

February 2009

The Messenger

New Worship Opportunities

With much humility and some disappointment, I have concluded that the worship experiment that we began last Spring has not achieved the goals that we originally set out to accomplish. I confess that it is quite humbling to conclude that a thoughtful, prayed-over concept has been unsuccessful. It is disappointing, because I had hoped that it would help bridge gaps between our generations, encourage relationships, and grow our church. Sadly, I believe the experiment actually exacerbated issues on several fronts.

The tools used to determine the format's cancellation were both quantifiable and anecdotal. From a numbers perspective, in April when we launched the new format, numbers remained steady through June. However, we experienced a precipitous drop in July and August and recovered a bit in the Fall, but we were still about 10 percent below our attendance figures in the Spring. In January 2009, our numbers are still down. There may be other factors at work in addition to our worship format, but I believe our format is a hindrance to growth.

Anecdotally in conversations with many people, including those who have decided to leave Broadway in the past year, I have heard the following:

- You've tried to make worship welcoming for all age groups, but it's not making an impact
- The format is confusing to visitors
- I'm not sure when to tell my friends to come
- While we don't mind the format, you should not have had to make changes for people who are intolerant to contemporary music

Some truly appreciate the new format, but we haven't experienced the hoped-for growth. When the format is creating a hindrance to reaching new people and growing the church, then changes need to be made. Beginning February 15, 2009 at 10:15 am, our worship format will change. Worship will begin at 10:15 a.m. for everyone. Sunday School for all ages will remain at its 9:00 a.m. start time. I invite all to come and worship together united as the body of Christ.

As I said, it is humbling to try something and fail. I think it is better to try something and fail than to have not tried at all. Also, I believe that failure is a great teacher. So I am learning a lot.

In addition to this change in Sunday morning worship, Pastor Derek and I are launching a Saturday Night Worship Experience beginning February 28. Our youth have organized and led Sunday night worship at Broadway for several months now. We are expanding this experience by moving to Saturday nights and opening it up to all ages while aiming at youth, young couples and singles, and young families. Our Senior High youth group, Overhaul, has birthed a worship band, which includes students who attend Broadway on Sundays and those who don't. In addition, many students in Overhaul and Roots are from the neighborhood, and due to work-related issues, Sunday mornings are not an option for some families to come to worship. So recognizing a need (a worship time other than Sunday morning) and an opportunity (the youth worship band), Pastor Derek and I request your help in reaching out to our community.

We have several volunteer opportunities – nursery support, clean up and security, publicity, incorporation (welcoming adults and families to the greater life of the church), and prayer, prayer, and prayer. Please grab a pastor to let us know you can help. We envision this service to be experiential, evangelistic, and rather loud. The youth group band will provide the music, Pastor Eric will preach, and Pastor Derek will oversee everything to ensure it all works smoothly. The Leadership Team is behind this effort 100%, and now we seek your help, encouragement, and prayers for the outreach and growth of Broadway Covenant Church.

Prayerfully, Pastor Eric

BCC Student Ministries

Deep Freeze 2009!! On Friday, January 23rd, 14 rootsters and 3 staff met at BCC for our annual retreat. After a pizza and breadstick dinner at church (Thanks Amy Bertrand!!), we headed up to Covenant Harbor. I got a GPS for Christmas and decided to try it out. Mistake...kinda. It takes you a different way and I wound up in the middle of Lake Geneva...go figure. Danny Schweitzer called me en route and told me I missed the exit, to which I responded with "well my GPS says we're on the right track". It turns out he was right. Anyway, now I know a complex, convoluted way to get to CHBC. Yeah for me!! Upon arrival and check-in, we all headed up to the brand spankin' new JAC which stands for Jackson Activity Center. It's a great facility and if you haven't visited there in a while, check it out. Groups from all over the area gathered together for the first large group session led by the Harbor staff and the North Park worship band. Our speaker, Danelle Delgado, opened with asking kids to rate their life from a 1 to 10 and the rest of the weekend was spent challenging the kids on issues like who is driving their car of life. Is it Christ? What are you carrying that's inhibiting you? Have you ever thought about letting Jesus drive? Ask a Rootster what we're supposed to live like: apples or carrots. And why. And finally, how might you interact with those around you to bring the message of Jesus Christ in a way that's inviting and not scary.

It was pretty cold, but we were outside quite a bit anyway. We participated in the Iditarod in which each group carries a bunk mattress around camp with a stuffed animal on it. There are stations and obstacles along the way. One was a hydration station. Each team had to down a gallon of water that had been sitting out in the cold for a while. Wow...brain freeze! Next station involved having to down a jar of baby food. We got mangoes which aren't bad but they'd been outside for a while as well. I tipped the jar up and had to shake it a bit and then ended up with half a jar of half frozen mangoes in my mouth...again, wow!! BCC guys and girls finished the race and had a good time. Free time on Saturday afternoon was spent tubing, swinging on the ropes course, extreme sledding (behind a 4-wheeler...no joke!), playing uno, basketball and volleyball, and whatever else came to mind. No polar bear dip this year...way too cold! Talktimes with our group were fantastic. We spent quite a while chatting about Danelle's messages and what and how we take that stuff home.

