

Garage Renovation Underway!

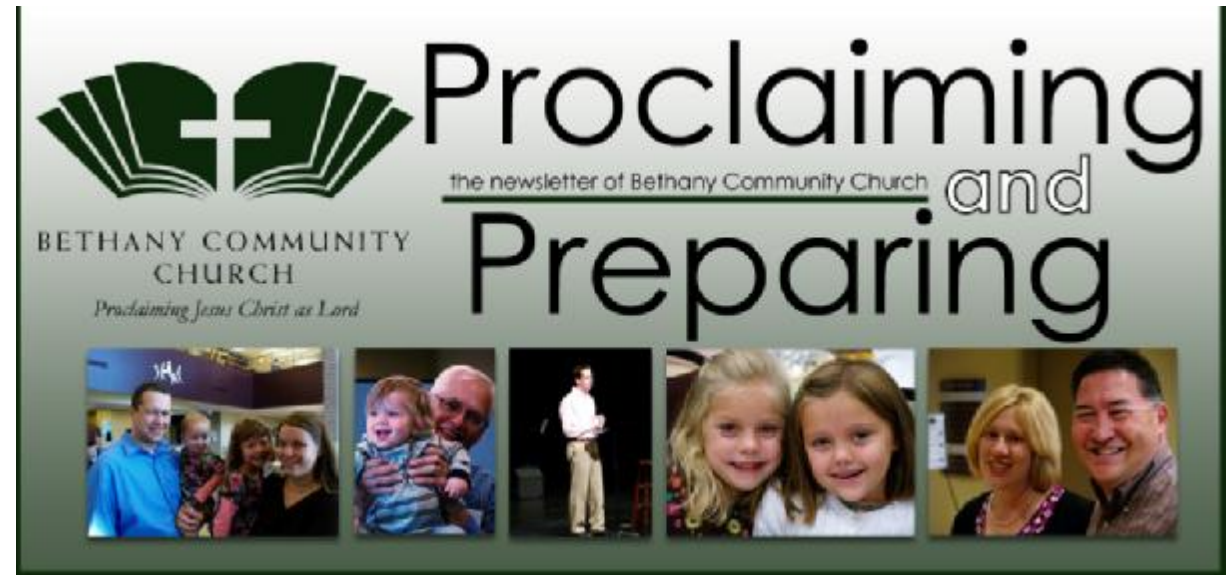


Remember the garage used for food during our fellowships at the farmhouse? It no longer looks the same. All the contents have been removed and the drywall is gone. New pedestrian doors have replaced the garage door and soon we will have a new place for small groups to meet. Men have been hard at work and plan for the new space to be available before Christmas. There will be seating for 60 without tables and 48 with tables.

The renovated space will be heated and well lit with bathroom facilities. If you would like to reserve this new space for a care group or other BCC function, call Diane at 508-1755.

The next renovation project will be to put a bigger meeting place inside the large metal building. When that is finished it will be large enough for Sunday evening church services.

Work days will be coming, so watch the bulletin to see when they are and come and help.



Issue 1

November/December 2009

God Adopts Children with Special Needs by Pastor Daniel Bennett

I am sometimes asked what led our family to adopt. That's a surprisingly complicated question for me and I think I answer it a slightly different way each time. There are so many factors that influenced our calling to adopt that it is hard to pinpoint just one or two.

What is clear to me is that our motivation to adopt was ultimately driven by our understanding the character of God more deeply. As we grew in our understanding of God's adoption of us into His family, we simultaneously grew in our desire to care for orphans. As our love for God deepened, our passion to be like Him intensified. In other words, my love for God was the basis of my love for our daughter Ellie. Theology drove us to adopt!

This month is National Adoption Month. I believe this month is a great vehicle for our church to utilize to call people to consider the truths of Scripture regarding adoption. There are many

things that we learn about earthly adoption from contemplating our heavenly adoption. Let us just consider one truth together in this article: ***Our heavenly adoption by God was accomplished despite our condition.***

Romans gives an unflattering depiction of the human condition apart from Christ. Romans 3 gives the lurid details of our utter rebellion to God and then summarizes that "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (v. 23). Despite this reality, Romans 5:8 tells us, "while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Before our adoption by God, we were His enemies and dead in our sins. There was nothing intrinsic in us that was of any value. Yet, God worked about our salvation through the provision of Christ's atoning death on the cross.

