marks our lowest monthly support amount for this fiscal year, and shows our need to continue to add friends to our financial support team. We **thank you** for your diligent support and your prayers for this ministry, God is faithful and He continues to provide for our needs... so to you we say “**Thank You**” and to God be all the glory!

We are so very thankful for the ways many of you continue to share in your own financial blessings, even in this time when you may be feeling the budget pinch of rising gas prices and economic woes... Our small group Bible study recently had a convicting conversation on the topic of money and wealth, both on an individual level and national level. Out of that discussion, Beth and I have put ourselves on a stick budget and God has impressed upon us how to be more faithful with our own tithe and every day expenses! Both of us have felt extremely blessed and encouraged by God through our being obedient with where and how we spend our money! We want you to know that we truly appreciate your giving of your own resources as a means to serve with us in ministry to college students. **Thank You!**

If you are interested in financially supporting our work in ministry with the CCO and at Ohio State. Here is how:

### Give Online:

Visit: <https://secured.ccojubilee.org/gifts/>  
 Select: Mattes, Mike & Beth

### Write a Check:

Payable to: Coalition for Christian Outreach  
 Check Memo: Mattes, Mike & Beth  
 Address: Coalition for Christian Outreach  
 5912 Penn Avenue  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15206-3805

May	Amount (%)	Goal
Monthly Support	\$3,745 (71%)	\$5,250
Year-to-Date Support	\$41,160 (87%)	\$47,250

**Year (September 2007 - August 2008) goal is \$63,000**

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**Coming in July 2008!**

**<http://www.TheMattesHome.com>**

**Blog, Photos and Much More!**



transforming college students to transform the world

[www.ccojubilee.org](http://www.ccojubilee.org)

The CCO is an organization committed to transforming college students to transform the world. We accomplish this by partnering with churches, colleges and organizations to develop men and women who live out their Christian faith in every area of life.

**If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ,  
if any comfort from His love,  
if any fellowship with the Spirit,  
if any tenderness and compassion,  
then make my joy complete by being like-minded,  
having the same love,  
being one in spirit and purpose.**

**-Philippians 2:1, 2-**