



THE YEARLY

WE EXIST TO GLORIFY GOD AS WE PROCLAIM JESUS CHRIST AS LORD AND PREPARE HIS
PEOPLE TO WORSHIP HIM FOREVER.

Annual Report 2015-2016

by Pastor Daniel Bennett

by Kirk Hoffman

My Prayer for Next Year: For People to Slow Us Down

I pray this year that God will place people in your life who will slow you down.

That might sound like a strange prayer request. Usually, our desire is to speed things up. How can we run faster? How can we shorten on our commute to work? How can we finish this task more quickly?

Why would we want people in our life who slow us down?

In his short book, *What is a Healthy Church*, Mark Dever tells of an interaction with a young man who was engaged in a ministry but not part of any local church. Dever asked the young man whether he had ever thought about joining a church and the man replied, "Join the church? I honestly don't know why I would do that. I know what I'm here for, and those people would just slow me down."

In one sense, the young man is right. Relationships in a church—good, healthy, deep relationships—by necessity slow us down. And we sometimes wrongly see that as a bad thing.

It takes time to develop and maintain friendships. We invite people into our homes. We do ministry with them. We pray with them. We put ourselves into uncomfortable situations. We give up other opportunities so we can spend time with them. We care for them in times of sorrow and rejoice with them in times of celebration. Friendships slow us down.

Paul describes his relationship with the Thessalonians this way in 1 Thessalonians 2:8-9: "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."

Paul's life would have been considerably easier without the relationships he developed with the people at Thessalonica. He could have gone about his work more quickly without having to care for them. Yet love for them compelled him to go about the work of ministry more slowly. Slow ministry to people was the work of his ministry.

And that is why I am praying for people in our lives this year who will slow us down as we pursue real relationships with them. As our church continues to grow numerically, by God's grace, my prayer is that our growth would also be a deep, slow growth. May it be slowed by deep, loving relationships as we share not only the gospel but also our very selves with one another.

I would describe this as a year of steady growth in the life of our church. We completed the initial phase of construction of our church building last summer and spent several months getting used to how it felt meeting there on Sunday night, or for Awana, or Men's Breakfast, or any number of ministry activities. To me, and I hope to you, it feels like our home now. We experienced steady growth in both the attendance and generous giving to BCC throughout this fiscal year.

This year also marked a few changes for our fellowship. We made additions in both ministerial and support staff, including hiring Phil Smith as the Youth Minister and Janet Leman, as part-time support for the Biblical Counseling Ministry. For the first time as a body, we modified the constitutional by-laws of our church and the teaching statement to proclaim what we believe about God's design for marriage. God defines marriage as the joining of one naturally-born man and one naturally-born woman for life. I am thankful for the body of BCC that is completely committed to the perfect truth of God's Word, regardless of what our current culture promotes.

Whether a year of steady growth or significant change, the heartbeat of our church remains the same: To proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and prepare His people to worship Him forever.

Our elders this year were Daniel Bennett, Tony Carbaugh, Mike Chambers, Ben Davidson, Mark DeJarnatt, Craig Hodges, Kirk Hoffman, Kent Kloter, Kevin Martin, and Dave Robinson,



Biblical Counseling & Personal Discipleship

by Kent Klofer

New Staff Addition

Janet Leman joined our part-time ministry staff in December. She serves a very key role as the Biblical Counseling Coordinator.

Biblical Counseling and Personal Discipleship

Don't let the term "Biblical counseling" throw you. Think about how many times you hear or give an opinion or share some idea. In the purest sense of the word, "counsel" is any interchange of thoughts, opinions or advice. That pretty much covers any word you process, beginning with your own thoughts, to any word that comes to you in any form. "Counsel" is something everyone does. The question to ponder is, "Is the 'counsel' I give and/or receive, in fact biblical?" This definition therefore calls every believer to intentionally grow in their ability to be a good, biblical counselor.

Our biblical counseling and discipleship training ministry continues to equip everyone in the church "for the work of the ministry" (Eph. 4:12) as they are able. We are excited to see more people become actively involved in learning as well as in the formal training. We also celebrate the large number of intentional ways others in the Bethany Community pursue the "Great Commission" apart from the formal counseling training ministry.

ACBC Certification

Since 2009, Bethany Community Church has been certified by the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors (ACBC) as a Biblical Counseling training center. The materials that we teach are

recognized as meeting the study requirements for anyone pursuing certification thru ACBC.

We want to congratulate Neil Gerber and Kim Anderson for their recent ACBC certification. We're also excited to have seven other BCC members going through the ACBC certification process.

Formal Training in Discipleship & Biblical Counseling

We want to thank the nine teachers who gave of their time to teach our Soul Care I class last fall. We also want to thank the many volunteers who are actively involved in the ministry of discipleship and counseling. Currently there are 21 trained and active "lead counselors," 15 active "counselors-in-training," and 36 mentors involved. As of early spring a total of 122 people were receiving counseling/shepherding in some form.

