Local News



Lyrics For Luke: Singing For Life!

MAY 07TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

Lyrics For Luke: Singing For Life!

By Annabeth Miller, ShowMe Times Editor

It was about fun and friendship, and community and caring; it was a night of celebrating life and youth and rock 'n roll!

The Dexter High School Student Council rallied the student body and the community on Saturday to help a peer, friend, and classmate - a fellow Bearcat. On Saturday evening they filed into the DHS Gym for *Lyrics for Luke* – a fun fundraiser to help sophomore Luke Lewis.

Luke is the son of Michelle and Stephen Quinton, and the family moved to Dexter from Indiana just before the start of the 2011-2012 academic year. Since early this year he has battled stage 3 non-Hodgkins lymphoma and has been receiving medical treatment for at Children's Hospital in St. Louis. He has gone through some tough treatments — chemotherapy, blood thinners and more. And because of the treatments he has lost his hair, is weak and is susceptible to flu-like symptoms and coughs. There have been trips back-and-forth to St. Louis and long stays in the hospital.

But Luke, his family and the community were all on hand Saturday for a great night of music. Students JT Putnam and band, Brandon Moore and Joseph Greer all joined The Buzz for a fantastic night of fun. Folks in the bleachers and in chairs on the gym floor taped toes, clapped and sang along with the music. Younger kids danced on the gym floor and enjoyed the reverie.

The DHS STUCO sponsored the evening, one of several projects the group has planned this semester to help Lewis. STUCO members took admission at the door, sold t-shirts, candy, helped set up the chairs and equipment, gave out lime green ribbons (the "color" for on-Hodgkins lymphoma) and helped organize the signing of a large banner for Lewis.

"It was a success," declared DHS counselor and STUCO Advisor Jennifer Miller. "We had room for about 250 people and it looked pretty well looked full."

Miller said the Dexter community and the students and school system have been very supportive of the STUCO efforts and of Luke and his family.

"The comunity's been awesome," Miller said. "I can't get over how much they've done. The whole community has come out. Tonight was a great time for a great cause. Everybody had a good time."

Luke and his family were on hand - sitting front-and-center in the front row and enjoying every minute of the evening.

The local band The Buzz, led by Scott Kruse, helped organize the event and showcase their rock 'n roll music during the night.

Kruse calls Lewis a "hero."

"There are students who have challenges, but not many of them are taking chemo, loosing their hair and fighting like this," he said. "It's a respectable thing that these kids are doing to come together for Luke."

The t-shirts sold by STUCO said it all -

"When there's a cure for cancer We will SING for joy. Until then we'll sing for LIFE!"

Photo Above: Austin Richardson (right) gives Luke Lewis a big hug at the end of Lyrics for Luke on Saturday night. (ShowMe Times photo by Annabeth Miller)

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Community Gathers Together To Pray

MAY 04TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

Community Gathers Together To Pray

By Annabeth Miller, ShowMe Times Editor

Ministers from the Dexter area expressed their faith in our nation and asked for wisdom and guidance on our nation's leader in the local observance of the National Day of Prayer.

The Dexter Ministerial Alliance sponsored the event and more than 75 attended the event on the lawn in front of the Dexter City Administration Building on Stoddard Street.

Rev. Kenneth Biggs of the First General Baptist Church opened the prayer service with a verse from the Old Testament book of 1 Chronicles: "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

The gathering then united and faced the American Flag flying in front of the city building, and joined voices in singing "The Star Spangled Banner."

"I know we all live in some very troubled times and many of use are disappointed in some things in our nation, and yet we are all still proud to be Americans and very thankful for the land we live in," said Pastor Micheal Kohlbaker. He asked those gathered Thursday to consider "where we are as a nation" and then he led the first prayer of the service, a Prayer of Confession and Repentance, asking God to "forgive us as a nation where we have gone astray."

