

October 2008

The Messenger

Blown Away

One question that kept coming up in our Constitution and Bylaws Committee was, “Where will all these people come from to fill all our ministry teams?” In answering that question for our Committee of Arlene Schweiger, Kent Drews, Karl Burdick, and Carl Ecklund, I felt, at times, like Jimmy Stewart in “It’s A Wonderful Life.” During the scene on the rush on the Building and Loan, he says, “You’re thinking of this place all wrong, as if I had the money back in a safe. The money’s not here. Your money’s in Joe’s house...right next to yours. And in the Kennedy house, and a hundred others. Why, you’re lending them the money to build, and then, they’re going to pay it back to you as best they can. Now what are you going to do? Foreclose on them?” In other words, all the people for our ministry teams come from right here, from this church, from our people!

This response met with some skeptical, “well...how, then, exactly?” comments. I did my best to assure our committee that I had a plan. In August and September I would do a sermon series on serving and how to use the spiritual gifts God has given. To conclude the series, I floated the idea that we would have a ministry fair to populate our ministries. This plan helped allay some fears and concerns on the committee, but, frankly, I was worried about the ministry fair. I’d been apart of them before and they tended to go over like the proverbial “lead balloon.”

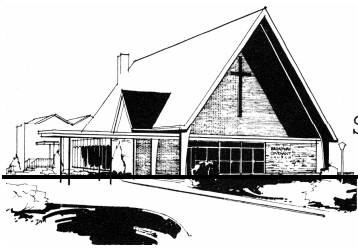
But we had three things working in our favor. First, the Leadership Team advised that we keep the ministry fair under wraps, as a surprise, a secret. That way folks wouldn’t think of excuses for not coming to church that particular Sunday so as to avoid signing up for stuff. Plus, the Leadership Team suggested hosting our picnic at Broadway, and to do so, assembled a great group, namely Michelle Gustafson and Cheryl Ecklund, to plan the picnic. Second, the Transition Team committed to making this fair a success. The Transition Team is full of incredibly gifted, passionate, creative, encouraging leaders like Karen Holmertz, Candice McCulloch, Colleen Felts, Marcia Johnson, Keith Holmertz, Dave Lape, and Carl Ecklund, and they brought their hard work and great ideas to the ministry fair. Third, we have Joyce Cosman. She strives for excellence in all she does, and she worked tirelessly and brilliantly, and the results speak for themselves (but I’ll share them anyway).

The ministry fair far exceeded my expectations. I was totally blown away. I hope you noticed the sense of purpose and joy that permeated our sanctuary. The Holy Spirit was powerfully present in the conversations and reflections that I witnessed. This was worship of a different sort, but it was authentic worship. In addition, I was amazed that people signed up to be a part of every ministry; not one sheet was left blank. In fact, we received 396 commitments to serve! This is astonishing! Truly, the people of this church reflected on how God MADE them, created them to make a difference, giving them a SHAPE by blessing them with:

Spiritual gifts,
Heart (or passion),
Abilities,
Personality, and
Experiences.

In summary, the ministry fair was awesome, and the picnic following it was great! It really seemed like people caught the vision that, “you can’t do everything, but you can do something.” If you missed the fair, however, you can still sign up in the office, revealing how God created you to make a difference.

If you signed up for a ministry team, you can expect to receive a letter confirming your participation and, depending upon the area, perhaps an invitation to discuss how to organize your particular ministry. Many of these discussions may take place Wednesday nights during or after our Fellowship Suppers, which begin October 1. I give God the glory for filling this church with such wonderful, servant-hearted people, who seek to love God and love others. In Christ, Pastor Eric



The Pulse

October
2008

Student Ministries of Broadway Covenant Church

Greetings from BCC's youth sector!! It's been a busy month all around and I'll try to touch on all that went on. Like I said last month, my "why" regarding the **Mexico trip** was to be taught to be aware of our **community's needs and help out as we can**. When coupled with the question of "If your youth group were to dissolve today, would anyone outside it take notice", several of us began to brainstorm **service ideas**. That being said, September was full of **different opportunities** to take hold of. There are now 3 big bins down in the garage and their sole purpose is to hold **food and clothes donations** for the **Salvation Army**. They were grateful to hear about our participation so let's make sure we fill them up. Bring those items every week if you can!! Also, later on in this newsletter, you'll find an **application/consent form** for **Winnebago County's Adopt-a-road program**. This is a great way to get involved in our community. There is a stretch of Linden Road between Alpine and Mulford that I'd like us to adopt, so please fill out the consent form and call me with questions. **Parents are welcome** to join us on trash day and help out...the more adults the better. I'm waiting to officially sign up until I have an idea of how many participants we'll have, so let's get those in. As a bonus, we get a cool sign on Linden...rock on!