Twenty people who are involved as lay-counselors or counseling trainees were previously counselees. This demonstrates the heart and hope of biblical discipleship. It is our hope and expectation that "graduates" will have grown and become equipped to get involved in the lives of others who are hurting and in need of compassionate care. Fifty-eight people from the Bethany Community family have received help through our counseling ministry. Ten percent of all Bethany Community attendees are involved in our counseling ministry.

Biblical Counseling & Personal Discipleship (continued)

Counseling Ministry

We are grateful to be able to minister to hurting people from all walks of life, religious affiliation and geographic location as an outreach of our "Proclaiming and Preparing" mission. All this is done completely free of charge as we use this counseling opportunity to give practical instruction and training for others interested in being equipped for this ministry. This past year, we've offered the practical, life-changing truths of God's word to our own hearts, to our own congregation and literally "to the uttermost parts of the earth".

To the Ends of the Earth

Our vision has always been to minister to others far beyond Washington, IL. This past year we've seen God literally open several doors that were far beyond our expectations.

In October we hosted a mini-conference for several of our local and international Go-Partners. Last July, Pastor Ben, Casey, and Pastor Kent spent several days in Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa with our Go-Partner, Cheri Geise. We taught several sessions on biblical counseling and discipleship. Over 240 pastors and elders were in attendance, representing 10 different languages. Our sessions were translated into a language called Jula. Additionally, we taught the staff from the Hospital Baptiste where Cheri has served for over 25 years.

Counseling Center

With the completion of our new ministry facility, we have designated the old Youth House as our Counseling Center. We have four counseling rooms available for anyone to use for discipleship, counseling, Bible studies, etc.

Resources

We have a growing number of solid resources to help you grow in your own personal relationship with Christ and to grow in the ministry of the Word to others. Please check out our book store at the Welcome Center at Five Points on Sundays. We have many solid resources for purchase at the Farmhouse office. Please check out our website, www.bethanycommunitychurch.org/careandsupport/biblicalcounseling/resources.

1st Annual Discipleship and Biblical Counseling Conference

March 4-5 we hosted our 1st Annual Discipleship and Biblical Counseling Conference. Thanks to a great team of volunteers, we were able to minister to almost 200 people for Friday evening and Saturday lectures. We are encouraged by the feedback from those who came and we are trusting the LORD to help us host our second conference.

Looking ahead

2nd Annual Discipleship and Biblical Counseling Conference

Please save March 3-4, 2017 for our 2nd conference. We are looking forward to increasing our ability to train and equip our own church as well as other local churches for the work of the ministry. Watch our website this fall for more details.

Praising God for His blessings on His Word through this ministry.

Men's Breakfast

by Ben Davidson

The purpose of our Men's Breakfast is to glorify God as we equip men for greater love and service in their families and in the church (1 Tim. 1:5). Men of all ages come to eat, connect with others, and hear how God's Word speaks into manhood. Speakers have taught from their own passions as well as from *The Disciplines of a Godly Man* by R. Kent Hughes. We have enjoyed the ability to meet in the new building and attendance is rising. It is our goal to challenge our men to be intentional, focused leaders wherever God has placed them in the local church. If you are single, married, young, or old, we believe this ministry can have a significant impact on your life.

beREAL

by Rachel Retz

beREAL is a ministry to all adult women. Regardless of age or stage of life this ministry provides an opportunity to develop gospel-centered real relationships with other women in the church (1 Thessalonians 2:8).

This year we were excited to have women in college as well as retirees and grandmas attending our meetings where we enjoyed food, fellowship, games, and a gospel testimony. The ministry runs from September through April and meets on the first Tuesday night of the month. If you would like more information please contact Christine Carbaugh at 6carbaughs@gmail.com.

**beMOM**

by Christine Carbaugh

beMOM is a place for Bethany women to "be mom." The purpose of our beMOM ministry is to see moms come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, mature in their faith, and reach out to other moms who need to hear about Jesus (1 Thes. 2:8). Our desire is to be real and simple. We focus on how the Gospel applies to real life, even the mundane moments of being a busy mom.

We have monthly play dates that provide times for children to play while moms get to know each other better. If you have an interest in the ministry, contact Jessica Conger at jnava4538@gmail.com.

by Adam & Sarah Llovet

College and Young Adult Ministries

The goal of the College Ministry is to equip college students to walk with God for a lifetime along with shepherding college aged adults towards a college care group and encouraging their involvement in the life of the church. The Young Adult Ministry exists to glorify God as we edify, encourage, and equip young adult believers towards greater satisfaction and joy in Christ both now and forever. This year we held a few joint group events including the Tanners Corn Maze, 1st Annual Chili Cook Off, Christmas party and hosting the High School Senior Banquet. We continued to meet as a joint Care Group every 2nd and 4th Sunday for fellowship and discussion. Young Adults continued to faithfully serve in various ministries in the life of the church. At the end of the fiscal year we began to make plans to separate the College and Young Adult care groups. The College-age group now meets at 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays at BCC and in the dressing room at Five Points at 10:15 on Sunday mornings for Sunday School.

by Seth Kempf

Bible Studies

Throughout the year, Bethany Community Church offers a number of studies aimed to help reinforce the overall purpose of our local church to glorify God by proclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord and preparing His people to worship Him forever.