(Continued on page 2)

Return service requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PEORIA, ILLINOIS
PERMIT NO 917

Bethany Community Church
27265 Dutch Lane
Washington, IL 61571

Bethany Community's Purpose

When we read Paul's exhortation in Ephesians 6:10 to "be strong," it is important to remember the larger context of the instruction. We should keep in mind that this instruction takes place within the portion of the epistle dealing with how believers are to walk. We should also remember that Paul has repeatedly asked God to give his readers strength. In other words, we can understand Paul's injunction to "be strong" more fully as we think about the big picture.

It is easy in a church for us to become so immersed in the day to day and week to week affairs of ministry that we forget the "big picture" of what we are about. Quite simply, *our church exists to glorify God as we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and prepare His people to worship Him forever.*

But how do we do this practically? Before we began the church plant, the leadership team identified seven areas that we believe God would call our new church to focus on in a special way:

- * equipping lay people for ministry,
- * building people for fellowship,
- * reaching the lost,
- * discipling the flock,
- * committing to the community,
- * becoming a church, and
- * fostering a regional ministry.

I'd encourage you to think about the first vision area this month: "equipping people for ministry." We believe that it is crucial that each member of Christ's church be exercising his/her spiritual gift. So, how is God preparing you for ministry? Prayerfully consider how God may be calling you to implement 1 Corinthians 12:4-7:

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

(Continued from page 1)

Before our adoption by God was accomplished despite our condition, consider the implication for earthly adoptions: There are no unlovable children.

I don't believe that God calls every person to adopt. Furthermore, there are some who are

called to adopt who may not be called to adopt a child with special needs. But let us be very careful about separating children into "lovely" and "unlovely" categories. God has taken each one of us in our "unlovely" state and sovereignly created an object of love. May we have the heart of God as we consider the needs of children worldwide.

What God's Been Doing at Bethany Community Church



AWANA is up and running! After much prayer and planning, the Lord has provided enough workers for all the children in BCC to attend, plus substantially more kids from the community. We average about 75 clubbers on a weekly basis, with plenty of room to grow!

This is a wonderful ministry that really gets children into the Word. They learn verses and learn how to apply the verses to their lives. The whole curriculum balances evangelism and discipleship. That makes the club a great outreach for children that may not know Jesus as their Savior as well as a way to disciple children that have already made that decision.

Conducting AWANA at Camp Good News has worked out very well. The Cubbies (age 3-pre k) have their own meeting space located in the duplexes. They spend their whole evening in this building. The SPARKS (K-2) and TNT's (3-5 grade) spend their evening in the chapel building. The first few weeks, the SPARKS (K-2) and TNT (3-5 grades) played games outside in the large field. The large group teaching time for the TNT club has been around the campfire, really taking advantage of the setting.

It is never too late for children to start AWANA. If you know of children who would benefit from getting into the Word, there is plenty of room!



We are excited to have launched our new mom's ministry, "beMOM". beMOM is open to all moms of any season, whether you are pregnant for the first time or

haven't had children in your home for 70 years. You are welcome to join with us as we live life with each other and beMOM. In September we had our evening kick off meeting for moms only. Casey Davidson shared her testimony of how she came to know Jesus Christ as her Savior and how she has grown in her relationship with Him. In October we had a moms and kids get-together. It was a fun time of getting to know other moms while the kids played. Small groups, including moms and children, also met for the first time this month. We are looking forward to our November 3rd evening meeting from 7:00-8:30 at Five Points. If you would like to attend, please go to www.bethanycommunitychurch.org/bemom and RSVP for this event. No children at any of the evening meetings, please (nursing babies are the exception).

If you have additional questions about beMOM, feel free to contact Christine Carbaugh at 740-0658 or 6carbaughs@comcast.net.



Mark your calendar now for the 3rd Annual Apologetics and Preaching Competition called *Engage* on January 29-30, 2010. Apologetics is open to young men and women while preaching is open to young men only. This is a great opportunity for High School students to dig into God's Word and defend their faith. The competition is open to students throughout the community. Watch for application information coming soon. For more information, contact Mike Chambers at the BCC office at 508-1755 or email him at mike@bethanycommunitychurch.org.