On **Thursday, September 25th**, 7 of us met at Broadway at 6:15AM and headed down to **Grounds for Life Ministries** to help with the **homeless breakfast** they have every single day. We met up with several other couples from Broadway and spent the morning making toast, frying eggs, grilling sausage, pouring cereal, cutting up pastries and making coffee. Sometimes it surprises me what a difference someone can make by just saying a **simple "good morning" and having a smile on their face**. The love that **Pastor Al English and his wife Doris** have for their community is evidenced by their efforts to provide for those around them. A big thank you goes out to all those that donate items, time, and effort to make this happen. Opportunities for youth to serve in this ministry will be open up in the coming months, so be praying. There are also other opportunities that require some financial participation from the Rootsters and Overhauleders. Like the others, these are optional. I'm extremely proud of the group we have and their **heart and willingness to serve** however they are called. Other ministry options are **grocery donations, Bible distributions, Christmas love tree, Thanksgiving baskets, sponsoring additional Compassion Kids**, and I'm sure there are others, so **bring your ideas!** Please, please, please look into what you can give each week. Whether it's 10 cents or 10 dollars, **it makes a difference**. However, if we're going to commit to these ministries, we need to be sure we can fund it. So let me know and I'll set up what we can using the dollar commitments we have. Also, you should know that **donations made are tax-deductible**.



Youth groups are in **full swing again and are going great**. For the fall, each group is following a curriculum and here's the scoop on those: Roots is meandering through a pack called **Core Truth**. For the fall, we're going to be studying the **Trinity, meaning God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit**. Four weeks are spent on each part of the Trinity and then the 1st quarter of 2009 will be **"God's Story Our Story" which focuses on creation, the Bible, and salvation**. It's a great sequence and my thanks go out to **Kristi Holstein and Danny Schweitzer for their leadership**. And to the kids: kudos to you all for your involvement each week. I'm blessed to know each of you. Roots is growing which is great. I've had the chance to **meet quite a few kids from our church neighborhood** and a number are now coming on Wednesdays. Praise God. Thanks to Matt, Kyle, Nicole, Peter, Samoya, Trey,

Sean, Jake, Dylan, Mark, Paul, Gabe, and others for talking to the **goofy youth pastor** from Broadway. I'm glad I got to know you all. It's **awesome to watch** our Roots group which has kids that have different pasts, schools, experiences, spiritual levels, passions, struggles, etc. **come together in the name of Jesus Christ**. Rock on!! It's my prayer that God continues to move in each Rootster to **grow and mold you** into who he'd have you be all while **gluing us together** as a group of kids committed to **building each other up and creating a place that's inviting, real, and safe**.

A **common feeling** in high school is one of having **no direction** or just **"floating"** through life. To **shift with the wind is common**. To follow the crowd is **safe and nameless**. To **dissolve** into ones self is appealing...etc. As followers of Christ, **we know there exists and purpose in life**. We know that God directs our life. We attribute **nothing to chance or luck**. We know we are called to minister to others in all aspects of life. Is it me, or does that task seem daunting? Overhaul is going to be spending Sunday night talktime with a curriculum entitled **"Living on Purpose"** which examines these five Biblical purposes: **worship, fellowship, ministry, evangelism, and discipleship**. We'll spend time talking about **developing our individual purpose** and **figure out how to be very deliberate in our choices**. When you have an objective and you keep that in mind, it's easier to establish a game plan. We'll be looking at how to accomplish these purposes in a world where it's much easier to just float on chance and luck. Also, not only does it provide subject matter for Sunday nights, but it **provides daily focus points** for the week following the lesson should you want to take advantage of it. How cool is that??



