

May 2008

The Messenger

The Experience Begins!

Our new worship format, which segments our service into three parts – contemporary music followed by teaching followed by traditional music, brings good news and bad news. Surprisingly, both the good news and the bad news are the same: “Houston, we have a parking problem!” A parking problem is good news because it means our parking lot is full and more people are attending worship. But the parking problem is bad news because those who need the closest parking spaces arrive at or near the end of the contemporary music and have had to park down the street. Thus, during week two of the experiment, many of you saw the cones cordoning off four spaces and wondered, “What’s with the cones?” Or perhaps you arrived a little after 10:30 and found a couple sweet parking spots right in front and wondered, “Wow! How did I get so lucky?” Now you know. But, if you are young and reasonably able bodied, or if you aren’t too young but are still quite able bodied, please try to avoid parking in the spaces closest to the building on the east side of the church.

I have been amazed at virtually everyone’s hopeful interest and desire to see what’s going to happen and what the new experience will be like. Curiosity has neither killed the cat nor ushered in the end of the world as we know it by tweaking our music orientation. One exciting aspect of this experience has been to see people change their perspectives. There were those who told me ahead of time that this idea was a bad one because they really liked our current worship and didn’t think the hue and cry about music was worth such drastic changes. However, many of those now say, “Hey, this really works. I can see the value in organizing the music in this way.” In addition, many who were not sure what to expect ahead of time have told me how much they appreciate the new format. On the other hand, some who went in with an open mind have told me they prefer it the old way. Others value the effort but aren’t yet convinced by the execution. Still others wish we would organize things a little differently. And last, a very small number was negative about our worship previously, and sadly, these attitudes are unchanged. In spite of that final category, I am most grateful for the conversations that now constructively discuss worship. People are talking about worship in positive, helpful, and thoughtful ways, which indicates to me that we are putting aside our overly-critical natures, and instead, we are focusing on worshipping God and bringing others to Christ. This is progress regardless of our worship format.

Our next step in worship happens at our Annual Meeting on May 21. Everyone is invited – members and friends of Broadway. We will have conversations around our tables in Fellowship Hall for the purpose of gathering our collective reactions to this new worship format. While we won’t subject the way we organize worship to a vote, we will collect data to help inform us how best to design worship that makes sense based upon our particular context, history, and resources. If the overwhelming sense is, “Boy, that new worship format was sure a bad idea,” then we’ll probably go back to what we had been doing beforehand. Perhaps there will be sentiment to try the hymns first and follow the teaching with the band; therefore, during the summer, we may test drive another new idea. In other words, things may change yet again after the Annual Meeting. I know that change is difficult, but I am trying to be responsive to the needs of our people and our mission to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to all people.

Seeking to lead Broadway by following Jesus,
Pastor Eric

STUDENT MINISTRIES

Greetings from the youth sector. It's been exciting time down in the Garage. Here's the scoop:

Roots is growing! When **Tim** headed off to Massachusetts, we were left with no male counselor for the Roots group besides myself. I'm happy to announce that we've found someone to join us. **Danny Schweitzer** joined our Jr. High staff in April. In growing up with him, it's evident he has a passion for teaching and guiding young people. He brings a great deal of energy, knowledge, and laughs to the group. Now poor **Kristi Holstein** has to deal with 2, count em, 2 counselors that act like they're 12!! ☺ Up until now, Dan's work schedule didn't leave him with evenings free, however that's now changed. **Praise God. Thanks to him for stepping up into such a vital role, and to his wife Laura for her support of his passion! Welcome Dan!**



Now that it's getting nice outside, **Roots** has been out and about in the neighborhood. A few weeks back, we headed down to Rolling Green for some games and during that time, a kid name **Sean** showed up and asked if he could join the game. In no time he melted in to the group and has joined us each Wednesday since and also was at the bonfire we had on April 19th. (more on that later) **Paul Montoya** who lives near church also brought a friend of his recently. His name is **Kory**. Paul joined us last fall and is now an active member of our group. Please be praying for all our kids that God may move in their lives in a very deliberate way.