These studies focus on a range of topics that are meant to enhance participants' understanding of and love for God through gaining a deeper grasp of His living Word. At times, these studies concentrate on a single book of the Bible, walking through it chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse. At other times, a text is chosen that is more topical in nature, material that reviews the Scriptures in order to help the reader better understand a certain characteristic of God, an area of responsibility of believers, or an issue related to ministry life. But in each of these cases, Paul's words to Timothy encapsulate our desire; we read in 2 Timothy 2:15, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."

BCC members also engage in the study of God's Word in various other small group contexts, including our Care Group ministry. We trust that God has done His sanctifying work in us over the past year through these studies and look forward to the ways He will continue to equip us for lives of devotion and passion in the year to come as we grow together.

Care Groups

by Seth Kempf

Bethany Community's Care Group ministry (our ministry of small groups) is in so many ways integral to the relational and spiritual development of those within the body. The 25 groups this past year involved young and old alike as leaders devoted to shepherding those in their care met regularly to review and apply BCC sermons, pray for one another's needs, fellowship around dinner tables, serve the wider body and community, and exhort one another in the truth of God's Word.

A Care Group serves as both a great place to begin integration into the body of Christ at BCC and to continue growing in the same. Often meeting in homes or in rooms of our new church building, these more intimate gatherings provide a Christ-centered relational component to church life that is difficult to achieve on a Sunday morning or other all-church gathering. As believers commit to weaving Christian fellowship into their schedules and to welcoming other group members into their flow of life, biblical community is further realized among the people of BCC.

As we experience the victories and setbacks of life, as we face high times and challenges, the need to walk through life together with purpose is ever present. In light of the fact that believers have great hope in the gospel regardless of what each day brings, Paul wrote, "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing" (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

Adult Sunday School Classes

by Ben Davidson

The purpose of the Adult Sunday School ministry is to teach the application of God's word to life's circumstances in a cross-generational, discipleship-focused environment. (Heb. 10:24-25)

There are five adult classes, two of which meet at 9 a.m. and three at 10:15 a.m.

Among the topics covered this past year were:

Dave Robinson: Job, Mark

Kent Kloter: The Practical Relevance of the Gospel, The Nature of Man and the Nature of Sin

Jeff Leman: The Sermon on the Mount, Knowing God, How We Got Our Bible

Tony Carbaugh: Jude, Attributes of God, Ecclesiastes

Kevin Martin: The Life of Abraham, The Life of Joseph, The Life of David

Join a class to be taught God's Word in a smaller environment and be involved in fellowship events, hear from missionaries, and help with attenders needs.

Mathetes

by Seth Kempf

By God's grace, our Mathetes ministry enjoyed another great year! By way of review, Mathetes is the Greek word for "disciple." This ministry is designed to be a practical and biblical discipleship program for those who are considering full-time vocational ministry. The purpose of this ministry is to (1) develop relationships with the elders who will be overseeing a person's growth in ministry, (2) receive practical and biblical training to prepare a person for ministry, and (3) provide opportunities for the elders to assess one's qualifications for ministry.

As a church, the Lord has enabled us to help men and women of BCC begin or continue through seminary, walk through times of ministry transition, explore new ministry opportunities, and develop their skills in serving the local church. We praise God that he has strengthened Phil Smith, Seth Kempf, and Scott Sauder to complete their ministry degrees and also Kurt Smith and Blake Gerber as they continued their seminary work. Pray for each of them and other Mathetes participants as they engage in next steps of ministry and discern the wise path through any upcoming transitions.

As we look at how Paul spoke to young Timothy about the ministry entrusted to him, we see the importance of being prepared to lead Christ's church. After instructing him in matters regarding church leaders, the wayward, and the basics of the gospel, he wrote, "If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe" (1 Timothy 4:6-10). Training was an essential part of the readiness process for Timothy. He was doing hands-on work while still being under the close watch and instruction of Paul, a man who himself spent significant time learning how to lead Christ's church before fully engaging (Galatians 1:15-2:10).

Praise God for the work He is doing through Bethany Community to prepare men and women to give future leadership to His precious church. Thank you also for being His faithful instruments by encouraging those involved in this ministry.

For more information, please contact seth@bethanycommunitychurch.org.

DEACONS



by Pat Savage

The past year has gone by pretty quickly and there has been a lot of change. It has been exciting to observe as I serve along with the other deacons. This past year we have had the opportunity to meet monthly with the elders. It has been a blessing to learn from them and communicate more effectively.

Doug Wright has led our SOS ministry this past year. The purpose is to assist the elderly within our church with home maintenance and property care. The SOS team was blessed to have the youth come alongside and help with some of the projects. Doug will continue in the same role next year.

