

November 2009

# The Messenger

## Autumn's Sacrifice

As September bleeds into October, and October leaches into November, nights lengthen, daylight shortens, and broadleaved trees begin to change. This fall Nature has treated us to a spectacular display of color inspired by the chemical changes trees endure to prepare themselves for winter's cold blast. The beauty we see from God's incredible, creative palette of yellows, golds, browns, oranges, pinks, reds, maroons, purples, and even crimsons comes from sacrifice.

As summer fades and as the air cools and as light begins to diminish, trees realize it is time to hunker down for the winter. To do so, trees must cease producing chlorophyll. Chlorophyll is the energy-producing ingredient for photosynthesis, the process by which trees take sunlight and carbon dioxide and turn them into sugar for life. Chlorophyll is the pigment that makes leaves green. As chlorophyll production stops, the green color slowly escapes, "leaving" behind excess sugars and pigments known as carotenoids and anthocyanins that provide the now-dormant leaves their brilliant beauty. Chlorophyll's flight chokes off the leaves' stems capturing the color and triggering their fall. Without this annual sacrifice, broadleaved trees wouldn't survive winter.

What about conifers or fir trees, you ask? They prepare for winter by covering their leaves – pine needles, that is – with a waxy substance, insulating them from the cold. Evergreens also produce a freeze-resistant chemical further protecting the trees' life-giving cells. Thus, these trees can survive in some of the coldest parts of our planet at the expense of an annual dazzling color display.

Nature amazes me and teaches us that without sacrifice new growth in the new year is impossible. Trees that fail to sacrifice chlorophyll will not endure to live again in the spring. Likewise, we who are unwilling to sacrifice for God's kingdom will fail to experience new growth in our spiritual lives. Without sacrifice, Broadway will not grow and will not survive. But the trees' sacrifice doesn't just ensure survival; their sacrifice facilitates splendor that inspires. This also, by the way, is what Jesus did for us. His sacrifice ensures our survival into eternity, while facilitating a splendor that inspires us to live and love and serve. As we experience the beauty of autumn's sacrifice, I pray that we will be inspired to live and love and serve sacrificially. In so doing, we will facilitate God's splendor, bringing Him glory, and building His church. The question for each of us to answer is how shall I sacrifice?

Sacrificially,

Pastor Eric

# BCC Student Ministries

Back in the day when either myself or a friend would endure a break up with a “true love”, you’d hear the phrase “you never know what you have until it’s gone” get passed around. It implies how much we take for granted in our lives and how comfortable and secure our situations are and how unprepared we really are for the curveballs that inevitably come our way. I never realized how true that phrase is until recently when walking became pretty difficult. On October 15<sup>th</sup> I had some necessary knee surgery to correct a partial ACL tear and meniscus tear. Due to the meniscus tear, I’m not able to bear weight for 4-6 weeks. I’ve become very dependent on those around me for even the most basic of activities and am humbled by the generosity extended to me and my family during my healing time.

Having grown up at Broadway, I’m very aware of the giving community we have here. Thanks to so many of you for prayers and support. Thanks so much for Chipotle lunches, childcare, bathroom plumbing projects, drink and food deliveries from our kitchen to the recliner in the family room, lawn mowing offers, leading youth groups, carrying my stuff for me, holding doors, transporting me around since I can’t drive, the get well soon cards and gifts, picking up prescriptions and the like. Broadway’s generosity continues to abound and I pray each of you understand that you are reflecting Christ to me and my family. Thank you.

Please continue to keep Arlene Schweiger, Eric Filkin, MaryBeth Adams and so many others in your prayers as they heal from various injuries and illnesses. It is very special to be part of a church family who will literally be our hands and feet when ours aren’t working right. I’d like to jump for joy but I’ll wait for the doc to give the green light! ☺

This fall Student Ministries has been alive and well throughout our church walls. We’ve met in the Wii room, garage, sanctuary, nelson lounge, library, my office, cry room, parking lot and fellowship hall as we go through our weekly activities. Our Confirmation class has been fantastic and Eric and I are so thankful for Marcia and Sylvia who help us lead. Many of our confirmands are not churched and are experiencing an introduction to a life with Christ. Those of you out there who join us on Wednesday night for our fellowship dinners will see me eating with them before Roots. I pray you will join me in praying and rejoicing for these kids who are slowly finding the Light!

The studies of the Parables of Christ have been going well and there is much more to come. In addition to regular youth group stuff, we’ve visited Great America, Edward’s Apple Orchard, had a bonfire, served breakfast at Grounds for Life, and went to a David Crowder\*Band concert in Elgin. Exciting times and it’s not over yet!

Some very special thanks go out to my staff. They have helped bring the parables to life through small groups and have helped the kids dig into themselves and challenge themselves. They have lead and stepped up huge when I haven’t been able to so on behalf of myself and our students, thank you very much guys!

As we move into the holiday season, it is important to focus on what we can give of ourselves to help others. Throughout my life and most recently in the last couple weeks I have been the recipient of BCC’s generosity and I smile when I think of the difference God is making in the world through those servant’s hearts we have in our congregation! Awesome! In November, both Roots and Overhaul will be involved in Broadway’s canned food collection for our Thanksgiving Baskets. How might you contribute to this vital ministry that literally feeds the hungry?

Peace,

**Derek**

## Mission Report

Our missionary to pray for this month is Johnna Hayward. Johnna is Pastor of Outreach and Youth working with the Mosaics Project in Belgium. The Mosaics project works to bring the good news of Jesus to immigrant or otherwise marginalized communities in Europe. She works with the Congolese people and the youth in Waterloo Belgium. The youth group has taken a dip in attendance and desire to learn. She is asking for prayers for a renewal of passion, personal growth with Christ and participation on the part of the youth. Also please pray for wisdom for Johnna as she decides on curriculum for the winter. On a positive note there have been answered prayers: A women who had been waiting for her Belgium identity card finally received it; another woman saw God reunite an estranged daughter with her mother, and another member had some answers to prayer regarding finances.