As the birds sang, the breeze blew the leaves in the trees, trains travelled through town and traffic zipped by on Stoddard Street, those gathered for the service quietly stood casually about the front lawn. In the gathering were a number of local officials, including County Commission Carol Jarrell, Mayor Joe Weber, Sheriff Carl Hefner, and City Administrator Mark Stidham.

"Speaker of the House Tip O'Neal in the Reagan years said that 'all politics is local'," said Pastor Steve Tippen. He then led a prayer for the local officials in the community.

A number of pastors from the community led prayers during the noontime service:

- Pastor Micheal Kohlbaker: Prayer of Confession and Repentence
- Father David Dohong: Prayer for Federal Officials
- Pastor Josh Carpenter: Prayer for State Officials
- Pastor Steve Tippen: Prayer For Local Officials
- Pastor Roy Sherfield: Prayer for the Educational System
- Pastor Roger Wooten: Prayer for Those who Serve and Protect (Militry, Police, Fire)
- Pastor Steve Easterwood: Prayer for the Judicial System
- Pastor Lonny Mittag: Prayer for the upcoming election

The National Day of Prayer is organized each year by the NDP Task Force. The first call to prayer was done by the Continental Congress in 1775. It didn't have an official annual observance until 1952 when President Harry Truman signed a joint resolution made by the U.S. Congress.

The idea of an annual day of prayer was enshrined in law under President Truman in 1952, and President Reagan signed a 1988 law calling for the event to be held on the first Thursday of each May.

Where President George W. Bush welcomed National Day of Prayer leaders to the White House, President Obama has taken a more aloof approach to the task force and to the Day of Prayer itself.

The White House listed the president's schedule for May 3 as including a lunch with the vice president, a meeting with senior aides, and some remarks at a Cinco de Mayo Reception in the Rose Garden. The president's proclamation included an exhortation to pray for members of America's armed forces, and for "those who are sick, mourning, or without hope," and to "ask God for the sustenance to meet the challenges we face as a Nation."

Mitt Romney, poised to become the Republican nominee for president, released his own statement of prayer. "Today I join with people of all faiths to express devotion and gratitude to the Lord, who has so richly blessed us," he said. His concluding phrase appeared to be a nod to the task force evangelicals, calling on "the Lord [to] keep us strong and free and we will remain one nation under God."

Photo Above: Pastor Michael Kohlbaker was one of the pastors who lead prayer at the National Day of Prayer service in Dexter Thursday. The annual service was sponsored by the Dexter Ministerial Alliance. (ShowMe Times photo by Annabeth Miller)

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May ShowMe Spotlight: Jessica Snider

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May ShowMe Spotlight: Jessica Snider

ShowMe May Spotlight

It's May - and it's a busy month, especially for Jessica Snider, who is in the ShowMe Spotlight for the month. Jessica is a senior at Dexter High School and will graduate with with the Class of 2012 later this month. Jessica is the daughter of Jeff and Debbie Snider, and she is the Senior Class president, a member of Dexter Honor Society, the Future Teachers of America, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Future Farmers of America, the DHS tennis team and the Kickin' Cats Dance Team. May is truly a busy month - with DHS Graduation on May 18, and a month that includes Cinco de Mayo (May 5), the anniversary of the World War II V-E Day -Victory in Europe - (May 8), Mothers Day (May 13), and Memorial Day (May 28).

We also celebrate our teachers on National Teachers Day on May 8 and our nurses on Nurses Day on May 12. The ShowMe Spotlight is a monthly feature of the ShowMe Times, featuring one of the Top 12 finalists in the annual Miss Dexter Pageant sponsored by the Dexter High School Music Department. (Photo by SMT Reader Shannon Putnam. Thanks, Shannon, for everything!!)

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Dexter Gathers For National Day Of Prayer

APRIL 30TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

Dexter Gathers For National Day Of Prayer

By Annabeth Miller, ShowMe Times Editor

Dexter residents will join with Americans from coast to coast this week, as all join hands and bow their heads in prayer for the National Day of Prayer.