We've been using **Rob Bell's video series** recently which has sparked good discussions and down-to-earth take-home stuff that the kids can use today as they grow in life. **Praise God!** I don't have the space to elaborate on the lessons, but they've dealt with **identity, struggles in life, God's presence in daily life, anger, silence, and so many more**. One was about breathing. It talked about how Lord, in Hebrew, is pronounced Yod, heh, vah, heh which is where we get **Yahweh**. Rob suggested that in many traditions it's not even pronounced because it's so sacred. Ancient rabbis believed that these letters functioned kind of as vowels and were essentially breathing sounds. **Rob's question: is the name of God the sound of breathing??** Life begins and ends with breath. God breathed life into man. The Hebrew word "Ruah" means both breath and spirit. **I think that's so awesome.** The kids latched onto the main point and left that night with a new, deeper understanding of breathing, and that it's so much more than just filling lungs with air.

April 19th was a bonfire blast out in western Rockford. Both **Roots** and **Overhaul** combined for this event, which was great. It was touch and go there for a while as the rain kept swooping in, but in the end, it cleared up and we were good to go. We all met out at **Christi's grandparent's house out near Winnebago**. The kids made use of the playground, soccer goals, ultimate Frisbee field, and even a soggy, marshy area that provided hours of adventures not to mention wet shoes and pants!! Around dusk, with the help of lighter fluid and pine tree branches, our bonfire came to life. It didn't light the first time and I think the kids were questioning my ability (maybe they were right), but in the end, it worked out great. Hot dogs, chips, mustard, relish, pop, water, smores, and ketchup completed the **cookout menu**. Thanks to **MaryBeth** for getting all the food! Also to **Kristi Holstein and Dan Schweitzer for helping out**. It was a great time had by all and I'm sure we'll do it again some other time!!

OVERHAUL
Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Now, on to **Overhaul**. **Overhaul** is busy. Our **Mexico missions trip** is coming up quick! We've got a great group of kids going along with **Annette Retzlaff, MaryBeth Adams, Matt Link, and myself**. Make sure you make plans to join us this **Saturday, May 3rd, for our Swedish Pancake Breakfast**. It's happening from 8 – 11AM and **Anders**

Gredenius is going to be firing up the skillets. Don't miss it. The free-will offering will benefit those going on the Mexico trip this summer. Please be praying for each of us that the logistics would fall into place and that the money needed would be received. Moreover, please be praying for those in **Mexico** we will be serving alongside.

Praise God!! Overhaul has also been maneuvering through Rob Bell's video series for their talktime. The discussions are great and the lessons, like Roots, provide them lifestuff to use today. **Please be praying for these kids as they continue to seek God. Be praying for summer jobs to come together for those that are looking. Praise God for new faces in our group: Jared and Chelsea. I pray they continue to meet their God here at Broadway. On a sad note, we lost Justin Holmertz, who defined selflessness and left to serve our country in the Army. Justin – please know that you are missed. The impact you've had on us will go with us into the future. God bless you!!**

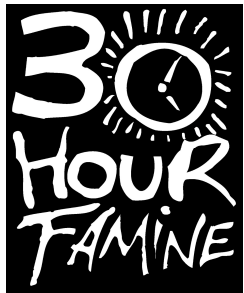
Cell groups are fantastic!! Mike Yaconelli's book, Messy Spirituality, is coming to a close, but it's been great! Kids are remembering the themes from the book. They're remembering the stories and the meaning behind them. **They're learning how to be Christ for those they meet.** They're learning how to be themselves and to seek their God with all their heart. They've poured themselves into this group. **They've made it their own.** Several had schedule changes and aren't able to be there for the whole thing each week, but still show up with only 15 minutes left. **They do it because they want to. God is good!** Please be praying for us and we decide when to meet during the summer and what to study. May God show us the way!

Many kids have volunteered their time to help with Skills Camp coming up in June – the 16th – 20th to be exact. Praise God for their willingness to help. Also to Cheryl Ecklund and Michelle Gustafson for their incredible skill and dedication to making this event life-changing for so many. Also to so many more who give their time, resources, passion, and abilities to help our kids choose the narrow path. Thank you all!!

A huge **Congratulations goes out to Skyler Retzlaff!! Moody Bible Institute awaits!** Skyler is looking to pursue the ministry in some form after college, and he decided that Moody would be his first choice for **College.** It's a very difficult school to get into as **they only take 70 incoming freshman (I believe).** I understand from Skyler that his first year is going to be spent at the campus in Spokane, Washington. Be praying for Skyler as he and his family prepare for this adventure.