### **Prayer and Praise:**

#### ***Alaska Christian College***

- Praise for the 40 students in the freshman class who are demonstrating a strong ability to learn, serve others and are becoming a community that cares for one another.
- Pray that the students will continue to be faithful for the remainder of the year.
- Pray that they would find a Maintenance/Facilities person.

#### ***Bryan Bruckner, Covenant Youth of Alaska***

- Praise that Samaritan's Purse partnered with CYAK to build a new chapel at Bible Camp
- Pray for the youth as they leave their home villages to go to Anchorage, Fairbanks and Soldotna that they adjust well to city life.
- Pray that the youth will give their energy and lives to Christ.

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

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



## Church Family Military News

We will continue to collect hard candy, body powder, and deodorant, National Geographic – adventure series, phone cards, chapstick and crystal light in the southeast narthex. These items will be sent to those serving in Afghanistan. Thanks.

## Rip and Roll

All women from the church are invited to join Janet/Joy Circle on Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. to rip and roll bandages. Come when you can and leave when you must but plan to enjoy a day of fellowship and service.



## Operation Christmas Child

### Samaritan's Purse

It is time to fill a shoe box for a hurting child. Pick up a brochure in the southeast narthex and follow the instructions to help make this project a great success. Information is also available at [www.samaritanpurse.org](http://www.samaritanpurse.org). Please drop off your box at church by November 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Shop for Thanksgiving Food Baskets

Non-perishable food items will be collected through Sunday November 22<sup>nd</sup> in the 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, contact Ron or Emmy Miler or the church office.



## Decorating for Christmas

Help decorate the church for Advent on Friday, 11/27 and Saturday, 11/28. Call Keith Holmertz, Doug Swanson or the church office with questions or to sign up for a particular task.

## 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

**Mary Beth Adams** recovering from surgery.

**Derek Melin** recovering from knee surgery.

**Arlene Schweiger** recovering from surgery.

**Lillian Rabe** released from SAH.

**Justin Holmertz & Justin Murdock** serving in Afghanistan and **Craig Anderson** in Iraq.

## Thank You

Dear Broadway members, Thank you for your continuing prayers for us and we appreciate your warm thoughts as we mourn the passing of our mother. The lovely green plant that you sent is in full bloom. Your caring is a comfort at this difficult time. Sincerely, Kris Johnson, Karen Blomgren and Susan Bonander

Thank you to our Broadway family for your support through prayers, cards, and kind words following the passing of Janel's father.

Janel Mamer and Roy Leidahl

## Change Your Clocks

Be sure the set your clocks back at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>.



## Special Congregational Meeting

On November 8<sup>th</sup> immediately after the 10:15 service there will be a special congregational meeting. The sole purpose of this meeting is to present the final details and plans for the proposed repair and renovation to Broadway Covenant Church. There will be a call for a congregational vote to approve a capital campaign. Your participation is needed and will be greatly appreciated.

## Fall Outside Clean-up

The outside clean-up day at the church will be Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:00 a.m. Everyone's help in cleaning up the church grounds would be appreciated.

## 60 Plus November Luncheon

60 Plus will meet November 17<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 AM at the Capri Restaurant, 313 East State Street. You can only enter from the back and doors don't open until 11:30. Call Peggy Frint, 815-282-0640 today with your reservation and let her know if you need a ride. Please call by Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Congregational Business Meeting

The regular congregational business meeting will be Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

## 2009 Christmas Love Tree Outreach



There will be a Christmas tree decorated with tags from various community services in the sanctuary on Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. You will have the opportunity to take a tag and shop for the item listed.

Please do not feel that you need to take a tag, but if you do take a tag please return it on or before the due date. Tags will be available from Rock House Ministries, Rockford Rescue Mission and families with needs. Gifts need to be returned to church on or before Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> for delivery. Plan now to share the joy of this blessed season with others. Please contact Laura Price at (815)397-3548 if you have any questions, or if you are interested in helping to deliver the gifts.

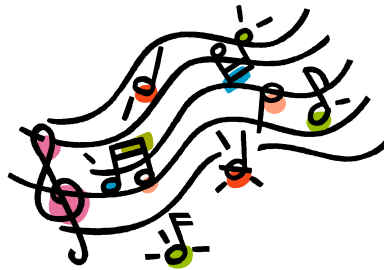
## Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Thanksgiving Worship will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> followed by pie and coffee in Fellowship Hall.



Broadway Covenant Church  
3525 Broadway  
Rockford, IL 61108

**Return Service Requested**



### Let the Whole World Sing

Usher in the Christmas season by joining us for the annual Women's Christmas Banquet. We are blessed to have Charmel Jacobs along with her daughters Angela, Melody, Malinda and Stephanie who will share through the musical program, "Let the Whole World Sing". The banquet will be held here at church on Tuesday evening, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:15PM. Tickets will be available for \$10.00 beginning on Sunday, Nov. 15 and again Nov. 22 and Nov. 29. (We are unable to accept any reservation after Nov. 29th) Invite your family, friends and co-workers to join you for this very special evening.

### Women Ministries News

**Reflecting God's Glory** is the theme for Triennial XIII to be held July 22-25, 2010 in Washington, DC. Please check out the website [www.triennialxiii.org](http://www.triennialxiii.org) for more information. Save \$50 by registering between now and January 15, 2010. Over 400 women have already registered for this exciting event. Why not join them for a life changing experience.