After that, it was lights out, which by no means suggests that it was anywhere near quiet in Guest House A. Dan Schweitzer realized he didn't bring a pillow or sleeping bag...way to go genius!! I believe he wrapped jeans in a shirt and used that as a pillow. Pretty creative! The guys spent quite a bit of time telling Chuck Norris jokes. For those of you not up to speed, there's this website in cyberspace dedicated to illustrating how Chuck Norris is superhuman. It's a joke, but funny nonetheless. Ethan had the best one so here goes: "If you have five dollars and Chuck Norris has five dollars, Chuck Norris has more money than you!" I'm sitting here in my office cracking up while I'm typing this!

Ben Larson participated in a skit where he jazzercised in front of the whole camp. It was absolutely hysterical cuz he was a half step behind all the rest. He was voted the jazzercise winner. Markie Salstrand and Jake Hartman also participated in another Guitar Hero skit along with Ben. Christian Wallace spent the weekend trying to win at Uno. He played Uno with Cal and had three different hands – the "me, myself, and I" idea to give him better odds 😊. Cal dressed up as a sumo wrestler (too funny). Jenna Waelti was obsessed with unzipping my front coat pocket all weekend and Alison taught me a new "slide" handshake. I ended up throwing Holstein in the snow (Jake, not Kristi). But the greatest thing about our group is how they live individually and aren't afraid to be who they are. It was so awesome to lead our group and again, I couldn't have done it without Kristi and Dan. Thanks so much guys!!

I know each one was met individually by God this weekend. No matter where they are along the path, I believe each kid was able to take away something special and are changed by it. I pray these kids know how much I care about each one of them and please continue to support them as they go with God in life!!

Roots and Overhaul are going well. We're back in full swing after Christmas break and are enjoying our times together. Overhaul's worship band is going great and the kids are really enjoying it. We're studying the idea of worship and learning what it is, what it's not, and who it's for. They will be part of our Saturday night worship that's gearing up for a Feb 28th kickoff. I pray you join us and experience what we experience each Sunday night. Thanks to Tyler, Chamara, Lauren, Taylor, Jason, Elliot, Trevor, Ellen, and Jacob for their musical leadership.

Roots has seen a fantastic shift and we as a staff are following God's lead as to what we should study and in what format. We have so many kids from our neighborhood that make Roots a part of their week. Some come to play, some to hang, others to learn, and some for all of the above. Please be praying that we would follow God's direction and effectively lead each student at BCC to the cross of Christ.

As always, please keep our little ones from Tanzania in your prayers: Asia, Boke, and Najimu. Peace out,

Derek

Missions Corner

Please pray for Tim and Andrea Johnson and their children Sam (14 this month), Allegra (10) & Skye (7). They have been missionaries in Japan since 1989. They are concentrating their time with the "Gunma Harvest" project. They visit the remote areas that have no church and attempt to network with other believers and churches. They minister through music and sharing of the Gospel. They are asking for prayers to live out their lives in a way that always points to how great our Lord is and that God would use their words and actions.

Prayer and Praise:

Steve & Ellen Peterson, Asia

- Praise for the return of Steve's health, as he has been ill for 6 weeks.
- Pray that God would give them life-giving good, close friendships.
- Pray for encouragement for Steve.

Dave & Judy Dolan, Chinese Ministries

- Praise for the Franklin Graham Festival in Taiwan.
- Praise for the many who have made decisions to follow Christ.
- Pray for the wisdom of church leaders as they help to rebuild Sichuan after the major earthquake last year.

Alaska Christian College

- Praise for the students that returned for the 2nd semester and for the students that are new.
- Pray for the summer building projects.

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	

Update from the Treasurer

2008 Year End – Praise God that we were able to pay all 2008 bills and missions commitments per budget. There was no surplus and we needed to reduce the general fund balance by \$1,759 to a \$6,910 ending balance to get the job done. Thanks to all for your giving.

2009 Start – The 2009 budget is a challenge for all of us. We know bad economy is hurting everyone but the bills keep coming. Please prayerfully consider what you can do. Thank you.

Three Events for 60 Plus

60 Plus will meet for **lunch** at 11:30 a.m. at Perkin's on East State Street on Tuesday, **February 17th**. Call Peggy Frint at 815-282-0640 to make your reservation.

Plan now to attend "**Senior Follies**", **May 20th**, 2:00 p.m. at Tebala Shrine Temple, tickets are \$10. Make your reservation and check payable to Karen Holmertz. We plan to have dinner following at the Machine Shed.

Also we have made tentative reservations to hear the "**Triumphant Quartet**" at **Fireside on September 22nd** for the Fish and Chicken Buffet and Matinee. The cost will be \$32.95 (plus tip). We need a \$1 deposit, payable to Karen, if you want to attend to reserve your spot. We have 27 tickets and these will be on a first come basis.

