

November 2008

# The Messenger

## Seven Minutes...

In seven minutes, a lot can happen. I can drive to church in seven minutes. I can run a mile in seven minutes. I can make Kraft macaroni and cheese in seven minutes. I can listen to most of Lynryd Skynyrd's "Free Bird" in seven minutes.

And seven minutes is all we get. In seven minutes visitors decide, both consciously and sub-consciously, whether to return. The clock starts ticking the moment visitors see our church from Broadway and everything they see and experience in those seven minutes impacts their decision whether they should come back. Even before a song is sung, a word is preached, or a prayer is offered, visitors are evaluating us, our building, our "feel," and our community. When they pull into our parking lot, they are asking questions like (again, whether they realize it or not), "Is there a parking place? Why is that bag stuck in the bushes? I wonder if there will be any coffee? Should I have worn a tie? What will my kids do? Which door do I go in? I wonder if anyone will talk to me?" If any of these questions are answered by a visitor negatively, there is an 80% chance that the visitor won't come back. As a reference point, consider how intimidating it is to start at a new school or begin at a new job, and you begin to understand what a first-time visitor to Broadway may feel like.

Recently, the greeters and ushers met to discuss what we can do to ensure that we are putting our best feet forward in these first seven minutes. Clearly, the greeters and ushers can't account for every variable that a visitor encounters, but we all can do our part. The great news is Broadway is well-ahead of the curve compared to other churches. Over and over again, when family or friends of mine have visited, all (except one) have said that they were warmly greeted and welcomed when they arrive. But there is more we can do. The greeters and ushers discussed the importance of walking everyone generally but visitors particularly through four steps of welcome. As Nelson Searcy says in his book Fusion: Turning First-Time Guests into Fully-Engaged Members of Your Church, "*Everything speaks to first-time guests – everything.*" (emphasis in original).

The first step is ensuring everyone is **greeted**. This is where we excel. Whether folks have signed up to be a greeter or not, we do a very good job of seeing new people and welcoming them with a smile and a handshake. Please keep this up. Don't assume that others will do it. Think back to the welcome you received when you first came, and imitate that experience. The second step is **directed**. Again regardless whether you are a greeter, help people figure out where they should go. First-time visitors have no idea where anything is – even the sanctuary. You'd be surprised at how confusing and counter-intuitive our building is. So if visitors have kids, direct them to the nursery, and introduce them to the nursery workers. Invite them to follow you to the sanctuary or to the bathroom or to grab a cup of coffee. Third, we want to be sure that everyone is **treated** – treated well, with respect, with tasty treats. Respect is important – respect for others and our church. One new family has left Broadway because of negative complaints overheard in the narthex as the worship band was playing. This family wasn't treated to the respect they deserved. On the other hand, few things say "welcome" better than a hot cup of coffee and a doughnut. Due to our building's confusing layout, however, few visitors have the chance to grab that welcoming cup of coffee if they enter the front of the sanctuary. So we need to direct visitors toward the coffee and our hospitality teams may want to consider setting a coffee-and-treat station near the front of the church, perhaps at the north end of the logia. Lastly, people like to be **seated**. Have you ever felt overly self-conscious at the movies when all the aisle seats are taken and you've either got to sit in the front row or ask people to slide over? Our visitors needn't experience that. Help others find a good seat. Slide on over for them. Introduce yourself to them. By the way, the worst seats in our sanctuary are the back five rows of the main floor. Due to our acoustics, the sound quality in the back is awful. Sound waves crash against the flat brick wall creating a sonic convulsion that makes even good music sound terrible. Please keep that in mind if you have ever had an issue with the way things have sounded during worship.

So on Sunday, start a mental stopwatch in your mind, and think about your experience in the first seven minutes. What do you see? What do you hear? Whom can find to greet, treat, direct, and seat? You might be helping someone come to encounter Christ for the very first time.