Please keep our little ones from Tanzania in your prayers: Asia, Boke, and Najimu.

Peace,

Derek

Missions Corner

Our missionaries to pray for this month are Steve & Ellen Peterson who are in Asia. They have 2 daughters Ajnali and Jaiya. They live in a country that has areas where Christians are persecuted. Fortunately it is not happening in their area but because of the possibility they cannot be open about their faith. They have a business there and are able to interact with the local people and share about Jesus with them. Steve is also in charge of the Missionary teams in his area. Please pray for their protection and good health. Also they are asking for prayers for encouragement as they are faced with difficult issues.

Peanut Butter Update: We recently took 21 pounds to the Rock River Food Pantry. There are boxes at each entryway for donations. Thank you for your contributions.

Prayer and Praise:

Tim & Andrea Johnson, Japan

- Praise for the 20th anniversary of their Isesaki Church.
- Pray that the gospel will reach every village and town in Gunma.
- Pray for a young man who has been attending their church since January that he would continue to grow in his faith, experience much needed healing, and as he continues to work through discipling materials.

Leamid and Leanna Regheta, Russia

- Praise that Leanna passed her U S citizenship exam and interview with flying colors.
- Pray that financial needs for extra-budgetary items will be met.
- Pray for safe travel as they visit and speak in churches in Michigan, Wisconsin, California and Washington.

Missionary Aviation Repair Center, Alaska

- Praise that the exterior of the freight storage addition is nearing completion.
- Pray that financial needs for maintenance checks, parts and utilities will be met.
- Pray for the pilots as they adjust back into "winter" mode of flying.

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	

Join the Choir

Choir has begun practicing on Wednesday nights at 6:30pm in the sanctuary until 8 pm. Anyone who would like to is still invited to join us. Please feel free to talk to any choir member or you can call Kim Schweitzer at 815-262-0888 (cell).

Fellowship Dinners

Please join us on Wed. Oct. 1st for our fellowship dinner at 5:30 p.m. We'll be serving breaded pork loin and all the trimmings for \$5 per person \$18 for a family of 4 or more. Sign up on the tear off sheet or in the church office. Bring friends and family for a time of sharing a great meal, great laughs and thought provoking discussions. Dinners will run through November 19. A Sunday Smorgasbord will be served on December 14th after worship. If you would like to help prepare, serve or clean-up let us know. Many hands make light work! You just might learn some new kitchen secrets. Looking forward to serving you. Nancy & Dennis



Open House

The Brown family would like to invite you to an open house celebrating the 90th birthday of Robert Brown with cake and punch. The open house will be on Sun., Oct. 19, 2008, in the church dining room from 2 – 4 PM. No gifts please, cards are welcome.

Make a Difference

The winterizing of cars for single, divorced or widowed ladies will take place on Saturday, October 18th at the church. Please call Doug Swanson, 398-7960 or the church office to make your appointment. Be prepared to give the make, model, year and liter number of your engine.

60 Plus

60 Plus will meet on Tues., Oct. 21, at 11:30 AM at Hoffman House. Please call Peggy Frint at 815-398-1813 to make your reservation to join them.

Financial Update from Treasurer

As of 8-31-08, donations toward the budget are \$206,317 which is \$42,842 under budget and \$9,593 lower than 2007 at this date. So far we have been able to pay all expenses and missions commitments. However, now that we have a more complete staff, giving needs to increase to keep the bills paid. Dave Holmertz

Birthdays

- 3 Eugene Peterson
4 Maxine Haney
6 Kim Schweitzer
7 Becky Bamberger
9 Darlene Pearson
10 Lorna Bjurstrom
11 Jerry Gowan
12 Randall Price
17 Keith Holmertz
18 Janet Tollefsrud
20 Dean Parker
22 Carolyn Augenson
22 Barbara Rehnberg
24 Catherine Johnson
24 Emmy Miller
Tim Ramgren
25 Sally Gill Pierce
26 Gale Levey
27 Phil Adams Jr.
Gene Felts
28 Thelma Melquist
Verna Pearson
Susan Warren
29 Steve Schweitzer
30 Mary Ann Egler