The Dexter Ministerial Alliance will mark the special day with a community observance as 12:15 p.m., Thursday, May 3 at the Dexter Administrative Building on Stoddard Street. The community is invited to join pastors from a number of area churches for a few moments of prayer and community Christian fellowship.

Rev. Don Biggs said the Dexter observance would include time for prayer for national, state and local officials, as well as for the country's military.

"We'll also pray for our fire and police protection, our educational system, for the judiciary, and for our nation's upcoming election," Biggs is the chairman of the Dexter Ministerial Alliance, which is hosting the local National Day of Prayer observance.

"We have found that 12:15 p.m. is a good time for us," Biggs added. "People get out of work for lunch, and this gives them enough time to get to city hall."

In case of rain, Biggs said the prayer service would move across the street to the First Christian Church.

Biggs said the theme to this year's National Day of Prayer is "One Nation Under God" and is taken from Psalms 33:12: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."

Emphasis of prayer will be on what the NDP organization calls the seven centers of power: government, military, media, business, education, church and family.

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress, and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. On January 25, 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed into law the designation of the first Thursday in May as the annual observance for the National Day of Prayer.

The National Day of Prayer tradition predates the founding of the United States of America, evidenced by the Continental Congress' proclamation in 1775 setting aside a day of prayer. In 1952, Congress established an annual day of prayer and, in 1988, that law was amended, designating the National Day of Prayer as the first Thursday in May.

Photo Above: Steve Easterwood of First Baptist Church, Larry Colvin, former pastor at First Christian Church, and Phil Warren of Liberty Hill Church, were members of the clergy who participated in the 2011 National Day of Prayer observance in Dexter. This year the community will gather for National Day of Prayer at 12:15 p.m., Thursday, May 3, at the Dexter City Hall. (ShowMe Times archive photo by Annabeth Miller)

Link of Interest

National Day of Prayer

National Day of Prayer Video

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Farm Labor Rule Scrapped By Feds

APRIL 27TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

Farm Labor Rule Scrapped By Feds

By Annabeth Miller, ShowMe Times Editor

The U.S. Department of Labor has withdrawn a controversial proposal that would have placed more stringent rules on minors' work on farms.

"The decision to withdraw this rule — including provisions to define the 'parental exemption' — was made in response to thousands of comments expressing concerns about the effect of the proposed rules on small family-owned farms," the Labor Department said in a written statement. "To be clear, this regulation will not be pursued for the duration of the Obama administration."

The proposed rules would have barred children younger than 16 from operating tractors or heavy farm equipment on nonfamily farms. They would not have applied to children working on their own family farms.

After a public outcry when the regulations were proposed last year, the department said in February that it would review the possible labor laws.

U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson said Thursday evening that the proposal was out of step with the reality on family farms in Missouri.

"We don't need much proof that this Administration doesn't understand rural America, but this proposal was clearly out of step with the reality of growing up on a farm or ranch in Missouri and many other parts of the country," she said. "Doing chores, driving tractors and helping out on the family farm or ranch is a fundamental part of the formative experience in rural America. It guarantees the passage of a family business from one generation to the next, and it is also how our young farmers and ranchers get a head start on their lifelong dream of having their own operation some day."

Emerson has opposed the rule since 2011, when it was first put forward by the Department of Labor. The Eighth District Member of Congress cosponsored legislation to stop the action and sent several letters to the Administration urging that the rulemaking to abandoned.

"The agricultural sector is one bright spot in our rural and our national economy. Yet, it is fraught with risk, extremely dependent on energy, and reliant on Americans who work from sunup to sundown. This rule struck at the heart and soul of thousands of family businesses in Southern Missouri. Unfortunately, we have seen time and time again that this is an Administration which regulates first and asks questions later," Emerson said. "I think, this time, the objections were too obvious to ignore."

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