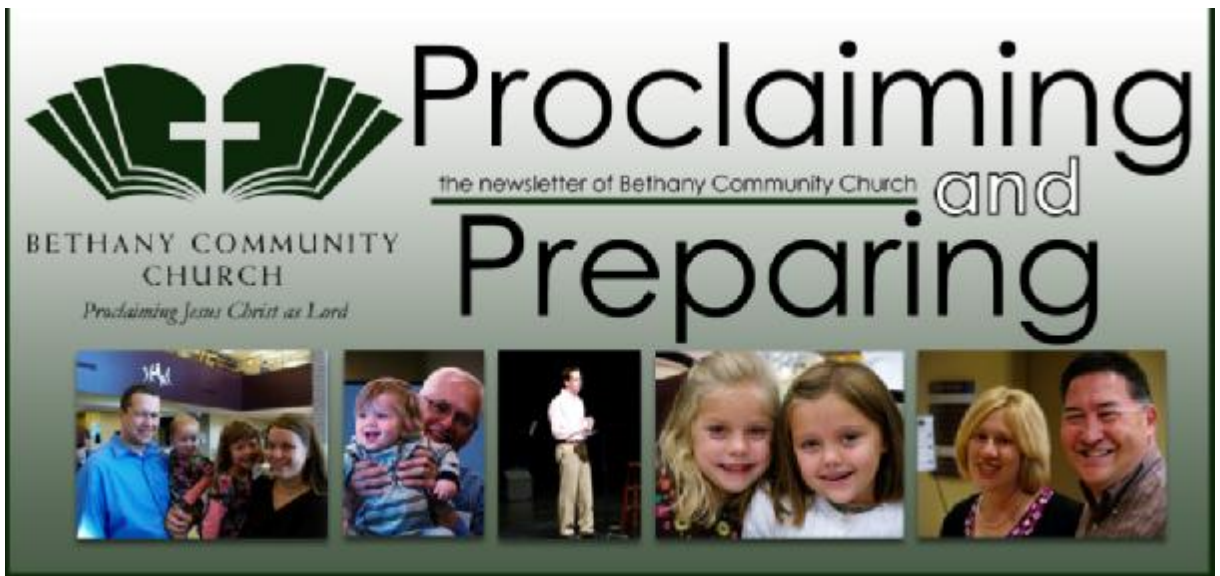


Vacation Bible Camp Report

There were over 150 campers who were registered for VBC this year! In spite of a wet first day, the rest of the week was warm with plenty of sunshine and the campers were able to enjoy the zip line, hiking and other outdoor recreation. They learned about the patriarchs in chapel time and enjoyed making craft projects based on the lesson. Friday the parents were invited to stay and lunch was served. The swimming pool was open after lunch and the zip line was once again a favorite attraction.

Their missionaries for the week were Andy and Colleen Keltner, who are working in Lebanon. The total giving for the Keltner's was \$509.90.

We appreciate the staff and counselors at Camp Good News for all their hard work in making Vacation Bible Camp a great experience for our campers and for our many BCC volunteers who made the program run smoothly.



Issue 5

July/August 2010

A Providential Article by Pastor Daniel Bennett

I am excited that our "grown up" Sunday School classes will be studying principles of godly decision making in the upcoming months. This is an important topic, for we often have an unbiblical perspective on how God leads us. We sometimes resort to some rather unusual—and unbiblical—methods to discern God's plan for our lives. Or, we are tempted when something goes wrong in our life to think that we have somehow fallen out of God's perfect plan for our life.

It is interesting that God gives us the freedom to make decisions that we are responsible for, yet at the same time He remains a loving, sovereign God. I don't pretend to know how to fully resolve these truths—that we are responsible for our decisions yet God is completely in control—but I take great comfort in them.

My dad recently gave me a book entitled, *The Mystery of Providence*, by Puritan author John Flavel. The term providence refers to Scripture's teaching that God is not absent from His created realm but intimately concerned with it. As Wayne Grudem writes, providence means "God is continually involved with all created things in such a way that he (1) keeps them existing and maintaining the properties with which he cre-

ated the; (2) cooperates with created things in every action, directing their distinctive properties to cause them to act as they do; and (3) directs them to fulfill his purposes" (p. 315).

In a chapter entitled, "The Work of Providence for the Saints," Flavel meditates on Psalm 57:2: "I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth all things for me." Flavel is particularly struck by the last line of the psalm and writes:

...Providence neither does nor can do anything that is really against the true interest and good of the saints. For what are the works of Providence but the execution of God's decree and the fulfilling of His Word? And there can be no more in Providence than is in them. Now there is nothing but good to the saints in God's purposes and promises; and, therefore, whatever Providence does concerning them, it must be (as the text speaks) 'the performance of all things for them.'