Children's Ministry



God continues to provide for our children's ministries at BCC. The scripture covered in Sunday School in Nov. and Dec. will be:

11/1	Joshua 23-24	11/29	Ruth 1-4
11/8	Judges 1-3	12/6	Matt. 1:1-25
11/15	Judges 6-8	12/13	Matt. 2:1-12
11/22	Judges 13-16	12/20	Matt. 2:13-23

These lessons will continue during the Children's Church hour except for 1st through 3rd grade who just started a study on the attributes of God. The attributes they will be looking at include: Eternal (11/1) Creator (11/8), Glorious (11/15), Wise (11/22), Almighty (11/29), Sovereign (12/6), Provider (12/13), and Self-sufficient (12/20).

We praise God that our November roles for Children's Church are all filled. There are still opportunities to serve in December (even if you want to just try it for one month!). Please contact the office at 508-1755 if you desire to be a part of this ministry.

As a reminder, on December 27 and January 3, Children's Church will be provided for children up to and including 5 years old.



Adult Ministries

It is an exciting time to be a part of an adult SS class. These classes are multi-generational and include col-

lege students to great grandparents! All three of these classes are covering the same material this fall. Topics include how to study the Bible, biblical eldership and the book of James. The book of James will carry us into the new year as well. An extension of our Sunday School classes are our care groups. These smaller groups give one an opportunity to connect more deeply with the BCC family and also give opportunities to serve the church.

Youth Ministry



So far, this semester has been an exciting one for the Youth Ministry. We started the school year with a slight change to our Sunday school structure. Middle schoolers and high schoolers are now meeting separately on most Sundays and we have added new staff member Mike Chambers to the teaching rotation. The Lord has been teaching us much about the gospel and the Christian life as we are studying through Galatians on Sunday mornings.

Our Wednesday night Youth Group meeting seems to be growing by about one student per week, and we are running out of space in the farmhouse! Thankfully, God is providing us a remodeled building (former garage) for ministry space. We are currently studying the Lord's Prayer and putting it into practice with group prayer each week.

Upcoming Events:

- * High School boys overnight, Nov. 6, 5:30 p.m.—9:00 a.m. Nov. 7. Meet at the farmhouse.
- * Leaf Raking Service Project, November 7, 9a.m. to 12:30p.m. Meet at farmhouse.
- * Engage Youth and Apologetics Conference, January 29-30, 2010 (see page 7)

Here is what some are saying about why they like Care Groups:

"Getting to know others better, the fellowship."
 "We really just love building relationships with others."
 "I think (the care group structure) is the seed bed for healthy relationships. I like the opportunity for my family to build into the lives of others and be built into in this context."

If you are interested in hearing more about how to plug into an adult Sunday School or a Care Group, contact Ben Davidson at 508-1755 or Ben@BethanyCommunityChurch.org.

Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 2 Zoe Waibel
- 3 Jan Mosier
Robert Ciganek
Caleb Backstrom
Patricia Miller
Jeremy Shobert
- 4 Kyla Kenar
Noah Hank
Joshua Wuebben
- 5 Josiah Bandy
- 9 Carol Davis
Hailey Widder
Sam & Carol Miller
- 10 Lisa Widder
Joshua Hitz
- 11 Rob Ciganek
Amber Durham
Will Reem
- 13 Dylan Schneck
Micah Aberle
- 14 Scott Moye
Monica Dentino
- 15 Lauren Ciganek
Karah Martin
- 16 Sarah Hodges
- 17 Rebecca Handly
- 18 Ted & Marca Lott
- 19 Brent Mosier
Steve Barton
Jayden Frey
- 20 Dan Hawkinson
Cade Biedscheid
- 21 Caleb Schniers
Darrell & Lisa Howard
- 22 Ashley Stilling
- 23 Karen Yergler
AJ Schwarz

- 24 Elijah Huniak
- 25 Sam Miller
Brian Backstrom
Billy Beach
Jenny Bandy
Amara Biedler
Conner Widder
Brady Biedscheid
Stanley & Susan Meinert
- 26 Kathie Maxwell
Rodney & Staci Aberle
- 28 Brenda Copeland
Bryce Entner
- 29 Jack Bateman

- 8 Anna Lee
Brad & Sandra Van Beuning
- 11 Kelly Alexander
Dave & Beth Robinson
- 13 Sierra Hitz
Parker Handly
- 14 Claire Heille
- 15 Brian & Erin Schniers
- 16 Neil Roth
Philip & Anna Huniak
- 17 Beth Urban
Rodney Aberle
- 18 Gary Lawson
Josh Johnson
- 19 Craig Rutledge
Katie Rutledge
Ben Worner