Greeting for Jesus, Pastor Eric

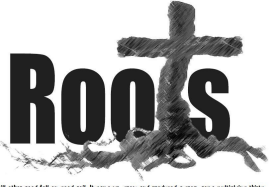


# The Pulse

November

Student Ministries of Broadway Covenant Church

2008



“Could it be that we and most young people we know are like that elephant-strong, smart, holding incredible potential, but somehow held back by nothing more than a piece of twine? Left almost powerless by a lie? We think so.” ~ **Do Hard Things** (Pg 28-29). The above quote is part of a great illustration of teens today. The full illustration is in the book **Do Hard Things** by Alex and Brett Harris. We are going through this book in Sunday School this fall. Michelle and Cheryl are leading this “rebellion” which is defined as a teenage rebellion against low expectations. If you haven’t checked it out yet...you should. If you’re in Roots or Overhaul and aren’t in Confirmation then this class is for you!!

Speaking of Confirmation, we have a class of 4 this year. Cal Filkin and Brooke Bamberger are in their second year with Kelsey Ecklund and Dylan Pronti starting their first year. Congratulations gang!! Good times await!

It may be unknown to some of you, but we have some great musical talent in BCC’s Student Ministries. That being said, we’re going to make use of it. Both Roots and Overhaul are putting the pieces together for worship bands that will play each week as part of our talktime. In addition to our curriculums, we’re incorporating praise and worship time, multimedia aspects, amongst other things. If you haven’t joined us for a while...check it out. God is good. We’d love to have you! This is a great thing!! Stay tuned...



On October 1<sup>st</sup>, I received an invitation to speak at Rockford Christian’s chapel service on October 16<sup>th</sup>. In speaking with Ron Green, I found out that the main reason for the invite was because our students are living out their faith. They are boldly living as Christ calls them to. They shine Christ’s light in the hallways of whatever school they go to and in whatever court, stage, field or lab they find themselves. It was a great experience and I was honored to be a part of it. To all of you kids out there I say this: keep going with God. Don’t quit when it’s hard. You guys are doing great things and there’s more to come. Go live out loud. Be bold.

October was filled with lots of stuff so here we go!! On October 19<sup>th</sup>, Roots and Overhaul combined to play some football/Frisbee/kickball and then headed out to the Swanson farm for chili, bonfire, smores, and more games. Doug’s bonfire was impressive (I still think it’s cool he burns 8 foot long tree trunks...sweet!!). I don’t do it often, but combining the groups is great as it allows relationships to be built and knowledge/example to be both given and received. Everyone had a great time and my thanks go out to Swansons (Doug’s Family and Emmett) and Schweigers for providing the logistics; Brett Holmertz, Kristi Holstein, Dan Schweitzer for leading and driving; and to Dave Saunders, Lance Wales, and Bambergers for providing the chili. Clear skies, chilly night and a warm fire....can’t beat it!!



Overhaul destroyed the youth room on Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. We had our Halloween bash. I laid tarps down to contain the mess that was inevitable. It’s all cleaned up now, but wow, well...let me explain. It was a night to remember!! Imagine for a minute what kind of mess can be made from fog machines, strobe lights, candy corn, affy tattles on ropes, marshmallows in chocolate syrup being dropped on people, finding mini marshmallows in flour, bobbing for apples, cupcakes in faces, carving pumpkins...it was a disaster. Brett captured the experience with Christina’s camera so you will see the visual proof. We had a great time...Christina caught me off guard with a cupcake and I learned that the purple frosting kinda doesn’t come all the way off your face...hmmm. Roots is having a similar event on 10/29 so I’ll let you know how it goes!!!...i love this job!!

I currently have all kinds of Salvation Army contributions in the youth room that I have to deliver. Food, clothes, toys, etc. Thanks to the kids for digging in. Compassion cash is coming in and we’re developing a mission/community budget as we speak. One thing I should mention is the homeless breakfast put on by Grounds for Life Ministries. Overhaul has been there twice to help on Broadway’s Thursdays when groups from our church serve. What I found was that there were too many of us....sooo what we’re going to do is schedule days when Overhaul will prepare and serve the breakfast. The response has been amazing! If you’re in Overhaul and haven’t joined us yet...check out the calendar for November and set your alarm clock!