(Continued on page 2)

Return service requested

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Bethany Community's Purpose

Our church exists to glorify God. That is declared in our church's purpose statement: *Our church exists to glorify God as we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and prepare His people to worship Him forever.*

But in what ways are we practically implementing God's purpose for our church? 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:

- Equip lay people for ministry**
- Build fellowship**
- Reach the Lost**
- Disciple the flock**
- Commit to the Community**
- Become a church**
- Foster a regional ministry**

In this newsletter, I would like to encourage you to think about how you can participate in our fifth vision area: committing to the community.

A key component to a biblical ministry of evangelism is investment in people's lives. Paul describes his commitment to the people in Thessalonica before they placed their faith in Jesus Christ:

For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us. For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers.

(1 Thess 2:5-10)

Our goal as a church is to invest in the lives of the people in this community. As we do so, our hope is that they see us as "gentle" and willing to share "not only the gospel of God but also our own selves."

This goal is not easily achieved. Pray for our church as we seek to commit ourselves to the community in which God has placed us.

(Continued from page 1)

This is a comforting and convicting truth for me. The flat tire, the burnt toast, the sick child, and the rain when I wanted shine are not accidental events. They are events brought into my life by a loving God for my true interest and good.

The response of the psalmist to difficulty must be our response as well: "I will cry unto God most high." May God's deliverance of us from our trials only be done after we have been changed through them by a loving Heavenly Father who "performeth all things for me."

Peoria Area Campus Ministries Update

Peoria Area Campus Ministries (PACM) is a unique partnership between the Bethany Fellowship of Churches and Campus Crusade for Christ (Cru). The Peoria area has more than 26,000 college students on 9 campuses and our ministry desires to engage each of those students through winning, building and sending.

Our ministry currently specializes in reaching International students, men and women involved in the Greek system at Bradley University, Bradley students living in the dorms, college athletes, and students at Illinois Central College.

PACM (Peoria Area Campus Ministries) has some exciting changes taking place this summer and fall as we will be adding the Kurczodynas as full-time staff as well as three new interns.

Micaiah and Erin Wilmoth are finishing their fourth year working with PACM and Micaiah's second year of serving as the ministry director. Micaiah's primary responsibilities include setting vision and direction for the ministry and leading our staff team, volunteers and student leaders.



Jim and Joelle Kurczodyna finished a year-long internship together (Jim his second year) and have recently decided to come on as full-time staff with PACM. They are also now considered full-time missionaries with the Bethany Fellowship and we welcome them to our missionary family. They will continue in their current ministry responsibilities of reaching ICC students as well as their Dorm life outreach.

The three new interns that will also begin ministry with PACM soon include the following:

Joanne Borchert – Graduated from Valparaiso with EE degree and has been working at Cat and volunteering with the PACM ministry for the past year

Amanda Mullery – Graduating from Bradley this May with degree in Biology

Kyle Talbot – Undergraduate degree from Moody Bible Institute and currently working towards Master of Divinity at TEDS

The interns will be involved in doing evangelism and discipleship among students at BU and ICC. Their specific responsibilities will be decided as plans for this fall are solidified.

For more information about our ministry check out our website at www.crupeoria.com or contact Diane Geurin at the Bethany Community Church office at 508-1755 to get signed up for our monthly prayer letter.

Building Bethany Update



Praise God for the 72 families so far who have made a faith promise for money to help purchase the 75 acres adjoining the farmhouse. We have \$ 509,328 promised of the \$655,808 needed and

\$145,045.20 has been given to date.

BFC Canada Short Term Missions Trip—July 17-24

Please pray for the following BCC families who are headed to Birch Island in Ontario, Canada to minister to the Native American White Fish First Nation Peoples:

- Mark and Amara Biedler family
- Ben and Casey Davidson family
- Brian and Tina Backstrom family
- Dan and Elke Morris family
- Keith and Linda Martin family
- Chelsea Speerly

Children's Ministry



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

	7/4	No class	8/1
Ezra 1-6			
7/14 Family Potluck	8/8	Ezra 7-10	
7/21 Missions	8/15	Esther	
7/28 Missions	8/23	Neh. 1-4	
	8/30	Neh. 8-10	

These lessons will continue during the Children's Church hour except for 1st through 3rd grade who are studying the life of Paul this summer.

1st—3rd Grade Children's Church

- 7/4 No Children's Church
- 7/11 Paul Becomes a believer
- 7/18 Paul learns to obey God
- 7/25 Paul becomes a missionary
- 8/1 Paul learns to rejoice in the Lord
- 8/7 Paul experiences God's peace in times of testing
- 8/15 Paul looks forward to his reward
- 8/22 "In the Beginning . . . Jesus" Lesson 1
- 8/29 "In the Beginning . . . Jesus" Lesson 2

Please contact the office at 508-1755 if you would like to be involved in the joy of ministry to children.