World Vision's 30 Hour Famine

It's hard to imagine the cruel reality of hunger. Extreme hunger. Hunger that kills. Around our world there are millions that don't get to eat. Most of us have never experienced hunger. Most of us, myself included, take for granted the provision that we have. The sad reality is that hunger is real. **29,000 children under 5 years old die every day from hunger and related illnesses. 15,000 will die today from simply not having food to eat. And tomorrow. And the day after that. That's one death every 6 seconds. It breaks my heart.**



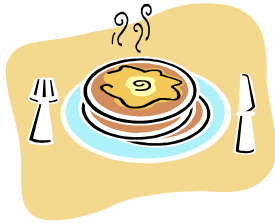
But here is the good news. Both Overhaul and Roots are choosing to make a difference by combining to participate in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine. These kids will raise money by not eating for 30 hours to help make sure that kids around the world have enough to eat. Our **event will begin on Friday, May 9th at noon and end with a meal together at 6PM on Saturday night.** This experience will challenge your kids, as most are accustomed to eating every few hours, but I guarantee that it is possible. During our fast there will be **numerous activities for the kids to partake in.** There will be times for games and such, times for famine-related projects, prayer time and devotional time, service projects, praise and worship times, and also sleep time (we will need it)! Each student will get a

sponsor sheet where people can pledge their financial support. If each student can secure 12 people to sponsor 1 dollar per hour they will feed one child for an entire year!! **Be praying for our kids as they empty themselves and give all they have for those that have nothing. An event like this changes kids.** They become more aware of the needs of the world and become less focused on things they do or don't have.

As always, please keep praying for our little ones in Tanzania: Asia, Boke, and Najimu. We've received several letters from each child recently and all are doing well. May God continue to protect them and move in their lives!

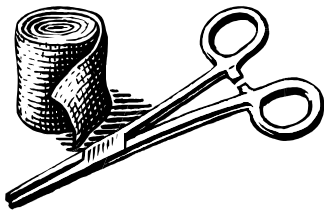
Serving Him,

Derek



Mission Trip Fundraiser

Here we go again!! Our annual **Swedish Pancake breakfast will be on Saturday, May 3rd from 8:00 until 11:00 a.m.** and will benefit Overhaul's Mexico summer mission trip. Sign up in the narthex or call the office by 4/29.



Rip and Roll Bandages

All women of the church are invited to help prepare bandages for mission work. This opportunity will take place on Tuesday, May 13th in fellowship hall from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. Come when you can and leave when you must. Bring a sack lunch, drinks will be provided. Everyone is welcome, so renew old friendships and make new ones as we work together. Drop off bed sheets you want to donate in the church office.

60 Plus Luncheon

Join us for our next luncheon with 60 Plus on May 20th, at Ned's Restaurant, 2132 Business Route 20 (commonly known as State Street) between Belvidere and Rockford at 11:30 AM. Reservations need to be made with Peggy Frint, 815-398-1813, by Sunday, May 18th.

Surprise Celebration to Honor Trudy Hunt

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church invites you to a special service in honor of Trudy's 51 years of music ministry. This will take place on Sunday May 18th at 10:00 a.m. at 112 South Cherry Street, Cherry Valley, IL. The service will include special music and memories followed by lunch. RSVP to Mary Coulter (815)229-3947 or Patty Campbell (815)332-4215 if you plan to attend. Shhhh! Remember – it's a surprise!

Constitutional Bylaws Update

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee continues to make steady progress. The Committee has completed its work on a proposed draft of the Constitution and Bylaws based on the Leadership Team model which was presented at the Town Hall Meeting in February. The proposed Constitution and Bylaws document has been presented to the Executive Board for consideration and presentation to the Congregation. Last month it was reported that the Executive Board approved the formation of a Transition Team for purposes of providing further fine-tuning to the Bylaws Committee's proposed organizational framework and also to provide leadership for implementing the transition. The Transition Team has been formed and has begun meeting. The Transition Team members are: Candice McCulloch, Keith Holmertz, Marsha Johnson, Derek Melin, Karen Holmertz, Dave Lape, Colleen Felts, Eric Filkin (ex-officio), and Carl Ecklund (ex-officio).