- 1 Emily Orr
Emily Browning
Samantha Miller
- 2 Erik Opperman
Gary & Julie Ahlgren
- 3 Kent Kloter
Heidi Backstrom
Cory & Hollie Clubb
- 5 Joshua Carlson
Jan Davidson
Sue Lewis
Andrew Crank
Ryan Kenar
Ayden Bencher
Chuck & Brenda Copeland
- 7 Josh Thompson
Isaiah Robertson
- 8 Jill Teubel

- 21 LeAmber King
Caleb Barrick
- 22 Kaden Araujo
Ken & Barb
Stonecipher
- 23 Bob & Sharon Bloompott
- 24 Jerry Miller
- 26 Evan Hahn
- 27 Maya Williams
Christopher Savage
- 28 Joe Lemkemann
Joyce Hawkinson
Shannon Hoffman
Andrew Prosser
- 29 Nick Heinze
- 30 Tim & Emily Browning

Feast of Thanks

November 22

Our second annual Feast of Thanks will be held following the service on November 22. Meat, table service and beverage will be provided. Please bring 2 side dishes to share. Remember to bring any serving utensils that your dish requires.

If you would be willing to cook a turkey, please call Diane at the office at 508-1755.

Coolers and ovens are available to keep your dishes warm or cold as needed. You may bring your dishes to the welcome area and they will be taken care of for you. Please RSVP online, on your care card, or by calling the office by Nov. 15.



Feast of Thanks 2008

Bethany Fellowship of Churches Worship Service

November 15, 6 p.m.

Living Hope Community Church

Plan now to attend Living Hope Community Church, 6116 W. Lancaster Rd., Bartonville for a combined worship service. If you have not yet seen Living Hope's new sanctuary, this would be a great time to see how God has blessed them.

Baby Shower for Jill Vogel

November 14, 9 a.m.

All ladies are invited to the home of Wes and Brianne Hoerr, 1322 Courtney Dr., Washington on November 14 at 9:00 a.m. as we celebrate the upcoming birth of Jill and Dan's new baby, expected December 14. Jill is registered at Target and Babies R Us (inside Toys R Us).

Youth Leaf Raking

November 7, 9 a.m.

Come and join us on Saturday, November 7th from 9 a.m.-1p.m. for a great morning of raking leaves for people in our church and in our community. We will meet at the BCC office and plan to rake leaves until noon. Lunch will be provided at the office. Be sure to bring a rake and wear clothes that can get a little dirty. If you have any questions, please call Josh Durham at 645-5647 or email Mike Chambers at mike@bethanycommunitychurch.org.

mike@bethanycommunitychurch.org

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 6 p.m.
Five Points Washington

Start Christmas by celebrating Christ's birth through the Word and song on this very special evening.

Children's Christmas Sunday School Program

December 13

Meet in the theater during the Sunday School hour to see our youngest attenders give their program entitled "What Do You See in the Manger?"

Sunday School

Dec. 27 and Jan. 3

There will be no classes, but everyone is invited to bring a snack to share and meet in Ballroom A for a time of fellowship from 9-10 a.m.

Christmas Parties

Young Couples Dec. 18 at 6:30 p.m.
Meet at Dan & Alyssa Hawkinson's

Ben's SS Class Dec. 11 at 6:15 p.m.
Meet at the BCC office, 27265 Dutch Lane

Kent's SS Class Dec. 11 at 5 p.m.
Meet at Washington Middle School Gym
1100 N. Main St., Washington



A Community Christmas

December 5
2 and 6 p.m.

Five Points Washington

Use this opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to hear the combined choirs of the Bethany Fellowship of Churches sing about the birth of Christ. You may attend at either 2 or 6 p.m.

Tickets are free and can be obtained by calling the office at 508-1755 or on-line at www.BethanyCommunityChurch.org. Tickets will be available at the welcome center beginning November 8.

In November we will begin taking our special Christmas offerings for our missionaries. Envelopes will be in your bulletin on Nov. 1 and at the welcome center until the end of November. Prayerfully consider how God might lead you to give so that we may bless our missionaries in a very special way.



Get your shoebox information at the welcome center or online at www.samaritanspurse.org. Bring your shoeboxes to the welcome center on Nov. 15 or 22. Remember to include \$7 with each box for shipping and other project costs.