

September 2008

The Messenger

Let George Do It!

Two of our best annual experiences at Broadway are Skills Camp and the Fun Fest. One of my favorite parts of each is to see so many people serving in so many different ways. It seems as if everyone is engaged in the work of the church. Walking through the Fun Fest, I was reminded of the stories I've heard of the figurative and literal building of Broadway Covenant Church. Just like everyone worked at the Fun Fest this year, it seems like everyone's life revolved around building the church in the early days. As exciting as those stories are, I sense a touch of lament because our lives no longer revolve around church.

In fact, this inferred lament reminds me of a catch-phrase cliché from my fraternity days in college: "Let George Do It!" This ironic statement was spoken whenever there were jobs to do but no one seemed interested in actually doing them. It came from Literary Exercises of the Sigma Chi Fraternity published in the 1950s. An excerpt follows:

My name is George. I'm an all-around handyman, and I'd like you to feel free to use my service for any and all chores, errands, duties which you may be too busy to perform. Anytime there's anything that needs doing and you'd rather not, you just let George do it.

I'll write to your congressman for you; I'll write your newspaper editor; I'll serve on the chapter committees in your place; I'll do anything you're too tired to do or preoccupied to do. With me around, you can be as lazy as you like, or just have fun. The more the merrier, I always say. My services are available to you for all the tedious, time-consuming things which you'd rather duck doing. You haven't time to do your pledge assignments. Let George do it. You haven't time for a service project. I have. You don't want to accept committee assignments and extra responsibilities, anyway. You let ol' George tend to those things.

... Now I'm taking over in lots of cities and counties and I figure it's just a matter of time until I'll take over in this chapter, too. I want to thank you for making it possible. Remember now, if there is ever any way in which I can be of help, I'm at your service. You just have fun and don't worry about a thing. I'll do your worrying, too. I'LL BILL YOU LATER!

One of the reasons I'm focusing on how we are MADE: Created to Make a Difference is because I am afraid a let-George-do-it mentality has seeped into our thinking. The fact is that each of us, regardless of age or experience, has been blessed by God to serve. Will you serve or will you "Let George Do It"?

The current series of MADE: Created to Make a Difference concludes on September 21st with our picnic following at Broadway. In previous years we've gone to Covenant Harbor for our picnic and some have requested that we stay in town. So the Leadership Team is accommodating that request. In addition, the Leadership Team decided that beginning on September 28th, the Sunday morning schedule will be moved up 15 minutes to accommodate our friends and family members in retirement communities who have a set time for lunch. Thus, beginning September 28, Sunday mornings will look like this:

9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Energize
10:15 Worship Band
10:30 Teaching (including announcements, offering, sacraments, etc.)
11:15 Hymns

So please come to Sunday School, come to worship, and come to serve, or maybe we'll just let George do it!

Serving Christ, Pastor Eric

Student Ministries

Broadway Covenant Church

John 8:12 says this: "When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'" And now in Spanish: "Una vez más Jesús se dirigió a la gente, y les dijo, 'Yo soy la luz del mundo. El que me sigue no andará en tinieblas, sino que tendrá la luz de la vida.'" This was our theme verse for VBS in Mexico. Instead of serving one church all week, we were at a different church everyday and did the same lesson. During the week, we worshipped alongside hundreds of little ones with song, crafts, snack, and a video telling the story of Nathaniel. The kids were a complete joy to be with and will be marked on our hearts. Little ones like Juan, America, Paola, Gabrielle, Marco and so many others – joy overflows out of them!

After a very early wakeup call, smooth security checkpoints, and a misplaced (but later found) boarding pass, we all boarded the flight south for Mexico Mission 2008. Two flights later we met up with Jim and Martin in Harlingen for transport into Rio Bravo. Upon arrival at our hotel, we met up with other members of our team: Barb, Sarah, and Erin Mikrut, Lindsay (from First Cov), Gama, and Eliud. After an exquisite dinner and unpacking, we met up in the parking lot to learn the songs and motions for VBS that started early the next morning. Everyone participated and it was a great time of impromptu worship. We started out each morning with devotions and challenges for the day. As usual, everyone was asked to reflect on what their "why" was. Why were they there? Likewise, aside from missing one or two, each night we ended with devotions and reflections of the day. This was a great sharing time as stories were shared and lessons learned were voiced.

