

September 2009

The Messenger

Lighting the Family Camp Lamp

I have a confession to make. Jesus said, “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on a stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16) I put a light God lit in my life under a bowl. Last year, Cari, the kids, and I experienced a phenomenal week at Family Camp at Covenant Point. Over the last twelve months, I should have been trumpeting the glories of God we experienced through camp. Instead, I kept quiet. I kept the light to myself and my family. The only excuse I can provide this: perhaps I was afraid that last year’s awesome experience was a fluke. I was wrong. This year was incredible, too. Last year was no fluke. Therefore, families of Broadway Covenant Church, you are encouraged, cajoled, motivated, and strongly suggested to get you and your family to camp in 2010.

Once again Cari’s response about camp is, “the best vacation ever.” What makes it the best vacation ever? It begins with the staff. High school and college-age kids are committed to serving and loving your family not out of obligation, but out of their relationship with Christ. This is not a typical summer job for them. This is ministry. The counselors are genuinely excited to see you each day; the work crew is (mostly) excited to wash dishes, mow yards, and clean up. Everyone associated with camp wants to be sure you experience Christ, whether through relationships, worship, or creation. By building Christ-centered relationships with campers, the counselors reveal what a Christian walk is truly like. These relationships are built through awesome activities like the high-ropes course or the Mountain Dew swing on the Island; great games like Braveheart and Go for the Gusto!; and fun stuff like arts and crafts or swimming on the Waterfront. During family camp, relationships are fostered through a variety of family activities. In all activities staff members encourage campers to challenge themselves to broaden their perspectives and build self-confidence. Each family can select from a whole host of fun stuff to do to create memories like bike trips, cliff diving, horseback riding and diving for treasure near a sunken ship (Really! We did all these things!).

One great feature of this year’s family camp was the extended family experience. One family, who participated last year, returned this year with his brother and his kids, and his sister and her kids. In addition, grandparents brought their kids and grandkids. Too see multiple generations worshipping together, or aunts, uncles and cousins all playing together is very inspirational and a great reminder of the blessing of family. Family Camp 2010 should be on your agenda if you have kids or grandkids. Your relationships will benefit in ways you cannot imagine.

But Family Camp isn’t just about fun activities; it is also about worship and deepening our relationship with Christ. Through fun songs, creative skits, solid, biblical teaching, and hands-on activities to bolster the lessons, we experienced Christ through worship and learned more about the Lord’s Prayer. Broadway will benefit as our Fall sermon focus will center on each line of the Lord’s Prayer.

The center of the Lord’s Prayer is “on earth as it is in heaven.” One of the best aspects about camp is the opportunity to deepen our appreciation of God’s creation through the grandeur of the earth and all that is in it. By catching fish, frogs, turtles, snakes, and salamanders, we see the diversity of God’s handiwork. By riding a horse, seeing the sun rise, or swimming across the lake from the Island, we recognize God’s power and majesty. Catching an almost-daily glimpse of a soaring bald eagle reminds us that God “will raise you up on eagle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.”

Hoping you and your family are heading to camp together in 2010,
Pastor Eric

STUDENT MINISTRIES

I love anarchy ball and floor hockey, ultimate Frisbee and Four Square. I love free junk food and hangout time. I love focusing on the Cross as I worship. I love digging into God's Word and understanding what It has to say to me. I love our circle prayer time when we unite in focus on our Lord.

Yeah, I love youth group. I'm stoked about what's coming up this fall and I hope you are too!!

When I was a kid, I loved youth group...but for some reason the idea of Sunday school didn't strike a chord as much. Why not....I'm not sure. Maybe I loved sleeping in too much. Maybe I thought it was too much like school. Maybe I thought I was "Christian enough" and therefore exempt. Maybe the chairs were uncomfortable or the spotlight at Alpine and Florida Drive took too long. Maybe I was just lazy and didn't care. Maybe I allowed my job to take precedence. Maybe I thought youth group was enough. Maybe....maybe....maybe...

Gang...it's an important time...one that can't be replaced. This fall we're going to dig. We're going to work to understand the deep stuff. We're going to implement the life lessons. We're going to challenge and encourage each other. We're going to be honest with ourselves. We're going to cease being content with being just like everybody else. We're going to cease justifying sins because everybody else does it. We're going to seek the face of Christ. We're going to pray for ourselves and others. We're going to better understand who Jesus is. We're going to talk about sin...and violence...and hypocrisy...and salvation...and suffering...and perseverance...and the Bible...and faith...and eternity...and heaven...and hell...and...and...and...