Anniversaries

- 3 Mark & Karen Pearson
6 Pat & Annette Retzlaff
15 Michael & Ginny Woodrow
17 Wesley & Susan Nelson
19 Donald & Wyone Leather
22 Daniel & Aina Hitchcock
25 Steven & Kim Schweitzer
26 Ron & Emmy Miller
27 Michael & Linda Myers

A Wind-Fall of New Books

The library recently received a monetary gift from Dorothy Kjell to be used for large print books. We have purchased and processed several and have more on order. Among the new ones include:

- “The Prince” by Karen Kingsbury
“Breaking Free” by Beth Moore
“Help Lord, I’m Having a Senior Moment” by Karen O’Connor
“Chicken Soup for the Golden Soul” by Jack Canfield
“When Godly People Do Ungodly Things” by Beth Moore

Come in and check one out!

Remember in Prayer

Connie Mikkelson, Colleen Felts and families in the passing of Leonard Mikkelson.
Eleanor Anderson at Nelson Debes.
Eleanor Holmertz back at Fairhaven after rehab.
Dorothy Kjell at Fairhaven Health Center.
Maynard Adolphson at home recovering from heart surgery.
Carolyn Bergmark at P.A. Peterson.

Thank You

Dear Friends at Broadway Covenant Church, I just wanted to send a little note of thanks your way. My daughter and I had such a lovely time at the carnival. Everyone was so nice! Thank you all so very much for including us! We hope to see you next year. Your neighbors – Heather and Little Iris Harradine

Thanks to the 60 Plus friends for the 90th birthday balloons at the breakfast at Stockholm Inn on September 16. I had begun to suspect something was going on, which I recognized as I stepped into the room. Thanks to others of Broadway from whom I read greetings and good wishes. I received a number of greetings from church friends at First Covenant, Stillman Valley, North Park and other states where we served Covenant churches remembered: Minnesota, Michigan, and Nebraska. In one card Hebrews 6:14 was quoted, from the translation called The Message, “I promise that I will bless you with everything I have – bless and bless and bless.” That is the way the week was filled, with gratitude, emotion and tiredness. “Praise God from whom all blessings flow!”
Emmet Swanson

Dear Church Family, Thank you so much for your prayers for my brother David following his stroke. His vision continues to improve very slowly but surely, just as his doctors expected. It is very possible that David will experience a full recovery. If not, corrective glasses should bring his vision into focus. Right now, we are literally in a “wait and see” mode. Again, thank you for your prayers and regular inquiries into his health. Tears well up in David’s eyes whenever I share with him how someone from Broadway would ask, “How is your brother, David, doing?” Your concern and encouragement mean a lot to me and my family. Thank you, The Filkin Family

Get Your Leaves Raked



Looking for someone to rake those falling leaves? Well look no further, Broadway Covenant High School kids (Overhaul) are looking for ways to earn money for CHIC 2009 and YOU can be a part of that. If you would like to reserve your spot please contact Kristi Swanson at 815-398-7960 or the church office. The space is limited since we don't know what the weather will bring. Suggested donation is \$3.00 per bag. Discounts will be given on larger lawns.

Parents Night Out

In need of some quiet time or some time alone with your spouse? Don't know what to do with the kids? Saturday, November 1st from 6 – 10:30 p.m. Broadway Covenant High School kids (Overhaul) will be offering you a safe and fun place for your kids to enjoy an evening while you're out. Feed them before you drop them off and we will entertain them. Make your reservations early since this event will fill up quickly. Suggested donation is \$10 per child for the evening. All funds earned will go toward CHIC 2009. Contact Kristi Swanson at 815-398-7960 or the church office.



Exploring God's Word

The Bible is much more than a book of stories and rules from the past. It's rich with a relevant message God has for us today. Join us as we discover how to engage with the Bible like never before and how to apply it to our lives each and every day. God's word has the power to answer all of life's questions. What are your questions? Use the tear-off sheet, and Pastor Eric will attempt to answer your questions in up-coming messages.



Broadway Covenant Church
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Rockford, IL 61108

Return Service Requested