



"One reason a dog can be such a comfort when you're feeling blue is is

The Dog Days of Summer

A Closer Walk



July 15th-17th, at Morey's Piers ~ Excitement and enthusiasm radiated from the beach as youth groups unpacked and took shelter in what became a tent city at the sea for the 9th annual "Closer Walk" event along the Wildwood beach, drawing thousands of Christian youth from the tri-state area for a long weekend of fellowship, rekindling, camping on the shore and growing closer in relationship with God. From Thursday to Saturday, the beaches at Morey's Piers became a Tent City with thousands of youth groups taking refuge in God while enjoying the shore and amusements.

Joel Johnson, co-host of "Acquire the Fire" youth conference guest spoke about how God can take people through the hardest times in life and turn them around for good. The message came from personal experience, Johnson having faced an alcoholic stepfather, abuse and obesity, and persevered by the power and grace of God. Most participants found the sessions exceptionally powerful. Christian bands Building 429 and Pocket Full of Rocks performed worship music.

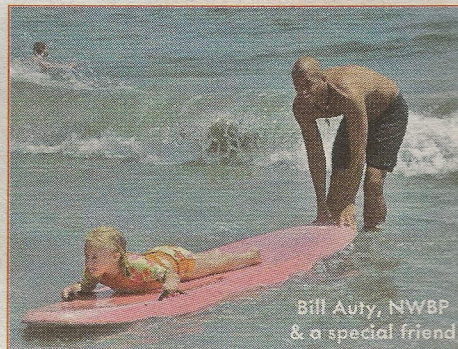
Ocean baptisms on Friday morning were the pinnacle of the event, where participants declared their decisions to follow Christ in such a memorably landmarked setting and receiving a certificate of commemoration. The weekend resulted in changed lives with hearts touched and transformed through God's sacrificial love.

A Closer Walk Christian Youth Event was the perfect combination of camping, worship, friendship and amusements to the Jersey Shore under the direction of CEO, Will Morey. Some groups have attended the event every year since its start in 2001.

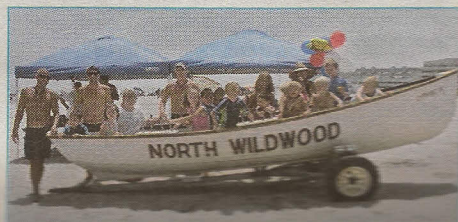
"We provide youth pastors with a unique, relaxed format to reach out to their youth as they guide them in their spiritual journey with Christ. We see teens, youth leaders and parents receive a positive life changing experience," says Merideth Fiorucci, Director of Group Services. Friday's baptisms proved her point and spoke for themselves.

A SUMMER IN PHOTOS:
this page of events & photos
by Josh Kinney

21 Down



Bill Auty, NWBP
& a special friend



July 23rd, North Wildwood Beach— The NWBP hosted their 2nd Annual Beach Day benefiting **21 Down**, an organization supporting families with developmental disabilities, particularly Down syndrome awareness.

The event started last year with 5 families and grew to an estimated 15 this year. The NWBP provides for a fun day of swimming, activities and games that is not only centered on fun, but also incorporates educational purposes like life guard and ocean safety, marine life, and what to do if you get lost on the beach. Participating families spent the day connecting with each other over shared experiences. Having non-disabled children come to the Beach Day helped bridged the gap and join together the two for a relaxed day and memorable experience.

21 Down strives to integrate children and families with special needs inside the community. They want to create memories through outings such as dances, trips, activities and other monthly events. The NWBP help create those memories at the shore, turning what would be a typical family beach day into a grand occasion for families to get together, support, encourage, and network.

"We want the kids to get in the water and have fun," said Bill Auty, a beach patrol medic and patrol lieutenant in North Wildwood. He and his wife Lauren organize and run the six hour event. 21 Down and the beach patrol plan to host the beach day again next year and for many years to come, so there's plenty of time to get involved.

21 Down's only FUNdraiser (emphasis on the "fun") is the Buddy Walk on Sunday, September 26th in Ocean City. If you're interested in sponsoring, participating, or just want more information please email infor@21down.org

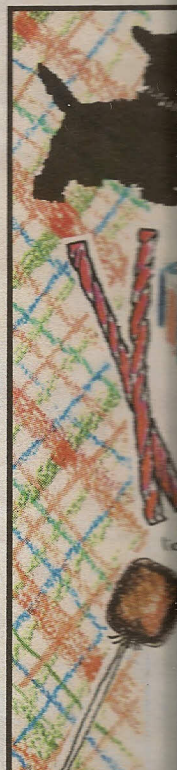
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The Dog Days of Summer

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Will Rowe from Kentucky, made his 1st Wildwood experience a memorable one with Breakfast in the Sky. Anyone can call to reserve a spot on the Giant Wheel to be whisked away on a breakfast experience unlike any other, 160 feet above sea level. Advanced Reservation Required: Call (609) 846-1624 to reserve your table.

Breakfast in the Sky

It's the highest breakfast in South Jersey (unless you're in an airplane). July 23rd Morey's Piers introduced their latest ingenious initiative, Breakfast in the Sky aboard the famous Wildwood Ferris wheel. For the first time guests enjoyed the spectacular sunrise view 160 feet above the beach while indulging in Executive Chef Walter Jurusz's handpicked culinary meals such as scrambled eggs with salmon and shrimp and lobster omelets.