CHIC Fundraisers – Don’t want to rake your yard? We’ll take care of it. Call the church office! Also, we have the Parent’s Night Out coming up this weekend. Thanks to everyone who supported us by letting us take care of your kids. Hopefully we’ll do it again sometime!! As always, please keep Boke, Asia, and Najimu in your prayers. May God continue to work in their lives in Tanzania!

Peace,

**Derek**

## Missions Corner

Our missionary to pray for this month is **Johnna Hayward** who is in **Belgium**. Her ministry is different in that she is actually ministering to Africans from Congo who are located in Belgium. She also works with the youth in the area. Please pray for her as she is still learning their culture and language.

What do China, The U.S., Myanmar, Sudan, Ecuador, and Mexico have in common? They are all places where **Covenant World Relief** has helped out. They have been ministering for 62 years with the Evangelical Covenant Church. They work to provide "humanitarian aid in Christ's name to the "poorest of the poor" and ministers through projects of relief, rehabilitation, and development." You will have an opportunity in November to help out, as we will again be collecting money for Covenant World Relief.

**Peanut Butter Update:** We recently took 29 pounds to the Rock River Food Pantry. There are boxes at each entryway for donations. Thank you for your contributions.

### **Prayer and Praise:**

**Tim Sales, Intervarsity, Rock Valley & Rockford College**

- Praise that the new student outreach at Rock Valley went well and they have added 30 new students to their group.
- Pray for Rock Valley as students pray and look for opportunities to share their faith.
- Pray that they would be able to form a community of believers at Rockford College.

### **Dave & Judy Dolan, Chinese Ministries**

- Praise that the 7 teachers from the Oasis Training Center staff received their visas.
- Pray for Pinliang Connection, a winter short-term event involving American and Oasis Training Center students that will meet Jan. 8-20, 2009.
- Pray that the Franklin Graham Crusade in Taiwan Oct 30-Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> will have a lasting impact on the people that attend.

### **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	

## Church Outside Clean-up Day

The outside clean-up day at the church will be on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:00 a.m. Everyone's help in cleaning up the church grounds would be appreciated. Rain date will be Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>.



### Shoebox Ministry

Have an empty shoe box? Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child is November 17-24. Brochures and prayer guides are available. Any questions, please call Paula Jackson 815-397-0848

## Shop for Thanksgiving Food Baskets

Broadway's Community Outreach will be collecting non-perishable food items through Sunday, Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Look for boxes near each entrance on the first floor. We are also asking for cash donations to help defray the cost of turkeys and other perishable food items. Please designate your gifts for "Thanksgiving Baskets" and put in the church offering. If you know someone who could use a food basket, please contact Ron or Emmy Miller or the church office by Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>.



## Circle of Concern

Circle of Concern will meet at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at Fairhaven.

## 60 Plus

60 Plus will meet at Anderson Garden on Tues. November 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 p.m., Please call Peggy Frint at 815-398-1813 to make your reservation.



## Thanksgiving Pie Donations

Please call the church office, 399-9296 or Karen Holmertz, 399-1523 if you can donate a pie for Pie night on November 26<sup>th</sup> following worship.

## Thanksgiving Eve Worship

The worship will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. Pie and coffee will be served in fellowship hall following the service.