At the bottom of this page you'll see the options. They're right there. The finishing touches are being completed and I pray each of you make a choice to join us this fall at 9AM at church. If it's not important to you, then sleep in. If it is, then wake up and join us. It all amps up on September 20th! Don't be like I was...I missed out on lots of relevant stuff. How cool is it to come together and then leave understanding more about who we are in Christ? How is that not appealing? How is that not life-changing and empowering? "Ok...Derek...we get it"! Good...I'll see you all at 9AM on September 20th. Thanks for a fantastic summer...God is good! Peace out,

D

STUDENT MINISTRIES FALL SCHEDULING

The Journey is Broadway's 2 year confirmation class which explores the Bible from front to back and seeks to provide kids with an overall picture of God's unending love and pursuance of them. We will meet starting on Wednesday, September 16th from 4:30 to 5:30 here at church. Plan on joining us for this experience!

If you're like I was, you often ask the hard questions about God, Christ, and church. You know what I'm talking about. If you're wondering about some of that stuff, you're invited to Derek's office on Sunday mornings beginning September 20th at 9AM to chat about those questions and see if we can't provide each other some insights! Look forward to having you!!

If the previous two options don't sound like they're for you...you're in luck. We've got in the works a Sunday morning 9AM study time when we'll dig into the message of Christ in His Sermon on the Mount. We'll spend this time both gaining understanding and then putting together how we live what we just processed. Gotta live it, not just learn it! Set those alarm clocks and meet us here as we grow in Christ! Plan on it!!

At the Church!

Mission Report

Our missionaries to pray for this month are Leonid & Leanna Regheta with Russian Covenant Ministries. They are now living in Texas after having to leave Russia last year. Leonid is currently working with Sports Camp Ministry, which is a partnership between the Evangelical Covenant Church and the Mission Covenant Church of Sweden. This ministry builds upon previous work in Estonia and the American and Swedish mission departments. Leonid was in Russia in August for a sports camp in which they had around 100 children and teenagers. Please continue to pray for God's presence in the lives of these children. Also pray for the Regheta family as they await the birth of their 4th child in early September.

Save the Date: Carpenters Place will be holding its 3rd annual **“Walk for the Homeless”** on Saturday October 10th. It will be held at Christian Life Schools running track (Spring Creek and Mulford Roads). There will be sponsor sheets available in the SE Narthex. If you have any questions please contact Sheri Glover at the Carpenter's Place 815-964-4105 (ext 203) or Sue Warren.

Peanut Butter Update: This summer we took 54 pounds of peanut butter to the Rock River Valley Food Pantry. Thank you for your donations.

Prayer and Praise:

Tim & Andrea Johnson, Japan

- Praise for the Akagi Bible Camp and the children who came in July and August.
- Pray for the work Gunma Harvest is doing in Namoku.

Missionary Aviation Repair Center, Alaska

- Praise for the safe flights this summer taking children and staff to Covenant Bible Camps.
- Pray for Drew Baker and family, as Drew becomes the new Director of MARC.

Byron Bruckner, Covenant Youth of Alaska

- Praise for the youth who have been delivered from abuse.
- Pray for those who have lost loved ones to suicide.

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	

Building Project to be Considered

Broadway Covenant members can expect a special meeting to be scheduled this fall to consider proposed renovations and improvements to the church building.

The Leadership Team accepted and endorsed a recommendation from the Building Committee, subject to bids from contractors. Firm quotes from contractors are likely to be available in late September. After contractors have submitted quotes, members will decide in a special meeting whether to proceed with the project. Recommended changes to the church building include:

- A remodeled front entrance to replace the existing flat roof and expand the gathering space in the front narthex, with a new east entry to the front narthex from the parking lot;
- New air conditioning for the sanctuary & narthex;
- Replacement of the southeast entrance with a covered entrance and new steps, along with installation of an elevator shaft to prepare the building for future installation of an elevator, and
- Potential remodeling of the restrooms off the Nelson Lounge.

Watch for further information about the project in The Messenger, during worship services and on www.broadwaycovenant.com.



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 Justin Murdock (Grandson to Roger & Sandy Creedy) and Justin Holmertz serving in Afghanistan. Thanks!

Christian Fellowship Band

CFB will start rehearsals for its 25th concert season on Tuesdays, September 1 & 15, from 7-9 PM at First Covenant Church, 316 Wood Road, Rockford, IL. CFBand is growing and has opportunities in all sections, especially clarinets and flutes, and could use a bassoon, bass clarinet, oboe, baritone sax, and more trombones and another baritone. Contact George Strombeck at 815/226-0558 or show up at the first rehearsal and meet a great band of people.