The adult Sunday School classes are starting a new series on God's will. Come join us July 18th as we meet together.



Adult Ministries

We are so excited about our new and improved way of having people sign up for a care group in August. You will not want to miss out on joining one this next year! More info to come soon.

Youth Ministry



God is working in the hearts of our students on Sundays and Wednesdays! We are thankful for our adult leaders who faithfully serve the Lord in the youth ministry on Sundays. We continue to look for more adult leaders to help in this ministry. If that interests you we would love to talk with you.

On Wednesdays, youth group meets at the Farmhouse and includes games, fellowship and teaching from God's Word. We currently are studying through Daniel 7-12, which talks about God's sovereignty over the nations and what man's response should be.

On Sundays, the middle school and high school meet separately for a time of teaching from God's Word and small group time. We are studying through the book of 2 Thessalonians and learning about the Lord's return and His plan for the church.

Coming Up:

Wednesdays We will continue studying Daniel 7-12. There will be no youth group on July 7th.

Sundays There will be no Sunday school on July 4th and 11th. On the 18th and 25th there will be opportunity for the youth group to serve in our children's ministry helping with an interactive missions program or attending an adult class.

July 9 – Guys Campout – 7:00pm-7:00am. It will be a great time! RSVP to Josh at 645-5647.

August – Back to School Bash – details to come. You will not want to miss it!

JULY

- 1 Mark Hahn
Cody Schwarz
- 3 Glenn Harkins
Mandi Cagle
Gary & Cindy Lawson
- 4 Charissa Ebbert
- 5 Gary Salzer
Mike Joyner
Ken & Denise Crank
- 6 Ustine Aberle
Beth Robinson
Ron & Sue Shobert
- 8 Neil & Cathleen Roth
- 9 Claire Stilling
Emily Carbaugh
- 10 Ted Lott
Betsy Crow
Jeff & Carl Vallosio
Robert & Diane Morris
Brent & Lisa Widder
- 11 Chris Gebhart
- 12 Isaac Ingold
Jocelyn Stone
Ellie Bennett
- 13 Kathy Carlson
Joseph Ewers
Laura Fisher
Denny & Bev Smith
Eric & Kelli Heille
- 14 Adam Crank
- 15 Scott King
- 16 Jeff & Gretchen Moser
- 17 Lauren Martin
Jeff & Beth Urban
- 18 Terry Carlson
- 19 Hollie Clubb
Brady King
- 20 Karen Placher
Barb Hekel
Casey Davidson
- 21 Lisa Howard
- 22 Travis Entner

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 22 Noah Bennett
Bill & Joyce Hawkinson
- 23 Laurel Frautschi
- 24 Dalton Ruzickai
Parker Hoffman
Isaac Beach
- 25 Bart Alexander
Tim Browning
Shane & Ellen Getz
- 27 Sierra Ausfahl
- 30 Diane Geurin
Cathleen Roth
Eclissa Berry-Kolb
Dan & Jill Vogel
- 31 Keaton Clubb
- 9 Soloman Schwarz
Ben & Casey Davidson
- 10 Brianne Hoerr
Timothy Hoffman
Travis & Kathie Maxwell
- 12 Anna Teubel
Makedah Carbaugh
- 13 Tyson Leman
Gary & Diane Conner
- 14 Sharon Bloompott
- 15 Scott Rinkenberger
- 16 Josh Urban
Caleb Conner
Jesse Markas
Rebekah Martin
Joshua Savage
Wyatt Holub
- 18 Elizabeth Morris
- 19 Jacob Miller
Blake Morgan
- 20 Bart & Kelly Alexander
- 22 Barbara Stonecipher
Joshua Schellenberg
Brian & Jennifer Entner
- 23 Kaitlyn Ackerman
- 24 Tristan Roth
Matt Cagle
Jack & Charlene Bateman
- 25 Ava Morgan
Ian Ausfahl
Pat & Tammy Savage
- 26 Theresa Wright
Chris Leman
Mia Waibel
Elizabeth Hahn
- 27 Denise Hank
Scott Lee
Matt Martin
- 28 Janet Beebe
- 31 Bev Smith
Percy Browning



- 1 Cindy Barton
Olivia Salzer
Jonathan Vallosio
Isaiah Lee
Matthew Schellenberg
- 3 Toni Cottrell
Paul Mette
- 4 Eric & Lisa Schwarz
- 5 Lily Holmes
Mark & Linda DeJamatt
Don & Santa Dentino
- 6 Jacob Kolb
Nina Leman
- 7 Keith Teubel
- 8 Gary Ahlgren
Cindy Lawson
Carol Harkins
Jeff Moser
Shane Getz
Braden Tilson
Mike & Jana Chambers

Bridal Shower for Heather Fitzgerald July 20 at 7 p.m. at the Community Room at the Farmhouse

All ladies are invited to attend a bridal shower for Heather Fitzgerald, who is marrying Josh Carlson on July 24. Heather is registered at Crate and Barrel, Bed, Bath & Beyond, and Target.