Pastor Noe and his wife Marta have been living in the back bedroom of a relative's home for the last few years since they married. Noe acquired land for their house (right next door to where they currently are living) and one of our jobs was to supply the cement and help pour the foundation. The mixing was done on a driveway with shovels, buckets, a wheelbarrow, and a hose. No cement truck. The kids worked like crazy. Everyone was drawing strength from each other and we even had a street crew foreman ask if he could borrow us for another concrete project. He was impressed by the work ethic displayed. Woohoo!! In addition to concrete, we also painted another church in Rio Bravo. Again, tireless effort and teamwork abounded. It was a 2 story sanctuary with a lot of wall space. There were no injuries (aside from blisters) and each one of us learned more about ourselves. Speaking of concrete day, ask Forester about the kiss (wikkid funny...hehe). Other time was spent worshipping with our friends, seeing the sites in Rio Bravo, visiting the ER for a scorpion bite (Christina is fine!!), and having balance beam contests outside the hotel.



Our last night was spent with David and members of his church. We all ate together and then he brought out his guitar. I remembered this time from last year. We spent time singing worship songs. Some in English, some in Spanish. Some we sang in both languages (which is my favorite). Worship transcends language. As time went on, what started out as a single guitar became a band as drums and a tambourine were added. It was a dynamite praise service with 25 people under an aluminum awning and a dirt floor. I had mentioned to Colton about David's version of Angus Dei by Third Day. After singing together for a while, we joined hands in a circle and they prayed and praised God for us. We were anointed with oil as we held tightly to the hands of our friends and raised our voices as we cried out "Holy, Holy, Are you Lord God Almighty" and "Alleluia". Tears fell, holy shivers were experienced, people fell to their knees, and the Holy Spirit penetrated each of us. It was a time when God's power and overwhelming presence enveloped us and there was nothing else to do but embrace it fully and let it cleanse.

The next morning it was again time to say goodbye. A huge thank you goes out to all those in Mexico who took time to serve alongside us. Thanks to Jim and Barb Mikrut for leading by example. Also, thanks to Annette Retzlaff, Mary Beth Adams, and Matt Link for their leadership throughout the week. Thanks to all of you for your prayer and financial support. Lives were changed and Jesus Christ was introduced to kids. Please continue to pray for the ministries in Mexico as there is more to be done!! Vamos con Dios!!

I thought I had my "why" figured out, but it wasn't until a few days after we got back that I figured it out. The servant's heart that we adopted in Mexico should be adopted here in Rockford as well. My "why" was so that God could ignite a passion to, as a youth group, serve those in our community. This question is profound: If your youth group or church were to dissolve today, would anyone outside the church take notice? Be looking for details on Roots' and Overhaul's presence in our community. The Bible calls us to go, so let's go.

There were lots of other activities happening in August with Roots and Overhaul, which I'll publish on our youth websites. Roots' website is www.myspace.com/bccroots and Overhaul's in www.myspace.com/bccoverhaul. I feel so blessed to be a part of what God is doing here. Thanks to the kids and adults alike. Please be praying for our little ones in Tanzania: Asia, Boke, and Najimu. God is good!!

Peace,

Derek

TTT Thoughts from the Transition Team

As we are all transitioning from our previous constitutional structure to our newly approved structure, the details, responsibilities, tasks, dreams, ministries are being sorted. The task of the transition team is to help implement the new constitution. The key is realizing the church is indeed the Body of Christ. It takes all of us to have it work, function, and serve as Christ has desired.

As a nurse, I think of bodies a lot. The brain tells the feet to walk, the feet walk, but now have the responsibility to walk in the correct direction, and to keep balance. Each are important, without feet, the body cannot walk, without the brain to send the impulses, it cannot walk, without the eyes to see, it cannot know where to go, without the toes to balance, it cannot keep upright. If the toe is cut off, we cannot balance, so all parts are equal. Romans 12 talks about that. We sing during church, "If we are the body, why aren't our hands shaking....."