On Sunday, May 4, 2008, immediately following the worship service there will be a brief Special Congregational Meeting for purposes of presenting two proposed constitutional amendments, which presentation is necessary in order for the congregation to take action on the proposed amendments at the Annual Meeting. Copies of the proposed Constitution and Bylaws will be made available to the congregation at the Special Congregational Meeting on May 4th. The Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 21, 2008.

In order that everyone can be fully prepared to participate in the discussion of the Constitution and Bylaws at the Annual Meeting, the Sunday School hour on May 11, 2008, will be devoted to summarizing and discussing the proposed new structure. Questions and comments will be welcomed at that time. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement in this process.

Wednesday Night Dinner

Plan now to fellowship together with a wonderful home cooked meal, by Nancy Norman, of creamed chicken over mashed potatoes with lots of trimmings. Sign up on the attendance sheets or by calling the office to join us on Wednesday, May 21st at 5:30 p.m. prior to the Annual Meeting.



Missions Corner

There are many local ministries that are doing God's work that we are privileged to support including: **Rockford Police Chaplains** show God's love to those in need by helping a single mom feed her family, helping a woman who lost everything in a fire, and comforting those at a death scene. They fill the gap and supply whatever is needed when they are called. **Rockford Area Pregnancy Care Center** is committed to saving lives by counseling women with unplanned pregnancies. They have 3 centers located on East State, West State and Belvidere. They provide ultrasounds, a post-abortion recovery ministry, No Regrets Abstinence Ministry for youth, and they will soon open a maternity home. **Bridge Ministries** bring people together to help improve our community. Currently they are helping to clean up and fix John Nelson School, bring Freedom Schools to Rockford this summer and facilitating the following: Prayer driving Rockford, Teacher's prayer, Youth ministers' network and Clergy leader's forum. **Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity** help people into homes that otherwise would not be able to afford it. The homeowners put over 300 hours into building their homes and must complete three separate 6-hour courses that train them to set budgets, plan for emergencies, and practice financial responsibility. **Peanut Butter Update:** We took 20 pounds of peanut butter to the Rock River Food Pantry. There are collection boxes at each entrance for your contributions.

Prayer and Praise:

Steve & Ellen Peterson, India

- Praise for a good trip back to Asia.
- Pray for wisdom, courage and joy in their new leadership role.
- Pray for the ability to hear God for the future.

Alaska Christian College

- Praise for the opportunity to go the Mexicali Valley for a Mission Trip.
- Praise for the initial accreditation from ABHE.
- Pray for the students as they finish out their school year and look to next year.

Johnna Hayward, Belgium

- Praise that the youth are beginning to trust her at a deeper level.
- Pray for a way for the youth and church to reach out to the community in a real and tangible way.
- Pray for the relationships she is developing that she can reach out to them and be honest and articulate as they ask questions about God and church.

Patchwork Quilters

The month of February marked our sixth year anniversary. Since then, we have made 41 lap quilts 36 large quilts and 4 pillows. Our quilts are given away. Every year two large quilts are donated to the fun fair. Several have been given to the youth group to help raise funds for their trips; others have been given to various charities in Rockford. Just recently we have started to make comfort quilts, of loved ones clothes to give to their family member. Our lap quilts have been given to shut ins, and to various nursing homes in Rockford and the out lining areas. We meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the downstairs area of the church. We have been truly blessed with this mission project and thank you for supporting this mission project. If you know of any organization that is in need of quilts let our group know. The Patchwork Quilts, submitted by Kathy Adams. P.S. A big thank you to the cutting "elf" that keeps leaving us cut squares.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Mildred Berry Center is seeking volunteers for two programs. CompeerKids serves youth receiving mental health services in Winnebago and Boone counties. Lunch Buddies assists youth in a relaxed setting over their lunch break. Both of these programs make a significant difference in the lives of youth. Your friendship can help change the life of someone who is in need of support and companionship. For more information call Jana at 815-847-0970.