Luke Knapp led our setup and hospitality ministry this past year. There is a great deal of work involved in having our services each Sunday, setup, greeting, ushering, teardown, etc. Thank you to all who participated. Luke will continue in the same role next year.

Doug Handy and Paul Grimm led our benevolence ministry this past year. The purpose of the ministry is to bless those in need within our own congregation as well as those that came to us from outside BCC for budget counseling and short term needs. Through the Lord's blessing many sessions were held. Paul Grimm will continue in the same role next year joined by Mark Hahn.

Evan Robertson and Denny Landwehr led our building and grounds ministry this past year. Many people graciously contributed their time to these efforts. Some of the projects that were completed are listed below.

- The farmhouse was reroofed and the kitchen flooring was completed.
- The community room was reroofed and the main door and siding repaired.
- The counseling center back yard project was completed. This involved removing a porch roof and breaking up and moving a lot of concrete.
- At the new building rock was removed from the lawn. This was another project that the youth helped with.
- The Gator was upgraded and a blade purchased for snow removal.

Denny Landwehr will continue in the same role next year joined by Jake Zimmerman.

Mark DeJarnatt and Richard Craig completed many tasks for the benefit of our church and their accomplishments are worthy of note.

Special thanks to Evan Robertson and Doug Handy for their years of service.

LEADERSHIP



Elders

Kirk Hoffman - Chairman	Mark DeJarnatt
Daniel Bennett	Craig Hodges
Tony Carbaugh	Kent Kloter
Mike Chambers	Kevin Martin
Ben Davidson	Dave Robinson

Deacons

Pat Savage - Chairman
 Denny Landwehr - Building and Grounds
 Doug Handy - Benevolence
 Doug Wright - SOS
 Evan Robertson - Building and Grounds
 Luke Knapp - Set up
 Paul Grimm - Benevolence

BFC MINISTRIES



The Gospel Institute

by Rachel Retz

The Gospel Institute is a ministry of the Bethany Fellowship of Churches, which strives to teach us to treasure Christ as we study God's character revealed in Scripture and displayed throughout history. Through this ministry we offer classes that are intended to help anyone interested in growing in their faith, personal life, and ministry.

This past year we offered classes like Systematic Theology I & II, Soul Care I & II, and Bible Study Methods. These classes were held across three campuses with over 180 students representing 14 churches. We are excited to see how God will continue to use this ministry to grow His kingdom and prepare His people for lives of Gospel-service.

EVANGELISM



by Ben Davidson

We continue to trust the Lord for evangelism to happen throughout all of our ministries at Bethany. From Awana to youth group to care groups to compassion ministries and more, we hope the gospel is proclaimed and unbelievers come to know Christ in everything we do. We were excited to continue to emphasize the Hospitality Initiative to the church to encourage us to continue or start using our homes to reach our unsaved family, neighbors, and co-workers.

We continue to coordinate the landscaping project at a local school in Washington and invite other community organizations to join us. We hope this builds relationships with the school as well as others in order to share Christ.

Vacation Bible Camp

by Jana Chambers

Vacation Bible Camp was a wonderful week at both Farmhouse and Camp Good News locations. The Farmhouse hosted children entering Kindergarten and 1st grade where all enjoyed farm activities. Those entering 2nd grade through 6th grade had fun adventures at Camp Good News. The overall theme was "Turned Around." The kids learned how their lives can be turned around by Jesus Christ. We heard about Zacchaeus, Mephibosheth, Jonah, Noah, the Apostle Paul and the Ethiopian eunuch. The theme verse was John 1:12, "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

The games, crafts and activities creatively encouraged the kids to grow in their understanding of God while having fun with other children. We were blessed with an abundance of children who were able to hear the gospel and well over 100 volunteers to share God's love!

Our missions offering totaled \$3,456.78 for the church in West Asia where one of our Global Outreach partners serves. We were blessed to hear about Miss S's ministry and to have her with us for the week. The money went toward the purchase of a security system for the safety of the congregation in the church, food and necessities for Iranian and Syrian refugees in her city, Bibles, and for their local pastor to receive more training.

Thank you to the many volunteers who served and made VBC such a great week for the children!

Sunday School

by Debbie Jo Hodges

God continues to bless our Sunday morning children's ministry with two essential items – children and faithful workers! We have nearly 300 children age 2 – 5th grade who are faithfully hearing the gospel in their classes. It is a joy to visit each room on Sunday morning and see the children engaging in worship through song, learning God's truth through Bible lessons, and connecting with their teachers over puzzles and coloring pages



God has also blessed Bethany Community with an incredible team of adult and teen volunteers. Each Sunday we need 62 people to staff our children's ministry programs, and over the course of the year 160 different people help meet those needs. We'd love to have you on the team! You will be blessed as you serve and see our children growing in their knowledge and love of Jesus!

Contact Craig or Debbie Jo Hodges at cdhodes@mtco.com for more information.