So have you thought about what part you are? There are so many things that happen at the same time in our bodies. It is the same at church. Have you wondered how the words of the correct song appear on the screen when we start singing? Or the lights dim or become bright at the correct time? How about turning on the air conditioning so we are comfortable, the coffee and juice on the front patio? Have you noticed the beautiful flowers around church. Who keeps them watered daily? In the fall the trees shed their leaves, they need to be raked more frequently than just on work days. Have you been hospitalized? Did you receive a plant, or a card, or have you needed a ride to the doctors or to church? Is making a dinner easy for you, and needed by someone else? Or are you a prayer warrior, who starts off the prayer chain, or sends the emails or a card of encouragement. Is it coincidence that we have ushers on Sundays, or communion is set up on the right Sunday, or that the nursery is staffed, or Sunday School materials ordered? Does the nursery have fresh gold fish crackers and juice?

There is a part for each of us. You may wonder, why isn't something happening? Maybe it is because that is your part, and we need you. Please pray about what part of the church you are. We are **CREATED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**. Let the Holy Spirit guide you as you discover where you are created to serve. If you have questions talk with Pastor Eric, Derek or Joyce. Carl Ecklund, Candice McCulloch, Keith Holmertz, Marcia Johnson, Dave Lape, Karen Holmertz or Colleen Felts would love to talk with you. There are exciting times ahead for our Body. Let's move ahead!



Join the Choir

If you are interested in singing in the choir please join us for the first meeting as we organize to plan our new year. Meet in the choir loft on Wednesday, September 10th at 6:30 p.m.



Network Classes Coming Soon

Be looking for information about the Network Class that will be starting soon!

OPEN HOUSE

The Rasanens invite you to an open house celebrating the marriage of Ben Rasanen and Laura Huisinga. They were married 8/8/08 in Willmar, MN. The open house is Sunday October 5th, 1-4 pm at the Burpee Museum. Please RSVP by Sept. 21st to Dick and Paula Rasanen 815-226-9025, Pswanras@aol.com or the church office 815-399-9296. No gifts.

Concert Series

Westminster Presbyterian Church will host these events for the community at 2821 North Bell School Rd. and will include performances by: Barbary Coast Dixieland Band, American Boychoir, Hector Olivera, The Other Guys, Lyra String Trio and Tales of Wonder. Check the bulletin board for dates and times.



Extraordinary Women Conference

First Evangelical Free Church is sponsoring this event on October 10-11. Don't miss this chance to hear Karen Kingsbury, Carol Kent and Thelma Wells along with the Denver & Mile High Orchestra. You can register by calling 1-800-526-8673 or going to www.ewomen.net. Tickets are \$59 per person or \$49 for groups of 10 or more. See the poster in the southeast narthex for more information.

Adoption Information Meeting

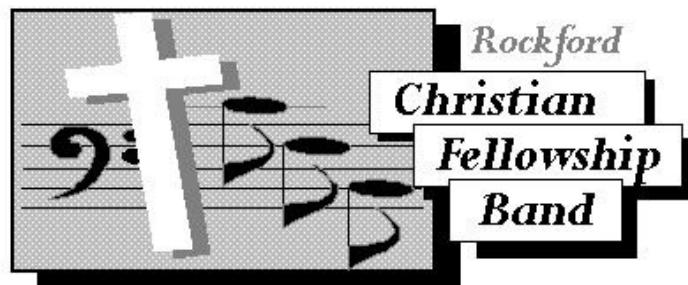
Children's Home and Aid will host this event on Sunday, September 14 from 1-3 PM at OSF St. Anthony Hospital. For reservations or information call 815-962-1043 or 1-888-248-4335.

Alley Walk 2008

Bethesda Evangelical Covenant Church's 26th annual ALLEY WALK is Saturday, September 13th from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm on the ground of church, 2101 E. State Street. The "walk" features:

- 50 craft vendors
- food available all day including hot dogs, pork chop sandwiches, egg rolls, crab rangoon, chicken fried rice, stir-fried noodles, spiced nuts, fried peach & sweet potato pies, coffee pop and water
- Bar-B-Q lunch served inside
- music throughout the day
- fun fair games for kids
- information booths
- bakery tent
- nine alley garage "shoppes"
- off street parking at Rockford Plaza
- much much more

The proceeds from Alley Walk benefit church and "away" ministries – summer day camp, Wonder of Words reading camp, Hiland Hill Preschool, Jail Ministry, Police Chaplain, Rockford Rescue Mission, Love INC, Young Life, Lifescape, summer family programs, Wednesday family nights and free outdoor movies on Friday nights.