Circle of Concern

Circle of Concern will meet for lunch Feb. 12th, 11:30 AM at Hearth Rock Cafe (Benson Stone). Please let Peggy or Karen know if you can attend.

Quilters Move to 1st & 3rd Mondays

Starting in February the Patchwork Quilters will meet on the first and third Mondays of the month at 9:00 a.m.



New Books to Brighten Winter Days

"Stories for the Faithful Heart" by Alice Gray
"When Joy Came to Stay" by Karen Kingsbury
"To Live is Christ" by Beth Moore
"The Case for the Real Jesus" by Lee Strobel
"A Layman Looks at the Lord's Prayer"
by W. Phillip Keller

Building Committee Report

The Building Committee and the Leadership Team met with The Timothy Group on the 20th. During that meeting, Don Distelberg of TTG reported on the results of the Readiness Questionnaire. Both groups are in the process of evaluating the information so that recommendations can be made to the full membership. We will keep you posted in future Messengers, bulletins and on the website.

Birthdays

- 1 Jennifer Braun
3 Lois Sorensen
5 Noel Carlson
Kent Drews
Paula Rasanen
6 Eric Holstein
7 Kim Lape
Colleen Straley
9 Carrie Pretzer
10 Eileen Elliott
Justin Holmertz
Dan Schweitzer
11 Doris Hartman
13 Gary Ecklund
Mary Miller
14 Kathryn Rowl
15 Sandy Creedy
Doug Swanson
16 Al Damrose
19 Nancy Norman
20 Roy Leidahl
23 Tate Lockett
25 Marilyn Dirksen
26 Pearl Engstrom
26 Donald A. Swanson
28 David Holmertz

Anniversaries

- 16 Marvin & Joyce Goodsell
20 Roger & Sandy Creedy
23 Paul & Kim Anderson
28 Larry & Patti Franzen

Remember in Prayer

Al Damrose recovering from gall bladder surgery.
Tate Lockett home from the hospital.
Doris Dahlgren in the Health Center at Fairhaven.
Lillian Rabe at River Bluff.



New Address

Peggy Frint
2750 N. Mulford Rd. Apt. E-203,
Rockford, IL 61114
(815) 282-0640

Thank You

Thank you so much for the generous Love Offering gifts we received at Christmas. It is a blessing to serve here at Broadway and be remembered in such a special way. Alice Nelson and Sue Ippolito

Dear Church family, thank you so much for the Christmas gifts. Especially in light of the economy, your gifts are incredibly generous and greatly appreciated. Thank you for your encouragement. In Christ, Pastor Eric and Broadway's Staff

It was such a surprise to receive a love offering gift. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!
A volunteer

Dear Friends, Thank you to all of you for your kind thoughts, prayers and the flowers that were sent to me. It's taking some time for my recovery but every day I feel my strength returning. Thank you again. Lois Ecklund

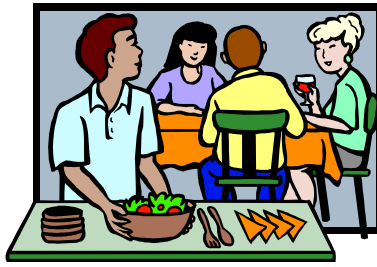
Broadway Covenant Church,
Thank you to everyone for your kind acts of sympathy and for every one of the "Walt" stories you've shared with us. He blessed all of our lives with so much fun and happiness. Broadway Covenant has always been our family and it was easy to see this family member was a true "servant of God." Thanks for the laughs, smiles, memories and prayers and for surrounding us with your strong Christian love. The Walter P. Anderson Family

Broadway Covenant, Sincere thanks for your thoughtfulness to Grounds For Life Ministry. God bless, Pastor Al and Doris English

Thanks to my Broadway family for all your prayers, cards, phone calls and the pretty green garden plant. Thank you to Bob Schweiger, Gene & Louise Peterson, Pastor Eric, Pastor Joyce and Robin Robinson for your visits. Thanks to Janice and Kristi for the goodies and sitting with Betty during my chemo treatment. Thank you Janice for driving me for a treatment. Your love, prayers and friendship mean so much to me as I undergo my treatments. Love in Christ, Tate Lockett

Contribution Statements

The 2008 Contribution Statements are in the southeast narthex for you to pick up.



Fellowship Dinner Groups

Are you looking for a way to get to know people from church better? Are you new to the congregation and looking to meet other members? Are you single and having a hard time meeting other members? Or would you just like to get to know people better you have worshipped with for years? If so, we invite you to become part of the Fellowship Dinner Groups that will be starting in March. These are groups of around eight people who meet for dinner once a month over the course of four to five months switching homes each month. Whoever is hosting for the month is responsible for the main dish with others bringing the rest of the meal. Sometimes meeting at someone's home is not a possibility so you can be creative in where you meet e.g. a restaurant, a picnic, an outing of some type, etc. Sign-ups will start January 25th and continue through February 22nd with groups beginning to meet in March. New groups will be formed every four to five months so you will have the opportunity to spend time with many different people from the congregation. Please consider joining in the fun of fellowshiping together.



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