

August 2009

The Messenger

Let the FUN Begin!

In various times and places this summer, conversations have taken place regarding our economic circumstances as a nation and a church. Some of these conversations have focused on whether the Fun Fest is a prudent investment of our time, talent, and treasure. Perhaps our budgetary situation requires looking at expenses and questioning how we spend our money. One expense so examined is the Fun Fest. For 14 years Broadway Covenant Church has invited our neighborhood for games, music, and food one summer Saturday night. Our Fun Fest has been wildly successful. Kids who have come to the Fun Fest end up participating in Skills Camp. Families that have participated in Skills Camp from the neighborhood have joined our youth groups and come for worship. The Fun Fest is a wonderful outreach event that helps fulfill our mission “to reach out, welcome all who come, and nurture everyone in Christ so that others are drawn to Him.” The Fun Fest has been a key component of this process.

However, we have rested on our laurels. We may have gotten a little tired and lazy. We have just assumed that the same few individuals would do all the work leading up to the Fun Fest as they always do, and we’d just have to show up on the right Saturday to set up, staff games, and tear down. We thank God for those few committed folk who they have worked so hard and so well in the past to make previous Fun Fests so incredible. But this summer has been a little different. The sense of excitement and anticipation seem lagging compared to summers gone by. People haven’t jumped at the chance to help plan and lead. Our giving to our general fund is behind previous years. We’re not funding missions as we should. Hence began the questioning of whether we should spend the money necessary to make the Fun Fest great. The main issue was sometimes couched as whether we should throw ourselves a party when we’re not supporting our missionaries. Now, everyone knows that the Fun Fest is not a party that we throw for ourselves. We each work hard to ensure that each aspect of the Fun Fest comes off without a hitch. In addition, we are paying and praying for our missionaries, even though we are a little behind in our financial commitments to them.

On Tuesday, July 21, our Leadership Team took up this issue to decide whether Fun Fest 2009 was on or off for this year. After discussing various aspects of the Fun Fest, we unanimously and wholeheartedly agreed to figure out ways to make Fun Fest 2009 great! It is on! Hallelujah!

If the Fun Fest on August 22 is to be a great experience for all, we need to work hard not only on Saturday, but also over the next few weeks preparing for the 22nd. Over the next few weeks, you will see sign ups for food and prize donations, game leading, set up and tear down crew. Please sign up! Consider doing more than just one hour. In addition, you may receive a telephone call, email, or text personally inviting you to help. Please say yes and agree to help. Please consider making financial gifts over and above your regular tithe. Please invite your friends, family, and neighbors to Broadway on August 22. Please come ready to fulfill our mission “to reach out, welcome all who come, and nurture everyone in Christ so that others are drawn to Him.” Pastor Eric

Mission Report

As it is time to think about going back to school please remember North Park Seminary and North Park University. **North Park Seminary** trains students for various roles in ministry such as: Lead Pastor, Associate Pastor, and Youth Ministry & Staff Ministry Specialists. Students are prepared to: spread the Gospel clearly and in love; live and work under the scripture's authority; communicate what is valuable for the present and future from our Christian heritage and to use their gifts suitable for the edification and extension of Christ's Church. **North Park University** was founded in 1891 by the Evangelical Covenant Church on Chicago's North Side and currently has an enrollment of about 3300 students from around the country and the world. North Park offers a Liberal Arts program that uses the Christian faith and provides an opportunity for students to reach out and serve and learn from the community around them. Please pray for the faculty and students and they return to school.

Prayer and Praise:

Tim & Andrea Johnson, Japan

- Praise for the opportunity that Andrea's job at the Women's University provides her to meet and share with new people.
- Pray for future growth in their relationship with the Point Gospel Brazilian Church.
- Pray for the work Gunma Harvest is doing in the village of Shintomura.

Steve & Ellen Peterson, Asia

- Praise for the women who have come to learn culture and language and may return for a long-term ministry.
- Pray for unity, love and grace to abound within their ministry teams.
- Pray for spiritual strength and protection.