Awana

by Brian Entner

What a blessing to be able to use our new building for Awana this year! We averaged just under 170 kids each week and that would not have been possible without the new facility. We are thankful for all the leaders who served throughout the year. Awana is an effective tool for parents to use to help their children learn and memorize God's word.

***Buddy Program***

by Ben Davidson

The Buddy Program serves families with members with special needs by providing one-on-one assistance according to the needs of the individual. Not only does this help the individual navigate the challenges of church, it also allows the rest of the family to fully engage in worship. Currently, the program provides assistance in integrating children into their Sunday school class and also provides a specialized class for adults.

by Luke Knapp

Romans 15:7 says "Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God".

The purpose of our hospitality ministry is to glorify God as we serve to welcome and meet the needs of God's worshippers from the moment they arrive until they leave the parking lot.

Romans 15:7 tells us to do these things in the same manner that Christ has done them for us! What a high calling!

Christ doesn't just welcome the holy, the wealthy, the healthy, those who look like him, or those who are friends. Christ welcomes sinners. He welcomes all nations. He welcomes the poor. He welcomes the sick. He welcomes the stranger. Do we welcome like Christ welcomes?

In the beginning verses of Romans 15 Paul is encouraging the members of the Roman church to selflessly seek the good of others - even if it's at the expense of our own pleasure. As the body strives to live out that calling, Paul's prayer is that God will grant us all to live in such harmony that with unity we will bring glory to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! So go out church, and welcome those who come to worship with us!

Bethany Community Church has four teams of 15 volunteers (plus a team leader) who serve 3 months out of the year. Their purpose is to focus on welcoming the body of Christ into corporate worship every Sunday and to help people locate appropriate classrooms, childcare, etc. This ministry also puts away all the table, chairs, and supplies that our setup ministry puts out on a Sunday morning.



This past year 61 people blessed our church by participating in this ministry! We had only three unfilled greeter positions. Due to changing roles and life circumstances, some volunteers will choose to not re-sign for this coming year and we would love to fill all the spots on our teams! If you have a heart to serve as a greeter or an usher, please contact Luke Knapp at lrknapp@gmail.com.

Prayer Meeting and 6/12 Prayer Initiative

by Brian Backstrom

We have a prayer meeting on Wednesday evenings at 6:15 p.m. in the Community Room. On the first Wednesday of each month we pray specifically for our youth. The other Wednesdays we pray for our church, the persecuted church around the world, and more. This group is still averaging six or seven people each week.

Prayer is something we want to permeate every ministry at Bethany Community. Our Sunday School classes and care groups focus on prayer for each other as a vital aspect of those ministries. In addition to this, we have continued the 6/12 prayer initiative. Each time the clock is at 6 or 12, we encourage you to take a few minutes to pray for a ministry at BCC. Suggested prayer requests are listed on the BCC facebook page, a bookmark placed on the usher tables once a month, and in the weekly updates sent out via email.

We also have a few volunteers who pray for people who visit our church for the first time and then send them a note letting them know that they are being prayed for.

For more information on prayer ministries, contact Brian Backstrom at btbackstrom6@juno.com.

by Diane Geurin

The International Student Fund was created to help students who have come to the US to school and who have come to know Christ as their Savior, and therefore have been cut off by their families, to be able to continue their schooling. Currently our International Student Fund has \$40,790.

The Scholarship Fund has been created to help students who are attending seminary with day to day expenses. This fund currently has \$1,955.

The Benevolence Fund helps those both in the church and community with special needs. There is currently \$20,066 in this fund.

All of these funds operate outside of our general budget.

Edge and Image

by Phil Smith

Looking Back

This last year of our youth ministry's life has been wonderful and exciting! Last Summer we moved from the Youth House to the new building which has been an awesome blessing giving us more space for all of our Wednesday night activities as well as a number of our events. Along with an increase in space, God has blessed us with an increase in leaders. We now currently have 25 adults serving with our youth kids on Sundays and Wednesday and the number continues to grow! These numbers have allowed for more intimate Small Groups which in turn have lead to deeper discipleship relationships. I am also very excited to be able to come on staff as the Youth Minister beginning this month and am looking forward to many more years with our kids! On top of all this, it has been exciting to see God's work in lives of our students giving them hearts that are more and more submitted to Him and willing to serve others! We are very blessed and it is all from God and for His glory!

Teaching Topics

On Sunday mornings EDGE has been studying through the book of Nehemiah to understand biblical leadership better and Colossians to grow in our understanding of Christ being better than anything. IMAGE has been going through the book of Romans to grow in our understanding of and love for the gospel.

On Wednesdays, EDGE has been doing a walk through of the redemption story of the Bible seeing Christ and the gospel as central to all time and Scripture. IMAGE has been studying about man, sin, salvation, and practical worldview topics to guide our thinking as we interact with our world and culture.