Birthdays

- 4 Gordon Wienke
5 Arline Gredenius
10 Kathy Almond
12 Anders Gredenius
Kurt Miericke
14 Marcia Johnson
Doris Dahlgren
Wesley Hardin
16 Ron Miller
Linda Evans
17 Wally Sorensen
David Knight
Don Leather
Charles Carlson
18 Louise Larson
Emmet Swanson
21 Mayford Engstrom
Jennifer O'Marrah
Bob Schweiger
Erica Schweiger
23 Louise Peterson
24 Ruth Hopkins
Jean Drews
Annette Retzlaff
25 Kevin McCulloch
27 Deloris Whitsel
Karen Frint

Anniversaries

- 2 Doug & Joan Boettcher
Wesley & Colleen Straley
Randall & Laura Ann Price
3 Dr. Martin & Robin Plotkin
5 Todd & Susan Johnson
8 Dan & Laura Schweitzer
11 Robert & Barbara Rehnberg
14 Thomas & Sandy Anderson
John & Kimberly Haase
15 James & Jill Page
16 Wayne & Carolyn Augenson
17 Karl & Crystal Burdick
Kendall & Nancy Dahlstrom
26 Maynard & Barbara Carlson
27 Keith & Kathryn Holmertz

Bible Study Resumes

Sunday Evening Bible Study will resume at the home of Al & Gladys Damrose on September 20th at 6:30 PM. A continuation of I Corinthians beginning in chapter 11.

Remember in Prayer

Ruth Carlson in the hospital.
Matt Link recovering from kidney stone surgery.
Eleanor Anderson home from the hospital.
Gene Peterson recovering from surgery.
Matt & Michelle Gustafson traveling to Ethiopia.
Justin Holmertz & Justin Murdock serving in Afghanistan.

Thank You

To my friends at Broadway, Thank you for your prayers, support, visits and cards during my surgery and continuing recovery. Praise God for the great pathology report! Gene Peterson

Skills camp has been such a blessing for our family. Thank you very much for all the effort you put into it. Much seed has been planted - also "prepared the soil" for much growth! Gini Kittle

I want to thank everyone who helped make another Fun Fest a great success. It takes many loving people like you to make this neighborhood outreach event a blessing onto Our Lord Jesus and His church. Thanks to all who helped plan, organize, ran errands, set-up, run all the booths, cook & serve food, greet people, sell & take tickets, do the prizes, take down & clean up when it was over and all who have been praying for the fair & everyone who came that evening. I also want to thank, the Worship Band, Choo-choo Amusements and "Tiny the Shriner Clown" for providing entertainment, our door prize donors, Patchwork Quilters and Karen Hallberg, who made all those wonderful toy baskets, those who donated several other items, and especially the kids, parents and neighbors who came and enjoyed, they are who this was all done for in Christ's name. In Christ, Jon Brown

Skills Camp Donation Update

Matt and Michelle Gustafson left to deliver the two plus tubs of donations to Horizon House in Addis Ababa. These donations are a blessing to the children there and will be appreciated by all. Thanks to all the campers for their support. The Gustafson's will also pick up their son in Ethiopia. read about their experience at www.youbelong.net/gustafson.

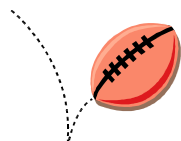
Congratulations to:

Jeanine (Parker) and Tom Heck who were married on August 2nd.



Broadway Covenant Church
3525 Broadway
Rockford, IL 61108

Return Service Requested



Are You Ready for Some FOOTBALL!

2009 Annual church Fall “Kick-Off” Picnic

For everyone!!! (even if you hate football or are a Viking fan)

- WHEN:** Sunday, September 13th after the worship service
WHERE: In the west church parking lot (if raining, in fellowship hall)
COST: \$3 per person \$10 family maximum
BRING: Dessert – last name A-K or Salad/Side Dish – last name L-Z

There will be games, contest and drawings for beautiful Chicago Bear and Green Bay Packer merchandise. The 2009 football season “kicks off” and so do the Broadway covenant Church fall programs. Dress comfortably (with team support if you wish) and join in on the fun and fellowship. Please sign up ahead of time by marking the bulletin tear off sheet. (come even if you don’t) We will be serving hamburger and hotdogs. Tableware and beverages will be provided. Please bring your dish when you come to church. We will have people there to take care of it for you. Call the church at (815) 399-9296 if you have questions.

Fellowship Suppers

Are you hungry for a home-cooked meal? Would you like to eat with a friend or a family? Plan to join us each Wednesday evening for Fellowship Dinners beginning September 16th at 5:30 PM. The cost is \$5 per person or \$18 for a family of four or more. We look forward to seeing you. Nancy & Dennis Norman