Alaska Christian College

- Praise that the VP of Finance position has been filled.
- Pray for Students and staff as they start a new school year.

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

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

Minister of Pastoral Care Report

Since we launched the Care Group for the new Team Leadership structure in the fall of 2008 the Contact List has now been renamed the Care Facilitators. The Care Group continues to function as the outreach for concern and support for the Broadway Community. The Care Facilitators monitor the special needs of the people on their list. They visit and call, but also contact me if someone has a special need in the hospital, a rehab facility or at home. We are continuing to provide support through prayer, and through congregational and pastoral assistance. We provide rides for special needs such as doctor's appointments and the like. If you are in need of a visit or just need to talk to someone please call the church office or my home phone. 847-669-9484.

Many people have asked me where I am on Sunday morning since I often am not visible to the congregation. I set up the slide presentations which we use during worship for singing. I do the set up at home, usually at the end of the week, and then bring it with on Sunday morning and load it on the computer upstairs so that we have backgrounds and words to follow as we worship on Sunday Morning. I used to do this at my home church before I came to Broadway. Kent Drews and myself work together to make the technical side of worship appealing for you. We hope you enjoy it.

I have been visiting the people on the list I was given when I came to Broadway. However, if there is someone you think needs a visit please feel free to call me and let me know. We are the Body of Christ and we work together as team and none of us can do it all alone. So I need your help to assist me in doing my job well. I am so grateful for the many people here at Broadway who are so compassionate and caring. It makes my job so much easier. What a blessing you all are to this church community and to me.

Peace and Blessings to All, Pastor Joyce

Fun Fest 2009

Fun Fest 2009 is coming soon, Saturday, August 22nd from 5-8 PM. We need help with set-up, running games, tickets, Broadway Buck prizes, door prizes, food and clean-up. Please help with this important outreach mission to our neighbors. We need many people willing to help. To volunteer, contact Jonathan Brown at 815-399-5578.



Save the Date!

All who enjoy singing should clear their schedules for August 26 at 6:30 PM. The Choir will begin rehearsing to prepare for the fall season beginning September 13. If you love to sing (or even if you just like it a little bit), you should join Jerry on his birthday. We'll discuss expectations, rehearsal times, even seating arrangements. All signs point to a fun and fulfilling experience! By the way, beginning August 26, the Worship Band will rehearse Wednesdays following the choir until further notice.

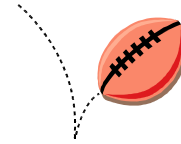
Rockford Rescue Mission Women of Hope Gathering



The purpose of this gathering is to bring hope, encouragement, fellowship, unity and to be an outreach to women, no matter the economic, racial or denomination differences. This event is also a fundraiser for the women's ministries at Rockford Rescue Mission. This year our theme is Celebrate Hope! Thursday, September 17, 2009 at 7 pm the Clock Tower Resort will be the gathering place with delicious desserts, chocolate fountains and our great national speaker, Thelma Wells. Space is limited so register now at www.rockfordrescuemission.org.

A Walk to Remember

A memorial walk to remember children lost through miscarriage, stillbirth, infant and childhood death will take place on October 4th at 1:00 pm beginning at the YMCA Log Lodge Sinnissippi Bike Path. A brief service will be followed by a walk from the lodge to our dedication site. There we will honor our children with the dedication of memorial brick. Refreshments will be served in the lodge at the conclusion of the walk. For more information call the SwedishAmerican Women & Children's Services at (815)961-2398 or Fitzgerald Funeral Home and Crematory, at (815)226-2273.



Fall Kick-Off Picnic

Mark your calendars now for the All-church picnic. It will be on September 13th after the service. We will be staying in Rockford. This year's picnic will have a "Bears-Packers Tailgate" theme. Watch the bulletin for details. (Don't worry, you won't miss the game. It's a night game.)