Service Projects

We have had the privilege of doing a number of service projects over this last year, but one recent one really stands out. In April of this year we decided to do a service project day around the community of Washington which involved raking people's yards, picking up sticks and yard waste, and many other such things while passing out fliers inviting people to join as at church on Sunday. We were able to help a number of people with their yards and passed out a ton of fliers and thought nothing more of it when we finish. However, a few weeks later, I received a letter from one of the home owners who explained that our church had been a gift from God to her that day since her disabled husband was unable to clean their yard and the person who was supposed to backed out on them. God used us to bless her and represent Him well in our community! What a neat privilege we have of serving Him!

Edge and Image, continued**Average Attendance**

	Middle School	High School
Sunday School	56	35
Wednesday Nights	38	23

Looking Forward

Looking forward to the upcoming year we are very excited for our Annual BFC Youth Camp on June 5-10! July holds an EDGE trip to 6-Flags, an IMAGE Local Missions Trip. Along with all this, we will again be having Summer Discipleship Groups going on for the kids to be involved with and lots of youth planned events too!

God has been so gracious to us this last year and we are excited for what He is and will be doing in our youth over this coming year. We continue to seek Him in prayer that we would follow where He leads.

Jail Ministry

by the Community Compassion Team

We continue to minister to the men awaiting trial or sentencing or are serving a short term sentence (less than 12 months) at Woodford County Jail by providing Bibles and conducting a weekly Bible study every Sunday morning. The men in jail who participate in the studies do so voluntarily. Opportunities to participate in this ministry include: prayer, sending letters (sent from the BCC office), packages, and reading materials. Contact Neil Gerber at ngerber@mco.com for more information.

Make A Meal

Make a meal ministry is open to anyone wanting to volunteer to help prepare meals for the families BCC has helped through benevolence requests. The meals are prepared then frozen to have available to distribute as needed. Volunteers gather in a group to prepare the food periodically as needed. Contact: Sally Taylor at sjt9929@hotmail.com.

Koinos Borrowing Ministry

The Koinos Borrowing Program continued to facilitate sharing of tools among our church family by providing a means to request tools from a list of willing lenders. It enables better stewardship of the resources God has entrusted to us by allowing one family to share a tool or item and save another family from having to buy or rent that same tool. Contact Travis Leman for more information at borrowing@bethanycommunitychurch.org.

Benevolence Point People

The purpose of the benevolence point people is to glorify God by following up with benevolence callers trusting the Lord for movement from relief to restoration (2 Corinthians 5:19).
Contact: Ben Davidson

Tall Oak Ministry

The Tall Oak Tutoring Program was established to take our church's purpose of proclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord to the Tall Oak Apartment Complex. We pray for opportunities to encourage the kids in a relationship with Christ that they themselves would walk with the Lord and bring the gospel into their homes, schools, before their friends, and into their community. Contact Brian Entner at entnerfam@gmail.com for more information.

We continue to look for ways to minister to these families. This year, we helped Tall Oak transport food from WHIP to the apartment office so people without transportation could receive food twice a month. We started doing a Kids Club to allow time to focus on the gospel. We also had the opportunity to bring the kids to the church building for some game nights. Please continue to pray for God to work in us and through us as we consider the future.

Food Pantry Ministry

Currently, BCC sends people to work at WHIP. WHIP is a community-based, food pantry for those in need. Volunteers are needed the first and third Wednesdays of the month to help stock shelves and fill sacks, to pick up donations, check expiration dates, and carry groceries to cars. This is a great opportunity to minister to those coming to the pantry for help as well as minister to fellow volunteers. If you would like Community Compassion to consider partnership with other pantries, please let us know.
Contact: Sally Taylor at slt9929@hotmail.com.

Peoria Rescue Ministries

The purpose of our relationship with Peoria Rescue Mission is to glorify God as we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord to homeless and troubled in the Peoria area (Ps. 34:18; Luke 4:18-19). BCC preaches a week of lunch services each year and has individuals involved in the Women's Pregnancy Center/The Walk.
Contact: Ben Davidson

Help A Household

The Help A Household ministry is privileged to do our best to supply general household necessities (paper goods, toiletries, cleaning supplies, food, etc.), other basic standard-of-living items (mattresses, chairs, blankets, etc.), and general handyman labor to those who do not already attend Bethany Community Church. If you attend BCC and would like to join the Help A Household team, please contact us as well. Over 50 families are on our email list. Contact Pastor Ben for more information.

Disaster Relief and Recovery

The purpose of disaster relief and recovery is to glorify God as we bring the gospel to those hurting from disaster both natural and man-made. From a local fire to an international weather event, BCC desires to be a part of bring hope to the hurting.
Contact: Ben Davidson at ben@bethanycommunitychurch.org

My Sister's House

My Sister's House provides services of tranquility, transformation, and transition for single women and their children in the safety of a communal home. The program focus encompasses all spiritual, educational, vocational, financial, and parenting needs. BCC partners with My Sister's House in prayer and service to bring glory and praise to Christ.
Contact: Mark & Tammy Herrmann at herrmanns83@hotmail.com

by Ben Davidson

The purpose of the communications ministry is to glorify God by proclaiming Christ to the community and to the church and to point them to BCC as a local church in which to get involved (Gal. 6:14; Matt. 5:16; 1 Tim 5:25).