## Birthdays

- 4 Karen Holmertz  
6 Eleanor Holmertz  
Judy Sowl  
7 Royce Cates  
Jean Unzicker  
15 Margret Kracinski  
16 Shirley Johnson  
19 Christine Bauer  
22 Phil Adams, Sr.  
William Forsen  
25 Audrey Jacobson  
27 Connie Mikkelson  
29 Barbara Carlson  
Michael Myers  
30 Bud Johnson

## Anniversaries

- 12 Gene & Colleen Felts  
14 Edwin & JoAnn Olson  
15 Jack & Judy Sowl  
16 Randy & Nancy Rainwater  
26 Kevin & Candice McCulloch  
28 Steve & Becky Bamberger

## Remember in Prayer

**The family of Jerry Busse** who passed away.  
**Lillian Rabe** in Swedish American Hospital.  
**The family of Ashley Holmertz**, who passed away  
in Nashville, TN.  
**Eleanor Holmertz** recovering at St. Annes.

## Library News

FALL in love with a good book! Here are more  
new arrivals in our library:  
"Next Door Savior" by Max Lucado  
"Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World" J. Weaver  
"A Sister's Secret" by Wanda Brunstetter  
"A Sister's Test" by Wanda Brunstetter  
"Full Circle" by Davis Bunn  
"A Heart Like His" by Beth Moore

## Financial Update from Treasurer Dave Holmertz

As of 9-30-08 donations toward the budget are  
\$235,693 which is \$44,611 under budget and  
\$7,640 lower than 2007 at this date. Please note  
that recently the legislation was enacted that  
extended to 2008 and 2009 the provision that  
permitted charitable donations to be made directly  
from IRA's for persons aged 70 ½ and older.



Don't forget to set your clocks back at 2:00 a.m. on  
Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Covenant Harbor's Christmas Dinners

Enjoy a candlelight dinner and an evening of  
holiday music by Sterling & Brass, the Lake  
Country Brass Quintet. Tickets are \$35 and  
available by calling 262-248-3600. Overnight  
packages at Geneva Bay Center also available.

## RAPCC

The Rockford Area Pregnancy Care Center is in  
need of gently used or new cribs as well many baby  
items to stock the Boutique for their clients. They  
are requesting that church groups donate toward a  
crib, purchase a crib themselves or contribute a used  
crib. If you have any questions please contact  
Annette Tuttle at 815-398-5444.

## Thank You

To all the men in the car ministry, what a blessing  
you are to me. You really went the extra mile.  
Thanks so much. God bless you, Sandy Heath

To our Broadway Church Family  
The Holmertz family wants to thank everyone for  
their support and encouragement during Eleanor's  
illness and Ashley's. Thanks for the visits from  
Pastors Eric, Joyce and others. The prayers,  
flowers, phone calls and cards were appreciated.  
Ashley is now free from pain and home with Jesus.  
Please continue to pray for Eleanor to heal from her  
latest surgery and to be able to join Rowlie at  
Fairhaven.

Dear friends at Broadway, thank you so much for  
allowing us to share with your congregation. Your  
love for missions is evident at every turn. As we  
partner together to share the gospel God will surely  
bless your church as you extend blessing to us. You  
are wonderful in God's sight. Pastor Terry &  
Teresa Allen

Thank you all so very much for winterizing my car  
for the cold weather ahead. Having been diagnosed  
with cancer in 2005 and being a single parent I have  
many financial struggles. This helps me more than  
you know. Thank you so much, Erin Jenkins



## All Women's Christmas Banquet

### *"O Holy Night"*

Tuesday, December 2, 2007 - 6:15pm

Plan now to join us for a wonderful evening. Tickets are \$10 and will be on sale before and after the service on November 16, November 23 and November 30. This is wonderful outreach opportunity. Plan to invite your family, friends and co-workers. It's always a blessing to all who attend.

### Pecans

Once again this year, Women Ministries is selling pecans. We have "Fancy Mammoth Whole Pecans" (1 pound bags) and Chocolate Covered Pecans (12 ounce bags). Each sells for \$8.00 per bag. Our order is scheduled to be shipped the last week of October so they'll be here in time for Thanksgiving. Your order can be placed with Carolyn Augenson.



Broadway Covenant Church  
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Rockford, IL 61108

**Return Service Requested**