

The Rapidan Review

Discerning God's presence in our community

August 21, 2011
Volume II
Roving Reporters
Berry. Aubri Curtis

Ellen

With a Servant's Heart...

By Ellen Berry and Aubri Curtis

With a servant's heart, dreams take flight. On Sunday evening, July 31st, Pastor Alan, equipped with a HUGE servant's heart, put together a service that united the churches within our community for the purpose of raising awareness and funds to nurture an organization beginning right here in Madison. Reverend Kyle Clements of Ruckersville Baptist and Reverend Jeff Schroeder of Fairview Christian also led this service with their messages. Mount Pisgah Baptist Youth Choir attended to make a joyful noise alongside two Mt. Zion groups.

Catherine Bowers, a single attorney, founded Sparrow's Rest to help foster children gain needed life skills and a safe place to relax, learn, and worship. Her interest in foster children, in fact, began with personal involvement in their lives by being a short-term foster parent for her fair share of kids. She recently purchased a farm in Brightwood, to house the facilities for Sparrow's Rest. Her dream is to be able "to put a new song of hope, love, family and home in the hearts of foster children."

Catherine Bowers' dream for Sparrow's Rest speaks volumes about our calling as Christians to serve others. Each of the preachers speaking that night shared a different facet of this calling, ranging from hating worldly things while still serving and loving God's creations, making our faith not just a belief but a devotion, and taking that step to take our faith outside of the church. Each message was delivered in a way unique to the speaker; each was inspiring, and they all fit together to make the night truly empowering.

After the service, a reception was held and over \$2,000 was raised to help "Sparrow's Rest," Catherine Bower's amazing dream. It was moving to be able see the power of a Servant's Heart when we all work together and make dreams take flight! With this spiritual night to invigorate all of us, we have proved that we can come together as a Christian community; now it's time to stop hiding and get outside the church to show the world our hands ready and willing to serve



Micah's Men at the July 31st Evening Worship

From left to right: Kenny Kerns, Dave Davidson, Tom Will Ford, and Jon James

Photograph by John Berry