God continues to advance this ministry as:

- We have expanded our YouTube channel to include videos from the March Biblical Counseling and Discipleship Conference held at BCC as well as other training videos to help you grow. We continue to have weekly uploads to youtube of sermons and the Post-Sunday App. Also uploaded weekly were videos explaining more about our church called the "Say What?" series.
- We update our Facebook and Twitter accounts multiple times a day with announcements, resources, and prayer requests.
- Our print media ministry has a consistent look that points people toward the Lord and opportunities to grow closer to Him.
- The website continues to be updated with ways to streamline communication to those within BCC and outside BCC.
- Our radio program partnership with WPEO AM 1020 continues to bless those across central Illinois.

Please pray for this ministry as we trust the Lord for:

- More designers to help with print media.
- Videographers to help with future video initiatives.



Baptisms

Samuel Beach
 Makkedah Carbaugh
 Seth Carbaugh
 Holly Deutsch
 Day Hamilton
 Christian Hoffman
 Cameron Leman
 Conner Leman
 Jessie List
 Jennie Malone
 Stephanie Nygaard
 Madison Plattner
 Larry Plummer
 Naomi Rupp
 Miriam Rupp
 Matthew Savage
 Zack Shobert
 Sally Taylor
 Andrew Tiemeier
 Makenna Yergler

Births & Adoptions

Henry Ausfahl
 Kolton Bachman
 Brianna Baumann
 Julia Bevington
 Ralph Browning
 Wesley Braun
 Michael Castle
 Cedar Conger
 Remy Coussens
 Jotham DeJarnatt
 Mitilda Espinal
 Jude Hamilton
 Abigail Hawkinson
 Gloria Hodel
 Orie Kennell
 Jonah Kokoska
 Aletheia Maness
 Silas Nielsen
 Job Schick
 Cora Tiemeier
 Jase Vollmer

New Members

Zack Anderson
 Steve & Cindy Barton
 Erica Beutel
 Gail Blair
 Travis & Jaclyn Blunier
 Emma Bunton
 Tom & Jody Bunton
 Aaron & Andrea Costerisan
 Dale & Carolyn Dannenberg
 Amber Durham
 Ron & Cindy Flanigan
 Curtis Garman
 Eric & Stephanie Herron
 Jennie Malone
 Ken & Deanna Scharf
 Marissa Scharf
 John & Suzi Schick
 Michael & Ciera Sloniker
 Myrl St. Clair
 Britt & Megan Steffen
 Stephen & Christina Straub
 Maria Taylor
 David Thames
 Derek & Emily Vollmer
 Bryan & Karen Winemiller



Pat St. Clair

Building Committee

by Mike Wuebben

The building committee is pleased to report that the project to provide a "non-Sunday morning all ministries facility" is complete, and facility operations have transitioned to Elders and Deacons. The building committee was chartered to complete an approximately 20,000 square foot facility at a budget of \$5.7m. The budget deliberately included all aspects of the project to provide a full view of finances. This included new utility power feeds to the site, all site development and drainage including septic and wells, all design and planning fees, full turnkey construction of the new facility, acquisition of the counseling center, and initial appliances, furniture and miscellaneous items important to facility effectiveness.

Project spend was \$5.774m, within about 1% of initial budget. The committee managed numerous challenges such as soft underfoot and heavy underground water conditions in the parking lot and fire control plan which created cost pressure on contingency funds. All in all we are very pleased the budget was managed this tightly on a large construction project, and are thankful for our skilled partners in PJ Hoerr and BLDD as well as the guidance and support of Elders and Staff to help manage through these challenges.

Currently we are working through our warranty period with Richard Craig and Mark DeJarnatt. Warranty issues have been relatively minor and we currently have no major open issues. Going forward, the elders will manage any further building upgrades.

The committee was approved to finance a mortgage of approximately \$2.8m with a plan to bring

that balance down to \$2.5m within approximately one year. The temporary use of a mortgage above \$2.5m was due to the timing of completing the facility while capital giving of pledges would continue for about another year. As of the time of this writing mortgage balance is \$2.74m, building fund balance is about \$270k and general fund balance is about \$240k, with a monthly ongoing mortgage payment of just over \$20k. We will use remaining funds to reduce mortgage to the \$2.5m commitment, a general fund balance is being maintained to ensure a number of months of mortgage payment are always available so debt does not place undue burden on ministry, and there are still some remaining capital campaign pledges that are being gifted. Overall building finance outlook is healthy and we are grateful for God's provision through your generosity and continued faithful giving.

