

The Messenger

Thoughts on the New Worship Format

Concluding the Annual Meeting on May 21, 2008, we gathered around tables to discuss the new worship format. Each person was asked four questions. Their responses were written down and we are now in the process of summarizing and synthesizing the answers with other conversations about worship with those who were unable to participate in the Annual Meeting. As of press time, our leadership has not yet reviewed the responses. The questions were these:

1. What have you appreciated most about the new worship format?
2. What have you appreciated least about the new worship format?
3. Do you have any suggestions to improve the new format?
4. Which do you prefer – the old “blended” style or the new format?

To review, the purpose behind the new format was to provide people with the opportunity to experience the music they appreciate most (and avoid that which they don't) while maintaining our unity. One overarching response has been that people are grateful and thankful that we are trying something to accommodate folks who may be dissatisfied with our current style of worship. Most people were against the new idea from beginning but saw its value in trying something new. However, there is also a sense that we are “giving in” to those who complain, because the vast, overwhelming majority of Broadway's members and attenders appreciate our former worship style. One demographic surprise from the survey and conversations has been the support for the new format from older folks in the church. The other overarching response from everyone from everyone regardless of age is that people may have a preference for a particular worship style, but no matter the style, they remain committed to Broadway. In other words, music style and worship organization is not the main thing for people about Broadway. To me, this is an incredibly refreshing and encouraging response. This means people are committed to Broadway's vision and purpose and mission to reach people who are lost and lead them to become fully-devoted followers of Christ.

In terms of what people appreciate about the new format, responses include knowing what to expect, having the opportunity to choose a particular style, experiencing a variety of music, greater participation among age groups, the Energize section, and maintaining our unity by keeping one service.

Regarding what people appreciated least and suggestions for improvement, there were two main categories – practical and philosophical. On the philosophical side, some don't like being “boxed” into a schedule, giving in to negativity, “feeling judged” if leaving early, and some question whether we can achieve unity through division like this. On the practical side, suggestions abound. Transitions could be smoother, the greeting times are awkward, and some feel we stand too much. Unfortunately, many suggestions conflict with each other. For example, some like hearing the readings during the worship band and the hymns sections; others suggest reading only once to avoid redundancy. Likewise, some really like the Energize – the videos, volume, selections, lighting, and the sense of excitement and anticipation. Others suggest turning the lights on, showing no videos, turning down the volume. Some like having instrumentation “underneath” readings and prayers; others don't. However, I agree that the music underneath needs to be subtle and soft. Clearly, there is no way to please everyone – not that anyone believed that was possible. Please remember a watchword for this experience – *freedom*. You are free to come early and leave early. Please feel free to stand or sit when we sing. You are free to come late and stay to the end. You are free to experience the music you appreciate without being looked down upon or judged.

As to the results of question 4's expression of preference, a slight majority of those attending the Annual Meeting who stayed until the very end participating in the discussion “prefer” the new format over the blended style. I cannot say with any certainty whether the new format will remain. Our new Leadership Team needs to review and discuss the results of the survey. We probably need to inquire more deeply of others who weren't in attendance at the Annual Meeting. We may need to creatively explore ways of managing the service regarding lights and volume and transitions. For the sake of planning through the summer, we will probably keep the new format with the possibility of making changes in the fall. So to help in this process, please pray and continue to leave your (bad) attitude at the door. I look forward to the day when we can take all this energy focused on worship reflection and aim it toward our mission – reaching our friends and families and neighbors and neighborhoods with the gospel of Jesus Christ: the good news of God's kingdom. Please join me in this mission.