Christian Fellowship Band

The Christian Fellowship Band begins their 24th Concert Season with rehearsals, Tuesday September 2 and 16 from 7-9 PM at First Covenant Church, 316 Wood Rd. The first concert will be Sunday, September 21 at 5 PM at Riverside Assembly, 4242 W. Riverside Blvd. Rockford, IL. They are fully booked for 2008 – see their website for the complete schedule: <http://pages.prodigy.net/cfb1732>

Missions Corner

Our missionaries to pray for this month are Leonid and Leanna Regheta who have been missionaries in Russia. They came back to the US for the birth of their son and for Leanna to get her US citizenship. They have not been able to return to Russia because of restrictions on missionary work in Russia. Leonid just returned from Estonia where he was part of Step of Faith 2008, a ministry of Mission Covenant Church of Sweden. They proclaimed the gospel in five different cities of Estonia including ministering at the newest prison of Estonia. Please pray for Leonid and Leanna as they decide where their ministry will lead them. Also please pray for Leanna as she prepares for her citizenship interview.

Did you know that Bush Alaska is hundreds of miles from the nearest road system? Did you know that many of the Native Alaskans have problems with alcohol, abuse, and suicide? Did you know that most Native Alaskans are still very dependent on hunting and fishing to make a living? Did you know that many of the Covenant pastors also survive through being dependent on hunting, fishing and berry picking? These are part of the reasons that the Central Conference of the Covenant Church is partnering with the Covenant Church in Elim, Alaska and their pastor, Terry Allen. Please be watching the bulletin and future newsletters to see how you can help partner with this church.

Prayer and Praise:

Steve & Ellen Peterson, Asia

- Praise for the local believers that have taken on leadership responsibility in the house church Steve & Ellen helped begin.
- Pray for God's Spirit to call many to know him.
- Pray for justice and mercy for the poor and oppressed.

Alaska Christian College

- Praise for the 160 people who came this summer to help build new offices, paint dormitories and help with the garden.
 - Pray for students who are returning this fall.
 - Pray that their summer bills will be paid in full.
- Read their newsletters and other letters from our missionaries in the book by the Missions Board.

Missionaries Broadway Supports:

Robert & Joyce Widman	Johnna Hayward
Leonid & Leanna Regheta	Peter & Ruth Dutton
Tim & Andrea Johnson	Jim & Barb Mikrut
Steve & Ellen Peterson	David & Judy Dolan
Byron & Sue Bruckner	

Save Your Aluminum Can Tabs

The Ronald McDonald House in Madison, WI collects the tabs from aluminum cans. You can help by removing them from your cans and bringing them to the marked container in the narthex.

Carpenter's Place invites you to...

"Help Support the soles of the Homeless"
by participating in the ***"Walk for the Homeless"***

Saturday, October 4, 2008 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
at Christian Life Schools running track
(Spring Creek & Mulford Road)

Please take the next step for the Homeless in 2008
Your support makes the difference!

Do you know...

**There are over 3,000
homeless people in
Rockford?**

Do you know....

**Carpenter's Place secured
housing for over 300
homeless in 2007?**

Do you know...

**Carpenter's Place helped
over 200 homeless get
fulltime jobs in 2007?**

***Help Support
the soles
of the homeless...***

**What ever you did for
one of the least of these
brothers of mine, you
did it unto me....**
Mthw. 25:40

Food! Entertainment!

**Get involved with the most exciting fall event in
Rockford and help the homeless!**

Become a team Captain and inspire others to Walk!
***Proceeds help "provide the tools for rebuilding the
broken lives of the homeless" through services
at Carpenter's Place.***

You may participate by walking and collecting pledges
or by making a tax deductible donation. For further
information, please contact Sheri Glover at Carpenter's
Place, 815-964-4105 (ext. 203) or visit our website at
www.carpentersplace.org.

