

June 2009

The Messenger

Communion in Community

During worship on May 3rd and May 10th, I experienced God's presence through the Holy Spirit and the body of Christ in two amazing ways. At the beginning of my sermon on May 10, just as I was completing the introduction and as I was transitioning to the main focus, I noticed some activity in the back part of the sanctuary. A doctor began attending to the needs of one of our worshippers (I didn't know who at the time); nurses quietly sped to the pew; many were looking over across the sanctuary with looks wondering what happening; others were oblivious to the quiet commotion. I noticed a hand waving in my direction and I stopped talking and moved quickly down the center aisle. Dr. David Moore mouthed to me the words, "We need an ambulance," and I continued walking to the usher closet to call 911. Someone rushed by to find oxygen. Upon completing the call, I wondered what to do. Re-entering the sanctuary, I realized someone began the Lord's Prayer. I sat down, joined in, and prayed. I turned on my mic and prayed out loud for Eleanor Anderson, and, through the prayer, informed our church that the ambulance was approaching. We continued in prayer as the nurses attended to Eleanor. As the paramedics arrived, we prayed, and I wondered what to do. The Holy Spirit spoke deeply in my heart to remind everyone to remember that we all need to be ready. Eleanor passed me on a gurney, gave me a hug, apologized, and said, "I love you, Eric." I suggested to Ryan Woodrow to prepare the screen for "Children of the Heavenly Father." As I entered the sanctuary, I was amazed to hear Alice Nelson quietly playing variations the theme of "Children of the Heavenly Father." I audibly poured out my heart to God and to the church for Eleanor's healing and our salvation. We stood and sang. In the midst of a medical emergency, through the work of many, each doing his or her part, God was powerfully present in and through our community. Thankfully, after a brief hospital stay and through the power of prayer, Eleanor is doing fine.

God was also powerfully present in and through our community on May 3. My plan was to preach on different ways to pray using meditative breath prayers and reflective Bible reading called *Lectio Divina*. I also planned on having an opportunity for silence, individual prayer, and anointing with oil during our celebration of communion. As we performed these ancient prayer practices during the sermon, a sense of calm and peace descended upon the sanctuary. Many told me later that they, too, noticed this peacefulness. As Holy Communion began, several came to me for prayer and anointing. A member approached from the back as silence led to singing. She said, "Gordon and Pearl Weinke wondered if you could come to the back to anoint them with oil and pray for them."

"Of course," I said as I quickly moved to the back of the sanctuary.

As Gordon and Pearl bowed their heads and as I began to anoint and pray for them, my heart was filled with amazing joy, peace, and hope. I concluded the prayer, wiped tears from my eyes, thanked Gordon and Pearl, and moved to the front to conclude our worship. To me, Christ was truly revealed through the body working together and "in the breaking of bread." (See, Luke 24:30-31).

These two experiences revealed to me the power of the body of Christ when the body sees needs and quickly responds. In addition, I remembered the importance of community in communion. Just as communion is a sinner's feast – a personal remembrance of Christ's work on our behalf as individuals, communion a communal feast – an opportunity for deep fellowship around Christ's covenant with us as His people.

During June and July, we will center our worship on Christ in communion. Each week (with the potential exception of Skills Camp Sunday on June 28) we will celebrate communion remembering what Christ has done for us and rejoicing in how communion energizes our work for Him. Here's how you can participate: First, please bring me all your communion-related questions (even those you have been afraid to ask), and I will do my best to address them during my messages. Second, please offer to help by bringing bread to be shared and/or by serving the bread and the cup.

May we recapture the power and purpose of communion in our lives and in our church,
Pastor Eric

Missions Corner

As summer approaches it is time to think about camping. Covenant Harbor and Covenant Point are two wonderful places that people of all ages can go and have a wonderful experience. In addition to weekly family camps and camps for grade school through high school they provide opportunities for youth groups to come for retreats. 346 campers made a commitment to Christ last summer. Please pray for this summer's campers that they will have a closer relationship with Christ. Also please pray for wisdom and guidance for the staff and volunteers.

Also please remember Terry and Teresa Allen. Terry is a Covenant pastor in Elim Alaska whom the Central Conference has adopted. The only way you can get to Elim is by airplane. Winter temperatures are around 20 – 30 **below** zero and the ocean freezes for approximately 5 miles from shore. The village population is 313 Yupik/Inupiaq Eskimos and the only business is one small store. Bread is \$5.00, 12 oz package of hot dogs is \$8.00, and the only milk is canned which is \$3.50. Please pray for the Allen's finances and for the young couple who recently gave their hearts to the Lord.

Prayer and Praise:

Tim & Andrea Johnson, Japan

- Praise for wonderful experience Tim had at the Asian Covenant Church Conference.
- Pray for Tim and his family as they mourn the loss of his sister in an auto accident where her husband was injured also. She also leaves behind 3 children Katherine, Teresa and Evan.

Tim Sales, Intervarsity at Rockford College and Rock Valley College

- Praise for the 10 students that accepted Christ at Winterfest.

Pray for wisdom and insight for Tim at Rockford College for the direction they are going.