Worshipfully,
Pastor Eric

Student Ministries



May was interesting. Both groups are taking a few weeks off at the end of May to finish up classes and focus on finals. The month went by fast with the highlight being the 30 hour famine. Here's the 411:



World Vision's 30 Hour Famine

I finished up a club salad and an iced tea at 11:56AM on Friday, May 9th. The famine started at noon so I made it by 4 minutes. At 5PM, 37 of us met at Broadway to experience what, sadly, many around the world must endure daily: hunger. It was a power-packed weekend and lives were changes. Everyone arrived by 5:30ish and then we settled in and opened with a short devotion and video. The kids will testify that I always ask them "What is your why?" when we have retreats and big events. It's a question designed to make them analyze their motives in participating and it forces them to

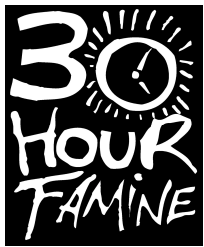


figure out what they want to get out of it. Next it was off to make fools of ourselves on the photo scavenger hunt. Cari Filkin, Kristi Holstein, Dan Schweitzer, Jason Clark, Janet Fraker, and Mary Beth Adams agreed to transport our 6 groups of kids around the area and take pictures of them accomplishing goofy, embarrassing, and just plain weird stuff. Guys got manicures, the whole group was in a shower with the water running, everyone being scarecrows in a cornfield, sitting in a police car, etc. One feat was to have everyone hanging upside down on monkey bars. I heard that Cari was the only one in her group who knew how to dismount! A lot of fun was had, priceless pics are now on file, and people are now walking around Rockford wondering what happened to those goofy church kids!! What more could a youth pastor want!!?



Upon finishing up scavenger hunt stories and laughs, we set into creating a visual of the amount of death that results from hunger. As a group, we set to work nailing together 10inch by 5inch crosses with orange yarn around them. It was our intent to build 1200 of them, which is how many children under 5 years old die every hour from hunger. We were able to build almost all of them, but only got around 300 in the ground. At first I was disappointed, but later learned that the effect was there. Through this experience, we came to realize how many 1200 actually was. It was sobering to know that each cross stood for a little one who died unnecessarily in the time it took us to make the cross. It's easy to throw around numbers, but it tends to hit home a little more when there's a picture to go with it. Around 11PM we had free time and then it was lights out around 12:45. All the guys were in the fellowship hall and it was quiet in less than 10 minutes.

After a morning breakfast of water, we headed off to Getaway Park in Rockford to seal a big wooden playground for the Park District. The kids came together and we made a lot of progress. Everyone worked tirelessly and keep in mind, this project was from 9AM to Noon, which were hours 21 - 24 of the famine. Way to go guys! Free-time followed in the afternoon and then we headed out into our neighborhoods to collect food to give to the homeless shelters in our own community. We were collecting on the same day as the Post Office, but we did well nonetheless.

After finishing up with the food collection, we met in the Garage for a little pow/wow action. What's a pow/wow Derek? A pow/wow is a sharing time when each person gives and good (wow) and bad (pow) thing about their experience. This was the best time for me. I was taken aback by how much each person got out of it. Overwhelmingly, they were able to understand what it was like to not eat and it helped them realize how much we have and take for granted. Parents, you may not hear "I'm hungry" so much anymore. We ended with a dinner prepared by Becky Bamberger, Janel Leidahl, and Cindy Saunders. This was the last illustration. Their dinner was a Styrofoam bowl of rice. There was water to drink. And one member ended up with nothing. Even though their dinner was mere rice, few were able to eat when they saw Amy Fraker sitting with nothing. They viewed what they had as abundant. Even after going 30 hours without food, kids were willing to go with even less in order to help someone else who had nothing. Amy was then brought out a full American dinner to enjoy. The whole point of this dinner was to show the kids how much we have and how far we can spread it. Amy couldn't eat it and passed it around for everyone to share. When she received it back, there was still a 1/3 left for her. As Amy passed her dinner around, I heard comments like "there's not going to be anything left" coming from the far side of the table. The kids learned that we can do so much with what we've got. We're the givers. It's time to shift focus from ourselves to the needs of the world. Everyone completed the famine and \$2,700 was passed on to World Vision to fight world hunger. Thanks for all who participated! We'll do it again soon! Remember that after our famine, we went home and ate. There are millions in our world whose daily lives are famine. We can make a difference - it only takes a spark to start a fire. Peace,

Missions Corner

Our Ministries to pray for this month are Covenant Point, Covenant Harbor and The Covenant Children's Home and Family Services. The Covenant Children's Home houses many services that meet people's needs. One of those is the Bureau County Health and Wellness Clinic. The clinic offers "quality health care services with compassion, dignity and confidentiality." Their mission is "to show the love of Christ by meeting needs." They rely on the volunteer services of area physicians and nurses. In addition to patient care BCHWC provides health education and guide clients to existing resources when they need help to meet needs for closing, food and other necessities. They also have a chaplain who works with the clinic to provide pastoral services.