18th Annual Hike for Life

Rockford Area Pregnancy Care Center will host the
18th Annual Hike for Life on Saturday, September
13, at the Rock River Recreation Path north of the
YMCA. For a pledge form call 815/398-6796.

Birthdays

- 4 Gordon Wienke
5 Arline Gredenius
10 Kathy Almond
12 Anders Gredenius
Kurt Miericke
14 Marcia Johnson
Doris Dahlgren
Wesley Hardin
16 Ron Miller
Linda Evans
17 Wally Sorensen
David Knight
Don Leather
Charles Carlson
18 Louise Larson
Emmet Swanson
21 Mayford Engstrom
Jennifer O'Marrah
Bob Schweiger
Erica Schweiger
23 Louise Peterson
24 Ruth Hopkins
Jean Drews
Annette Retlaff
25 Kevin McCulloch
27 Deloris Whitsel
Karen Frint

Anniversaries

- 2 Doug & Joan Boettcher
Wesley & Colleen Straley
Randall & Laura Ann Price
3 Dr. Martin & Robin Plotkin
5 Todd & Susan Johnson
8 Daniel & Laura Schweitzer
11 Robert & Barbara Rehnberg
14 Thomas & Sandy Anderson
John & Kimberly Haase
15 James & Jill Page
16 Wayne & Carolyn Augenson
17 Karl & Crystal Burdick
Kendall & Nancy Dahlstrom
26 Maynard & Barbara Carlson
27 Keith & Kathryn Holmertz



Congratulations to:

Patrick McCulloch and Rachel Stoner who were married August 9th in Saint Charles, IL. .

Remember in Prayer

Eleanor Holmertz at East Bank recovering from shoulder surgery.
Maxine Haney at East Bank Rehab Center.
Audrey Jacobson at Van Matre recovering from surgery and a stroke.
Louise Berg back at Alma Nelson following a hospital stay for pneumonia.
Eleanor Anderson in Alden Alma Nelson Sub-Acute.
Dorothy Kjell at Alpine Fireside for rehab.
Joyce Cosman's son, Bob, recovering from a ruptured spleen.

Thank You

Dear Friends, Thank you so much for the out pouring of love and support after the loss of my father. Thank you for the cards, calls and visits during this time. A special thanks to the Pastoral staff for keeping our family covered in prayer. Derek for seeking us out in the hospital late at night and offering the whole family support. Joyce for sitting with us while we made very difficult decisions. Our family has felt the love of Broadway over and over again and I am so thankful for you all. In Christ, Jennie Braun

I want to thank everyone who helped make another Fun Fest a great success. It was a wonderful evening of fun for all who attended. It takes many loving people like you to make this neighborhood outreach event a blessing onto Our Lord Jesus and his church. Thanks to all who helped plan, organize, ran errands, set-up, run all the booths, cook and serve food, greet people, sell & take tickets, do the prizes, take down & clean up when it was over and all who have been praying for the fair and everyone who came that evening. I also want to thank, the Broadway Covenant Worship Band, First Covenant Praise Team, Choo-Choo Amusements and "Tiny the Shriner Klown" for providing wonderful entertainment for all ages. To our door prize donors, Broadway Patchwork Quilters and Karen Hallberg, who again this year made all those wonderful toy filled baskets and those who donated several other items for the Fun Fest. Especially kids, parents and neighbors who came and enjoyed, they are who this was all done for in Christ's name. Thank you and bless you all. In Christ, Jon Brown



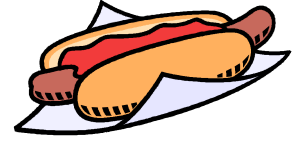
Broadway Covenant Church Annual Picnic

When: Sunday, September 21, 2008

immediately following the service

Where: the West parking lot of church

(if it rains, it will be held in the fellowship hall)



What you need to know: We will provide hamburgers and hot dogs, tableware, and beverages.

If you have a last name beginning with the letters A thru K, please bring a side dish or a salad.

If your last name begins with the letters L thru Z, please bring a dessert.

Cost: The cost is \$3 per person with a maximum of \$10 per family

More details will be coming. Look forward to seeing you there.



Broadway Covenant Church

3525 Broadway

Rockford, IL 61108