



July 2011

The Messenger

For Such a Time As This

In June Pastor Eric Filkin concluded his ministry at Broadway beginning a time of transition for Broadway Covenant Church. We are grateful to Pastor Eric and his family for their ministry and their impact on the life and ministry of Broadway.

The life and ministry of Broadway continues during this time of transition. Broadway recently held its annual week long Skills Camp for kids ranging from preschool through 6th grade. This year approximately 90 kids and 62 volunteers participated to make the week a success. The theme for the week was "For Such A Time As This" based on the story of Esther.

The story of Esther teaches us much about how God works in the circumstances of our daily life to bring about His plans. Through teaching lessons and skits the kids learned about the story of Esther. As the story goes, Esther was chosen by King Xerxes of Persia to be his queen after a search throughout the empire. What was unknown and unique about Esther was that she was Jewish, a fact which she and her palace official cousin, Mordecai, kept secret for her safety and protection. During this time a high ranking palace official, Haman, grew angry at Mordecai for not bowing down to him and showing him respect. Haman sought revenge and conjured up a plot whereby he convinced the king to make a decree that all Jews throughout the empire— young and old, including woman and children must be killed. The decrees of the king were final and all the Jewish people under the rule of the king knew the finality of the situation. Yet Mordecai believed in the promises of God about the preservation of His people and knew God alone could spare the Jewish people from the decree and so he sought God in prayer. Mordecai also knew that, as queen, Esther was in a position of influence and could alter matters so as to be an instrument for saving the Jewish people and implementing God's promise. Mordecai implored Esther to go to the king and beg for mercy and plead for her people. Esther reminded Mordecai of the danger in that anyone who appears before the king without being invited is doomed to die unless the king shows mercy by holding out his gold scepter.

Mordecai responded by saying, "If you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this" Esther 4:14.

After three days of prayer and fasting seeking God's guidance Esther agreed to go see the king. She was prepared to do it even if the attempt to save her people ended in her own death. In the end through Esther's courage and obedience to God Haman was exposed and executed and God's chosen people were saved.

The truths that the kids learned in Skills Camp through the story of Esther are:

God puts us where He wants us to be.

God wants us to seek Him for His plan for our lives.

God gives us the courage to do what He calls us to do.

God will not fail to carry out judgment.

God's plan will prevail.

We see in the story of Esther how each one of the characters was in the story for a reason to be used by God for His purpose. God uses daily circumstances such as the circumstances that Esther and Mordecai were in and put them in the right place at the right time to take care of his people.

We may not see it clearly now but we must trust that God's hand is working in our circumstances and guiding Broadway Covenant Church in this time of transition. Who will lead Broadway next as its Senior Pastor is unknown at this time. What is known from the story of Esther is that God will work within the life of Broadway for His plan if we continue to seek Him. Continue to pray for Broadway Covenant Church during this time of transition.

BCC Student Ministries

Thank you, Thank you, and Thank you!! It was another great year in Skills Camp thanks to so many things. Here we go!

Thanks to Carl, Cheryl, Kelsey, n Kendra for all their work. Thanks to the counselors for their connections to the kids and willingness to play the fool and act ridiculous. Thanks to the Jr Highers for serving in preschool and for doing whatever they were asked to do for the rest of the day. Your servant attitude did NOT go unnoticed! Thanks to our nurses who bandaged up the kids who took spills throughout the week. Thanks to all those who led the sports for the kids. I heard lots of good things from the kids! And thanks to those who facilitated the skills time. I was blown away again this year by all that went on! Thanks to those who handled all the tech stuff. Thanks to those who snapped some of the 800+ pictures that are now up on www.flickr.com. You can get there by visiting the church website! Thanks to those who bought and delivered all the supplies! Thanks to those who handled the snack time and made sure our kids were fed!



Thanks to those who played and sang in the worship band. Thanks to those who led our preschoolers in song time and arts n crafts! Thanks to those who set up everything we needed for our big game outside and for interacting and participating which made it great fun! Thanks to those who worked in the snack shack to help sugar the kids up before skills time! Thanks to all those who handled registration and the behind the scenes logistics. Thanks to those who asked the question “what do you need me to do?” Thanks to those who planned and participated in the skits, bringing alive the story of Esther. Thanks to those running the video camera and amping the kids up! Thanks to Rolling Green for letting us use their sports facilities. Thanks to those involved in our missions moment at camp. Knowing me, I’m sure I forgot some- one, but a huge thank you goes out to every single volunteer we had this year. All 63 of you! Whatever you did and however you helped, please know that you made a difference in the lives of our kids here.