The **Belgian Lace** that we received from Johnna Hayward is located in the display case in the Nelson Lounge. Please stop by and see how beautiful it is.

Jim and Barb Mikrut missionaries in Mexico will be giving the Mission Moment on June 8th. Please come and hear what they have to share.

Prayer and Praise:

Dave & Judy Dolan, Chinese Ministries

- Pray for the families located in the areas most devastated by the earthquake that they find strength and comfort in the Lord and grow to know His presence.
- Pray for missionaries Dennis & Heather Choate as they talk the students through the trauma of the earthquake.

Covenant Youth of Alaska

- Praise for the way God is working in the youth's lives through CYAK.
- Pray that the Lord will work in the hearts of the youth during the upcoming Youth Rally and Bible Camp.
- Pray that the young people will make wise decisions in friendships and relationships.

Tim & Andrea Johnson, Japan

- Praise for the opportunity to witness during the Easter Kids program and the Gunma Area Easter Singspiration.
- Praise for the connections and relationships Andrea has made through her teaching position that indicate that God has led her there for ministry purposes.
- Pray for the work of the Akagi Bible Camp as they get ready for the summer season.

The Covenanter – Spring 2008

The new edition of The Covenanter is now available in the southeast narthex at the information table.

60 Plus Luncheon

Join us for our next luncheon with 60 Plus on June 17th, at Olive Garden on East State St., at 11:30 AM. Reservations need to be made with Peggy Frint, 815-398-1813, by Sunday, June 15th.

Relay For Life

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Winnebago South will begin at 6:00 p.m. Friday, June 20 with a survivor celebration and will end with the closing ceremonies at 6:00 a.m. Saturday, June 21 at Rockford First Assembly. The Relay For Life is looking for teams to participate in this fun-filled overnight cancer fighting event. For information on how you can be involved, call your local American Cancer Society at 815/229-1287. A very important part of the Relay For Life is the Luminaria Ceremony held on Friday, June 20 at 9:00 p.m. Luminaria may be purchase in honor of someone who has survived cancer, is battling cancer or who has been lost to cancer. For information about luminariar, please email Kelly Shultz at Kelly.schultz@cancer.org or call 815/229-1287.

Annual Ice Cream Social

Fairhaven Christian Retirement Center at 3470 North Alpine Road will host their annual ice cream social on Saturday, June 28th from 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. Come enjoy treats, crafts, and the used-book sale. Ice cream, dessert and beverage - \$3 or Barbeque/hot dog, chips and beverage - \$3.

Patriotic Prayer Breakfast

Plan to attend the 23rd Annual Patriotic Prayer Breakfast on Friday, July 4th. A free continental breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m. with music and a guest speaker from 9-10:30 a.m. Lieutenant Colonel Robert Maginnis, US Army (retired) is an internationally know expert on nati9onal security and foreign affairs who is currently serving as an analyst for several radio networks.

Lawn Work

Is there any senior citizen that would like their lawn cut this summer? If you have a lawn mower for him to use, Bill Evans is available to help. Call 815/226-1024.