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

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	

Upcoming Events for 60 Plus

The June meeting will be Wednesday, June 17th. We will meet at 11:30 AM for lunch at the Capri Restaurant, 313 East State Street. After lunch at 2:00 PM. we will have a boat ride on the Forest City Queen. The group rate is \$3.00 per person. Call Peggy Frint, 282-0640 to make your reservation. If you just want to go on the boat ride let her know. On June 23rd, some of our "60 Plus Group" will serve the Fairhaven Retirement Home Birthday Party. We need to be there by 6:30 PM to set up and the program starts at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome to join us and we still need more help to serve. Let Peggy know if you can help. We don't have any plans for July or August but feel free to plan your own things.



Fairhaven Annual Ice Cream Social

Fairhaven Christian Retirement Center is hosting their annual ice cream social on Saturday, June 27th from 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. There will be an assortment of pies, cakes, ice cream and beverages as well as barbeque sandwiches or Chicago-style hotdogs and chips. Come enjoy the food, live entertainment and the used-book sale.

RAPCC Invites You To:

The West State Center Open House on Friday, June 5th from 3 – 5 PM at 611 West State Street. Please consider bringing baby items such as diapers, wipes, bibs, bottles, baby lotion, baby wash, baby shampoo, hooded bath towels, washclothes and socks.

Relay for Life

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Winnebago County will begin at 6:00 p.m. Friday, June 19 with a survivor celebration and will end with the closing ceremonies at 6:00 a.m. Saturday June 20 at Rockford First Assembly. The Relay For Life is looking for teams to participate in this fun-filled overnight cancer fighting event. Teams consist of 8-15 people from your church, family, friends, neighbors or co-workers, who take turns walking the Rockford First Assembly track in an effort to raise funds and awareness. For information on how you can be involved, call 800-892-9296.

Birthdays

- 2 Kathy Melin
5 Werner Hoffman
7 Janel Mamer
8 Stacey Parlapiano
9 Aina Hitchcock
Jim Page
Cari Filkin
10 Darlene Edwards
12 Maynard Adolphson
13 Laura Schweitzer
14 Mary Beth Adams
15 Amy Bliss
16 Paula Jackson
17 June MacAskill
21 Michelle Gustafson
22 Becky Damrose
25 Erin Clark
26 Patti Franzen
Martin Nelson

Anniversaries

- 7 Rowland & Eleanor Holmertz
8 Dick & Paula Rasanen
Dan & Ann Mary Ferguson
Larry & Deloris Whitsel
10 Bud & Pat Johnson
Eric & Kristi Holstein
11 Doug & Kristi Swanson
Matt & Stephanie Link
13 Gerald & Shirley Johnson
18 Neil & Maggie Kasicki
Dick & Shirley Peterson
21 Kurt & Cyndy Miericke
24 Derek & Christina Melin
25 Doug & Mary Gibson
27 Albert & Gladys Damrose
28 Royce & Beth Cates
Loren & Julia Heinzeroth
29 Bruce & Michele Johnson
Robert & Arlene Schweiger

Remember in Prayer

Eleanor Holmertz home from the hospital.

Kristi Swanson recovering from surgery.

The family of Maxine Haney who passed away on May 25th.

The family of Dr. Albert Freedman who passed away on May 17th.

The family of Lois Ann Clausen who passed away this week.

Justin Holmertz serving in Afghanistan.

Financial Update from Dave Holmertz, Treasurer

As of 4-30-09

Total Receipts toward budget	\$ 94,006.
Budget	\$119,796.
Receipts under budget	(\$25,791.)

We have been unable to pay any of our \$11,640 Missions Budget items. All other bills are paid. Please consider what you can give toward this urgent need.

Thank You

I'd like to thank all the people at Broadway Covenant Church for my many beautiful cards to help me celebrate my 90th birthday, also the lovely get well cards. My treatments seem to be going well. Thank you all again. God bless, Lillian Rabe

Thank you so much for the plant that I received when I was in the hospital. It's nice to be remembered and is appreciated. Thanks again, Jean Unzicker

Circle of Concern

Circle of Concern will meet June 4th, at Benson's Stone, 1100 - 11th Street at 11:15 A.M. All women of the church are welcome to join us. Please call Peggy Frint, 282-0640 to make your reservation.



Open House for Al & Gladys Damrose

You are invited to join Al and Gladys for cake and coffee on Thursday, June 11th from 2 – 5 PM in the church dining room in honor of their 80th birthdays. Please RSVP to Becky Damrose at 815-398-6645 if you are able to attend.

Skills Camp Donations

The "Trash To Treasure" component of Skills Camp needs the following recyclables: Pringles cans, individual apple sauce cups, boxes (cereal, shoe, etc.), oatmeal containers, plastic scoops from detergents & coffee cans. Thanks for saving them and dropping them off at church. Other items to purchase and donate include: masking and packing tape, boxes of Roaring Waters Capri Sun, birdseed, bags of sand, bags of concrete (Vinyl Patch by Quickerete®), concrete sealer and new terra cotta pots.

Crosswalk Skills Camp 2009
Crosswalk Jr. Camp 2009
June 22-26

Come enjoy a week full of sports, skills, Bible stories, worship, snacks and fun!!!



Softball



Basketball



Volleyball



**For the Birds
AND MORE!**



Cooking Kitchen



Groovy Gardening

Pick up a registration form in the church narthex for your children, grandchildren, neighbors and friends. Forms and fees are due by June 8th. Don't miss this great week!!!

Crosswalk Camp
Fees \$35
Times 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Crosswalk Jr.
\$15
9:15 am - 11:30 am



Broadway Covenant Church
3525 Broadway
Rockford, IL 61108

Return Service Requested