How awesome it is to have 90ish kids and 63 volunteers come together for a power-packed week. I saw furnished Lego houses, scrapbook creations, individual art projects, kids hanging together polishing certain game techniques, sweet wooden whirligigs, and Swedish pancakes and other cooking sensations. We danced to the crazy frog video, and hamster dance, along with some Go Fish for good measure. We sang Pharaoh, Pharaoh, There’s a fire on the Mountain, Indescribable, Mighty to Save, Hey God, and so many more. We popped water balloons on stage, our counselors endured peanut butter on faces, cheese balls, chocolate pudding and gummy worms, searching through flour for a piece of gum and much more. We all go soaked outside during the water games. Deceptica, the legion of doom, our fairies, trolls, superheroes all showed up to help us with the big game. We practiced dance, volleyball and soccer, and enjoyed lawn games, backyard games. We listened to the story of Esther through skits, lessons, and small group time. We prayed for others. We prayed for ourselves. We invited Jesus into our hearts. We brought money to send around the world. We cheered, we answered Jeopardy questions. We saw ourselves in pictures and on video. We signed cards, ate lunch, had snack, changed clothes, followed directions and had a blast. We made memories and plan to do it again next year!

Broadway, thank you for your support!! We couldn’t do this each year without the backing of you the congregation. Thank you for praying, giving, and serving. I had so many kids and even some parents ask if this was a camp we could sustain for the whole summer. It just goes to show how the many servant-hearted pieces work together to create a pretty awesome picture.

Personally, thank you to 2nd grader who brought me lunch on Tuesday! So awesome! Also, thank you to 5th grader who brought me to tears in showing me what’s possible! We serve an awesome God whose spirit showed up at Skills Camp week! Congratulations to the 19 little ones who made the choice for Christ! Please continue to pray for them as they grow! Check out www.broadwaycovenant.com for the links to the pics on flickr. See if you can find someone you know! Thanks for a great week!

Peace,

Derek

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3 9:15 Worship 6:00 Overhaul	4 Happy Independence Day	5 8:30 Morning Prayer Meeting	6 12:00 Prayer 6:00 Roots	7	8	9
10 9:15 Worship 6:00 Overhaul	11	12 8:30 Morning Prayer Meeting 6:30 Leadership Team Mtg.	13 12:00 Prayer 6:00 Roots	14	15	16
17 9:15 Worship 6:00 Overhaul	18 9:00 Patchwork Quilters	19 8:30 Morning Prayer Meeting	20 12:00 Prayer 6:00 Roots	21	22	23 9:00 Habitat Lunches
24 9:15 Worship 6:00 Overhaul	25	26 8:30 Morning Prayer Meeting	27 12:00 Prayer 6:00 Roots	28	29	30
31 9:15 Worship 6:00 Overhaul						

Anniversaries

- 2 Mayford & Pearl Engstrom
- 7 Brad & Patricia Gasmund
- 8 Erin & Tim Clark
- 14 Robert & Lorrie Werthman
Mike & Stacey Parlapiano
- 23 Philip & Kathy Adams
- 24 Gerald & Christine Bauer
Doug & Kathie Knight

Birthdays

- 1 Kurt Anderson
Candice McCulloch
- 2 Matt Link
- 5 Gladys Anderson
- 6 Jonathan Brown
- 7 Arlene Schweiger
- 8 Troy Jackson
- 10 Pearl Wienke
- 13 Matthew Carlson
- 16 Rosalie Pearson
- 17 Joan Boettcher
Wesley Nelson
- 18 Todd Johnson
- 19 Marshall Johnson
- 21 Ann Mary Ferguson
- 22 Kimberly Haase
- 25 Nancy Rainwater
- 26 Wayne Augenson
- 31 Pam Zollar

Financial Update

Thanks to everyone, the May donations were \$30,050 which is over budget and we were able to pay \$7,000 of past due bills. However, we have not been able to pay the \$12,200 of missions commitments. Please pray and give. Dave Holmertz, Treasurer

Serving in July

- Head Usher: Jon Brown
Counters: Jon Brown & Bill Forsen
Nursery Workers:
7/3 Kathy Melin & Mary Beth Adams
7/10 Ann & Jeff Chapetta
7/17 Carl & Cheryl Ecklund
7/24 Kim Lape & Stacey Parlapiano
7/31 Paula Rasanen & Kathy Holmertz

Coffee Schedule:

- 7/3 Dan & Aina Hitchcock
- 7/10 Anders & Arline Gredenius
- 7/17 Dave & Karen Holmertz
- 7/24 Ryan & Kara Woodrow
- 7/31 Roy & Janel Leidahl



Remember in Prayer

The family of Maynard Adolphson who passed away.
Phil Adams Sr. recovering from surgery.
Mary Beth Adams recovering from shoulder surgery.
Wally Filkin recovering from surgery.
Lorna Bjurstrom in the passing of her sister, Dorothy.
Martin Nelson recovering from surgery.