Birthdays

- 2 Kathy Melin
5 Werner Hoffman
7 Janel Mamer
8 Stacey Parlapiano
9 Aina Hitchcock
Jim Page
Cari Filkin
10 Darlene Edwards
12 Maynard Adolphson
13 Laura Schweitzer
14 Mary Beth Adams
15 Amy Bliss
16 Paula Jackson
17 June MacAskill
21 Michelle Gustafson
22 Becky Damrose
25 Erin Clark
26 Patti Franzen
Martin Nelson

Anniversaries

- 7 Rowland & Eleanor Holmertz
8 Dick & Paula Rasanen
Dan & Ann Mary Ferguson
Larry & Deloris Whitsel
10 Bud & Pat Johnson
Eric & Kristi Holstein
11 Doug & Kristi Swanson
Matt & Stephanie Link
13 Gerald & Shirley Johnson
18 Neil & Maggie Kasicki
Dick & Shirley Peterson
21 Kurt & Cyndy Miericke
24 Derek & Christina Melin
25 Doug & Mary Gibson
27 Albert & Gladys Damrose
28 Royce & Beth Cates
Loren & Julia Heinzerth
29 Bruce & Michele Johnson
Robert & Arlene Schweiger

New Address

Spc. Holmertz, Justin S.

C 31st EN BN

1st EN BDE, Unit #31

741 Iowa Ave.

Ft. Leonard Wood, MO 65473

(On the back of the envelope in the middle right below the flap, put the number 2 with a circle around it.)

Congratulations to:

Stacey and Mike Parlapiano on the birth of their daughter, Isabella Rose, who was born May 16th. Joyful grandparents are Dave & Kim Lape and great-grandparents, Ron & Emmy Miller.

Congratulations to the Graduates:

High School:

Skylar Retzlaff – Rockford Christian High School

College:

Jenna Rasanen – North Park University

Jamie Retzlaff – Northwestern University in Iowa

Remember in Prayer

Mabel Johnson recovering from hip surgery.

Thelma Melquist recovering from broken ribs.

Brett Holmertz recovering from a ruptured Achilles tendon.

Len Mikkelson at St. Anne's for rehab.

Walt Anderson at Rosewood.

Maizie Engstrom recovering at Kathi's home on Mapleleaf Dr.

Thank You

Thanks to the many from our Broadway family who showed your love and support during Gloria's passing and my illness in March. The hospital visits of Pastors Eric and Dick and others were much appreciated, as were all the cards, remembrances and expressions of prayer support by so many of you. They helped me greatly during this difficult time. Bert Erickson

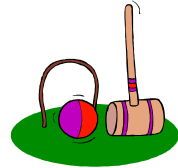
We want to thank everyone for your kind expressions of sympathy and concern after the deaths of Ron's mom and Emmy's brother. We are so thankful and blessed for our caring church family. The Miller Family

Broadway Covenant Church: Thank you so much for the generous donation of \$500 to the Children's Clothes Closet. We served over 500 children this past school year and this contribution will help us purchase clothing in short supply. We hope to have our shelves full when we open in August for the coming school year. Thank you again for helping us continue this mission. Mary Jane Kerch, Secretary

Thanks to all the ladies who participated in rip and roll. We made lots of bandages and also had a good time. Lorna Bjurstrom



Crosswalk Skills Camp 2008
Crosswalk Jr. Camp 2008
June 16-20



Camp Fees: \$35 for all day Crosswalk camp - \$15 for mornings in Crosswalk Jr.
Camp Times: Crosswalk from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Crosswalk Jr. 9:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Pick up a registration form in the church narthex for your children, grandchildren, neighbors and friends. Forms and fees are due by June 2, 2008. Don't miss this great week!
AND MORE!

You're Invited to a
Graduation Celebration for Joyce Cosman!

You are invited to a graduation celebration picnic for Joyce Cosman on Saturday June 14, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. in the afternoon at the Lake Side Pavilion, Diecke Park on Route 47 in Huntley, IL. No gifts please! In lieu of a gift you may bring one of the following for the Hispanic Food Pantry in Elgin. A bag of white rice; a can of refried beans; a jar of peanut butter or a jar of grape jam; or a large box of cold cereal.
RSVP to Sue at the Church Office 815-399-9295 or Joyce Cosman at 847-669-9484
Directions and map will be posted at the church office.



Broadway Covenant Church
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Rockford, IL 61108