Healing Place Community Outreach

An outreach to faith community providing prevention and recovery services for those impacted by addictions, abuse, and destructive relationship. This ministry is located at Cornerstone Community Church, 1250 S. Perryville Rd. (815)965-5332. *When Love Hurts* – every other Tuesday, 4/15-7/1 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. Contact Renande Cossey (ext. 128) An educational series dealing with understanding healing from domestic abuse. *You're Not Alone* – every Thursday starting 4/17 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Contact Patrick Clinton (ext. 106) An education-support groups for those who desire a Christ-centered approach to assisting family members and friends toward sobriety by becoming healthy themselves.

Birthdays

- 1 Eric Filkin
3 Kristi Holstein
4 Orville Roen
9 Karl Burdick
9 Kathy Holmertz
11 Maureen Parker
12 Sylvia Bowman
Kendall Dahlstrom
Jeffrey Holmertz
14 Rowland Holmertz
Laura Price
15 Mae Kolnes
Dan Fraker
16 Gladys Damrose
17 Susan Nelson
18 Kerri Ramgren
Pat Retzlaff
19 Neva Anderson
21 Thomas Johnson
22 Jack Sowl
31 Eleanor Anderson

Anniversaries

- 7 Steve & Patty Simmons
12 Marshall & Catherine Johnson
Kari & Tyler Whitney
21 Willis & Betty Lockett
25 Kurt & Gladys Anderson
25 Jeff & Beth Holmertz
29 Rev. Ralph & Marilyn Dirksen

Remember in Prayer

Jerold & Chris Busse in the death of their son, Steve.

Emmy Miller and family in the death of her brother, Robert.

Len Mikkelson at St. Anne's for rehab.

Maxine Haney at OSF St. Anthony Hospital.

Walt Anderson at Rosewood.

Maizie Engstrom recovering at Provena Cor Mariae.

Our foreign exchange students, **Jasmin Lee**, living with the Frakers, and **Kit Ming Chow**, living with the Parkers.

New Address

Gale Levey
Alden Strathmoor
5668 Strathmoor Room A15
Rockford, IL 61107

Thank You

Thank you for the beautiful plant and all the prayers and visits during my recovery. Bless you all
Hazel Sandberg

I want to thank Derek, Kathy Adams and all the nurses who came to my aid on Easter Sunday and for the care that you gave me. I also want to thank Derek for visiting me in the hospital and for being there during my procedure. I would like to thank everyone for your prayers, calls and the beautiful plant. I am blessed to have such a caring church family. In Christ, Robert Brown

Dear Broadway Family,

In this fast paced world of ours where things change so quickly, the one constant that has always remained in our live is the wonderful love and friendship of our Broadway family. You've given us never ending strength and support at times when we needed them most.

Your countless acts of sympathy and love for Audrey were so deeply appreciated. Thank-you for the flowers, cards, thought and prayers. Audrey was not only our loving and devoted wife, mother and grandmother, but she was truly one of God's chosen angels on earth. Our heartfelt thanks and love to all,
The Walter Anderson Family

Outside Clean-up

Plan to help with the spring clean-up of the church grounds on Saturday, May 3rd. Come for the pancake breakfast and continue the fellowship by helping clean up outside.

RCFBand Concerts

"**The First Annual Fred Hubbell Memorial Concert**" will feature The RockfordCFBand and The ChicagoCFBand at First Covenant on May 18th at 6 PM. Fred M. Hubbell passed away in March of 2007 and will be honored on that night.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 21, at 6:15 PM in Fellowship Hall.

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 815/226-1027.

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.

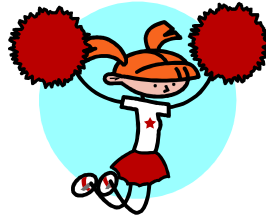
Pick up a registration form in the church narthex for your children, grandchildren, neighbors and friends. Forms and fees are due by June 2, 2008. Don't miss this great week!



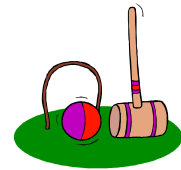
Football



Soccer



Dance/poms



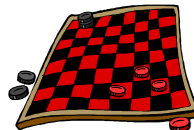
Lawn Games



Cooking



Gardening



Board Games



Craft Corner

AND MORE!



Broadway Covenant Church
3525 Broadway Covenant Church
Rockford, IL 61108