Missions Conference Schedule July 17—July 25

Saturday, July 17 at 7:30 a.m.

BBC is having a missions themed men's breakfast with Andy Keltner and John Havenga. All men are invited to attend.

Sunday, July 18 at 10:15 a.m.

Dave Beakley will be preaching at BCC during the worship service. Dave is a former member of Bethany Baptist. He graduated from the Master's Seminary. The Beakley's serve at Christ Seminary and the local church in Polokwane, South Africa. Dave is the Academic Dean and teaches at the seminary along with pastoring and shepherding in the local church. Sunday night there will be a missions elective at Bethany Baptist. You will have your choice of four missionaries to hear.

Wednesday, July 21 at 6 p.m.

Three of our missionary families will be at our Fellowship at the Farmhouse. Bring a dish to share (2 for a family or one for a couple or single) and your lawn chairs or blankets to sit on (limited seating is available.)

Friday, July 23 at 6:30 p.m.

Ice cream social and hymn sing outside at Bethany Baptist Church.

Sunday, July 25 at 10:15 a.m.

Dr. Mark Young, President of Denver Seminary, will be speaking in the morning service. Dr. Mark Young has nearly thirty years of global ministry experience. Mark was professor of World Missions and Intercultural Studies at Dallas Theological Seminary in Dallas, Texas and he also served in a variety of pastoral roles at Stonebriar Community Church in Frisco, Texas, most recently as Pastor of Missions.

Mark was involved in theological training and local church ministry with WorldVenture in Eastern Europe for 14 years. They lived in Vienna, Austria for four years and ministered throughout the former Soviet bloc, then relocated to Poland. Mark was the founding academic dean of Evangelical Theological Seminary in Wroclaw, Poland. He continued to serve on the board of the seminary through December, 2008.

July Schedule

July 4 No Sunday School, No 1st—3rd Children's Church

July 11 Potluck Breakfast Bring a dish to share and serving utensils if needed. Table service and beverages will be provided.

July 18 & 25 Adult SS meets, Children (ages 3 – 5th grade) will have special missions programming entitled “**Engaging Children with Missions**” during the Sunday School hour. This will be an interactive time of crafts, activities, and a brief presentation by some of our missionaries. If you would like to help, please contact Kevin Sauder at Kevin@BethanyCentral.org.

Care Group Kick-off

August brings about our annual Care Group Kick-off. Care Groups are BCC's small group ministry. Our desire is to not just be a church that happens to have small groups. We want to be a small group church! We would love to see the vast majority of our Sunday morning attenders also be Care Group attenders.

Why? Care Groups are a place to have a depth of relationship that might be harder to experience in larger group settings at BCC. Imagine what it could be like to have a small group of friends from BCC who can encourage and you them! You can ask questions about recent sermons or Sunday School lessons and pray for one another's burdens. This is the kind of community God provides for us for His glory!

All at Bethany Community are invited to sign up for a Care Group in August even if you have already been attending a care group. You can sign up on Sunday mornings, by calling the office or sign up online.

Fellowships at the Farmhouse

Aug. 18 at 6p.m.

Our summer fellowship times continue at the BCC Farmhouse, 27265 Dutch Lane. Bring 2 dishes to share/family and 1 per individual or couple. Please bring serving utensils. The meat, drink, plates, cups and silverware will be provided. Also bring lawn chairs if you have them. Limited seating is available.

On July 21 our Bethany Fellowship missionaries, Andy and Colleen Keltner, Dave & Carol Beakley and John & Lori Havenga will be with us.

Bethany Night at the Chiefs Baseball Game August 11

Join the Bethany Fellowship of Churches at a Peoria Chiefs game in August. Sign up for tickets from June 27—July 18. Cost is \$6. Sign up at the welcome table or in your Sunday School class to save a place at the ballpark!

Sunday Night Service

August 1

Camp Good News at 6 p.m.

Come to Camp Good News for a time of praise and worship and a message from Pastor Daniel.

Seating in the Theater

If possible, please move towards the middle of the row when you take your seat on Sunday mornings. This makes it easier to pass the offering and communion trays, makes it easier for late comers to find a place to sit, and allows those with small children or special needs to sit at the end of the row.

Pre-sermon Study

If you are serving during the worship service, you are invited to a pre-sermon study with Pastor Daniel at 8 a.m. in Ballroom B.

Picture Alert

Pictures are being taken at BCC events. If you prefer your picture used in BCC publications or materials, either printed or on-line, please contact the church office at 508-1755.