Church Family Military News

On behalf of Justin, we want to thank all of you who have supported him during his deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan. Your generosity is helping us send a box each week to him. From the snacks, toiletries, notes of encouragement, phone cards, books, cards and other items, you are not only helping Justin, but also some of his fellow soldiers. This contact from "back home" is very important. Most of all we are grateful for the prayer support he is receiving. Please continue to pray for his safety. Also pray for wise leadership and decision making as this war moves forward. You are a great source of support and encouragement to all of us. Thanks again, **Keith & Kathy Holmertz** 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 for Justin, his fellow soldiers and to distribute to Afghans. Thanks!

You are Invited

First Covenant Church has invited you to join them on Wednesday, August 5th at 7:00 pm to hear George Abdo speak about The Shepherd Society. The goal of the Shepherd Society is to provide means for the global community and Christians worldwide to encourage and financially assist the struggling Palestinian people in the West Bank. Go to <http://www.shepherd-society.org> for more information and mark your calendar to attend this informative evening.



Birthdays

- 2 Ethel Johnson
- 4 Linda Myers
- 7 Tracy Gauss
Don Holmertz
- 8 Dave Lape
- 10 Janet Fraker
- 14 Wyone Leather
Mark Pearson
- 15 Carma Blackburn
- 17 Cindy Beyerl
- 20 Maynard Carlson
- 21 Ralph Dirksen
- 22 Stephanie Link
- 24 Doug Gibson
- 26 Bertil Erickson
Patricia Simmons
Clarice Stark
- 28 Mary Gibson
- 30 Jane Larson



Anniversaries

- 8 William & Linda Evans
- 13 Matthew & Michelle Gustafson
- 18 Dan & Janet Fraker
Bruce & Cindy Beyerl
- 19 Anders & Arlene Gredenius
- 22 Ewald & Lois Sorensen
- 23 Kent & Jean Drews
- 24 John & Carma Blackburn
Troy & Paula Jackson
- 25 David & Kim Lape
- 28 Gordon & Pearl Wienke

Remember in Prayer

Kent Drews and his family in the passing of his father, Emil Drews.

Eric Holstein and family in the death of his father, Jerry Holstein.

Larry Franzen, home recovering from injuries sustained in a bicycle accident.

Derek Melin who injured his knee at CHIC.

Justin Holmertz serving in Afghanistan.

Thank You

I thank God for my loving, caring church family. The garden dish basket is a daily reminder of your love. Thanks for the many cards, telephone calls, goodies, visits and prayers. The hip surgery is healing slowly. God is so good! Betty Lockett

Thank you so much for the thoughts, prayers and cards after my ankle surgery. Also thanks to Pastor Joyce for her visit and calls. I feel so blessed to be part of a wonderful church family.
Love, Sue Warren

Dear Broadway Covenant Church family, Thanks for your prayers. During a time like this we realize how much our friends really mean to us . . . Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered. Rev. Dave Wood, Bethesda Covenant Church on the passing of his wife Rachel.

Dear Pastor Filkin and Church family, Your recent donation of \$88.00 is an investment in the lives of individuals who are often neglected, criticized, and ignored; individuals who are homeless in Rockford. Kay Larrick, Executive Director, The Carpenter's Place

Financial Update From Treasurer

At mid-year our receipts are \$144,639 which is \$35,055 under budget of \$179,694 and \$18,700 under 2008 receipts for the same period. Everyone has been doing a good job of trying to control expenses but most expenses are fixed. July has some big bills and getting them paid will be a challenge. Please consider how you can assist with this urgent need.

New Phone Directory

A new edition of the church phone directory will be in the southeast narthex for you to view and verify that the information is correct. Please make any changes to that copy during the next few weeks before they are printed for distribution. Thanks.

Phone Number Change

Derek and Christi Melin no longer have their home phone so please contact them using their cell phones. Their numbers are:

Derek 815-222-2416

Christi 815-222-9429



Broadway Covenant Church
3525 Broadway
Rockford, IL 61108

Return Service Requested