With a fresh dawn ocean breeze whisking through the cars, the mighty Atlantic coastline can be seen stretching the entire island to Cape May. This isn't just breakfast on a Ferris wheel; it's a high class restaurant with fine heavy china standing firmly against the wind, white linen tablecloths, and an incomparable view where guests are

eloquently catered to be wheel-side servers. Will Rowe, 21, a visitor from Lexington, Kentucky, enjoyed his first morning in the state of New Jersey aboard the giant ferris wheel, checking out from above, the island that became his vacation playground for the week and where he wishes to move someday.

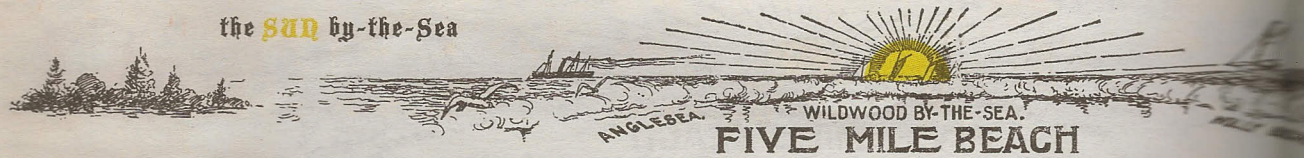
Jack Morey and his creative team at the Piers have transformed the Ferris Wheel this summer that isn't just juice and a bagel but rather fine dining and top notch service. Many keep asking why the great idea wasn't thought of earlier. Will Morey said, "We want our guests to leave saying 'wow, what an awesome ride... and darn those eggs were great too!' If anyone was looking to take their lover out on a creative date that was far above the rest, Breakfast in the Sky was this summer's chance.

Beach LaX

July 17th Morey's Piers Beach Lacrosse~ The sand was swarming with energy and competition as the first beach lacrosse tournament was played in the U.S. bringing a new sporting crowd to Wildwood as competitors from regional schools versed each other in Morey's Piers Beach Lacrosse and Soccer matches during the weekend of July 17-18. The sunny weather and ocean breeze was ideal for the beach sport and boardwalk amusements. Games were played five against five, four field players and a goalie with two 18-minute halves and four-minute breaks. Wildwood's beaches allowed the perfect amount of vast open space for the games, the fields being 30 by 40 yards. Teams traveled from all over the regional northeast to participate in the tournament and enjoy all that is the Wildwoods in the summertime. The beach between the piers teemed with vigorous players while spectators on the boardwalk rested and watched from the Douglas Fudge Pavilion.

Merideth Fiorucci, Director of Group Services at Morey's Piers said, "Our team traveled to the Netherlands to research the only known instance of organized beach lacrosse because we wanted to bring this sport to the Wildwoods' beaches. As far as we know, it is the first tournament of its kind in the U.S. We're bringing one of the fastest growing youth sports and a new audience to the Wildwoods."





"Don't think you're on the right road just because it's a well-beaten"

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Ghost Ship



After a WWII experiment in the Philadelphia shipyard led to the vanishing of a warship, summer of 2010 brought about its reappearance on the Wildwood Boardwalk. The Ghost Ship, known as the Ignis Fatuus made its Memorial Day unveiling as the latest creative attraction on Morey's Piers. Around 12 mutated actors staff the three story, 11,020 foot long walk-through ship, lurking through murky corridors and chilling passageways leading to various quarters and ship's deck. Surely it was the talk of the boardwalk, leaving guests thrilled, spooked, and excited.

The legend behind the Ghost Ship makes the ride unlike any in South Jersey, based on the Philadelphia Experiment, prompting the interest of its visitors and keeping the North Atlantic Paranormal Society (NAPS) busy. An effort such as this has not been conducted in over 33 years because of the enormous tasks necessary to pull it off, but the Morey's commitment to fun has led to this summer's "discovery" of The Ghost Ship.



"Hot Dog!"

For me, the summer of 2010 took an unexpected turn. I remember sitting alone one morning during the last week of my junior year of college, thinking how I wanted this summer to be epic and memorable, one that would stand out, different and better than all the rest. As a journalism and creative writing major I struggled to find my place in the field, and just when I was discouraged the most, I finally discovered an outlet for my passion. Sun-by-the-Sea gave me a wonderful opportunity to write, cover stories, and make some amazing new friends.

When I think of the past summer, it's cruising the Parkway with the sun shining, windows down and music blasting. It's late night crabbing on the bay and beaching from 3 to 8 pm, hammered by waves on the boogie board and reading good books with sand in the creases. It's that same awesome Friday night playlist on the boardwalk just before and during the fireworks, going from a Black Eyed Peas song to The Beach Boys. I think of lounging on the porch late at night and early in the morning, walking the wall in North Wildwood as the sun disappears to the west, late night homemade seafood dinners, and savoring Scoops ice cream with Jimmies, not sprinkles. My college friends from Kentucky and Indiana came to visit the Wildwoods and fell in love with the island, never wanting to leave; not knowing such an ideal, fun place existed. So, things turned out much better than I had anticipated. But what real lasting value is ever what we plan or expect?

Joshua Kinney is entering his senior year at Asbury University in Kentucky where he will graduate with 2 Bachelor's degrees; one in Journalism with an emphasis on magazine/newspaper publishing and literary journalism, and the other in Creative Writing. We hope to welcome Josh back with The Sun for the Dog Days of Summer 2011. Best wishes for a great school year Josh!

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Firefighters!



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