Thank You

Dear Skills Camp Staff, It was our first year sending our son and daughter to your camp. As parents, we know how much a smiling face will tell us. Our kids came home each day with smiles and enthusiasm about the day's events. Our son shared stories about Esther, but he was definitely won over with the water games. Our 3 year old daughter spent many afternoons saying, "I afraid. I trust in you." We want to thank you for taking such good care of our children when we chose to share them with you. We do not take the decision lightly when we choose to involve our children with a group of people we do not know. After the first day, we knew they were in good hands. Thank you for being a light stand of love. You are appreciated. Sincerely, A new Skills Camp family

Fun-Fest 2011

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for the Fun-Fest on Saturday, August 20th. Look for more information to be coming soon!

Mission Report

This month we are praying for **David & Judy Dolan** who are co-ordinators for the Covenants' **Chinese Ministry**. Chinese People make up the largest ethnic group in the world. The World Mission Department is partnering with the Chinese Evangelical Covenant Church of Taiwan and local North American congregations to bring the Gospel to the Chinese people wherever they are able to. David & Judy are responsible to care for missionaries working in China, Taiwan and Mongolia. They also work with missionaries who are considering new directions and projects in the various countries. They travel to these countries several times a year to see the missionaries and their projects and to help with strategic planning and resources for their ministry. Please pray for wisdom for all staff and guidance on how to work well with change and challenges in the countries they serve. Also pray for David as he continues to struggle with back pain.

Peanut Butter Update: We recently took 22 pounds of peanut butter to the Rock River Valley Food Pantry. Please leave your donations under the church bank in the entry way or in the box in the SE Narthex. Thank you for your support.

Coins For Congo: We recently sent in a check for \$109.17 to Bob Thornbloom. Please leave your change in the church bank in the entryway. Thank you for your support.

Habitat for Humanity Lunches- We will be providing lunches on Saturday July 23rd for about 60 people. If you would like to help out by packing lunches or donating food please contact Sue Warren at 815-397-3158 or suswarren3326@comcast.net.

Prayer and Praise:

Tim & Andrea Johnson, Japan

- Pray for the people of Northern Japan as they continue to deal with issues and problems

related to the earthquake and tsunami.

- Pray for Andrea as she travels to the US for classes July 22-August 2nd.
- Pray for Akagi Bible Camp that many will hear and accept the good news of Jesus.

Covenant Youth of Alaska

- ✦ Praise that the Strategic Planning Retreat was a successful weekend.
- ✦ Pray that kids coming to camp will have safe travels and will be open to the Lord working in their lives.

Read their newsletters and other letters from our missionaries in the book by the Missions Board.

Missionaries BCC Supports:

Robert & Joyce Widman
Leonid & Leanna Regheta
Tim & Andrea Johnson
Peter & Ruth Dutton
Byron & Sue Bruckner
David & Judy Dolan

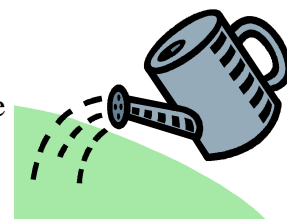
Purchase Landscaping Plants

Spring is here, our landscaping plans are complete, and work will begin soon. The total cost of the work was not part of the "RENEW, REBUILD, REVIVAL" campaign and there are over 400 plants to complete the project. The cost per plant averages \$10. This is an "Installed" cost which includes a warranty. Please help by purchasing a plant, or two, or fifty! If you donate with your regular Sunday tithing, please mark the envelope indicating what extra you have added for "PLANTS".

Do you have a green thumb?

Do you like caring for plants?

If so, please let me, Steve Schweitzer, know. We will be needing volunteers who are willing to be part of a "water brigade" to insure our new plants survive their new home. Please see me some Sunday, or call me at 815.262.2147.



**Broadway Covenant
Church**

3525 Broadway
Rockford, IL 61108

Youth Pastor - Derek Melin
Congregational Care Pastor - Joyce Cosman
Music Director - Jerry Jacobs
Phone - (815)399-9296
Fax - (815)399-7860

Return Service Requested

We're on the Web
www.Broadwaycovenant.com

Non Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Rockford, Illinois
Permit No. 4311