Lastly we wish to thank the building committee (Ben Davidson, Tom Davis, Mark DeJarnatt, Brian Entner, Diane Geurin, Kirk Hoffman, John Koehler, Paul Markas, Katie Mueller, and Kerstan Plattner) and their families for their tireless and unselfish service. We could not have accomplished this without working as a team, without God's help, without wise leadership from staff and elders, and without your prayers, support and generosity. Everyone contributed and played an important role and it has been a pleasure to serve. While a building does not make a ministry, it is an important tool in ministering the Gospel and we look forward to seeing God work through this tool for many years to come.

by Ben Davidson

Cookie Brigade

Each week we ask our Care Groups to make a "Cookie Brigade" visit to follow up with visitors. It's as simple as dropping off a small plate of cookies to thank visitors for attending BCC. We trust this blesses the visitor but also the BCCers as well. If you would like to reach out to newcomers to Bethany, please consider making cookies, or delivering cookies and making personal contacts! Our desire is to communicate to visitors that they are cared for and loved.



Newcomer's Lunch

We continue to see new people each Sunday at BCC. Bless the Lord! In order to best connect with them, we offer a Newcomer Lunch almost monthly after services. Typically held the first Sunday of the month, this lunch serves as a great opportunity for people to meet some BCC leaders, ask questions, and become more familiar with our church family. This past year, we have had newcomers at each meal.

Discovering Bethany

Periodically throughout the year, we offer a class to introduce people that desire more information about Bethany. Now called Discovering Bethany, this class is required for membership but you do not need to be seeking membership to attend. The class is often offered in two parts on Sunday mornings and one part on Saturdays each quarter.

by Mike Chambers

“Come Thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy praise . . . Behold our God, seated on His throne, come let us adore Him . . . Oh, that rugged cross, my salvation, where Your love poured out on me. Now my soul cries out, ‘Hallelujah,’ praise and honor unto Thee.”

These are the lyrics of three of our songs from the year. They demonstrate well the ascribing of praise to God, who is worthy to be praised and the glory that is found in the person of Jesus Christ. Every Sunday we have had the tremendous blessing to worship together as God’ people! The worship ministry is committed to singing songs from old to new that clearly proclaim the greatness of God and the glories of Jesus Christ. This has been an exciting year as we have had opportunities to gather in Five Points Washington as well as to utilize our new church building having nights of worship along with a Sunday morning gathering!

God has been wonderful in blessing our church with gifted people that enjoy using their gifts for the Lord. There is always a place for those interested in serving in the worship ministry. I look forward to seeing how God will use this ministry in the upcoming year to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord!

“Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength! Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts! Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!” Psalm 96:7-9 (ESV)



Soteria Family Ministries

by Brian Entner

We launched Soteria in October of 2013 to partner with local churches to show compassion to communities and make disciples of families. We started partnerships with Bethany Community, Faith EV Free Church in Metamora, and Fellowship Bible Church in Peoria.

Through discussions with the elders, prayer, and reading God’s word, Brian and Jennifer transitioned out of Soteria to pursue corporate employment in the short term while seeking a ministry opportunity with a local church for the longer term. Brian and Jennifer are thankful for the partnership with Bethany and the many people in BCC that supported them in ministry over the years.



by Micaiah Wilmoth

PACM

During their college years students develop the values, principles and philosophies that will shape the rest of their lives. We want students to allow the Gospel to direct this process. As students build their lives around the hope of the Gospel they will leave our ministry prepared to walk with God for a lifetime. Our ministry exists to create environments to direct the 26,000 college students in the Peoria area to the transformational power of the Gospel. We engage these students in three ways.

Winning

Evangelism is a central part of how we live out our purpose among students in Peoria. God continues to show up as we reach out to lost students on campus through outreaches, events and small group Bible studies. We have seen 22 students make decisions to follow Jesus and become actively involved in the ministry this year.

Building

Our ministry invests a significant amount of time and effort in the intentional development of believing students by calling them to ongoing hope in the Gospel. We build into the lives of students through conferences, retreats, large group worship meetings, small group Bible studies and personal discipleship. This past year we had 29 student leaders at Bradley and ICC. Not only did each of these students have an active personal ministry on campus, but they were also personally disciplined by a PACM staff or intern. This personal spiritual mentoring is central to our work on campus. Additionally we had 170 students connected to our small group Bible studies and averaged around 80 at our large group weekly meeting on campus.

Sending

We help students shape a Gospel centered foundation for their lives that they will continue to build on after their college years. We want to send every student from our ministry equipped for ministry in the workplace and the local church. This year we will be sending 12 Bradley University seniors as well as 15 ICC students who will be transferring to other schools. Additionally, we will have three new interns working with our ministry in the Fall of 2016.

Please continue to pray for our team of staff, volunteers and student leaders as we labor to display God as great by directing Peoria area college students to the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Global Outreach

by Steve Hornbrook

GO-Partnership Changes

We are thankful to the Lord for the opportunity to minister in many locations around the world through our partnerships with Global Outreach workers! We believe we are still operating under the Great Commission that is summarized in Mathew 28:18-20, "And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'" We are, in part, being obedient to this Great Commission through these GO-partnerships. We presently financially support 47 GO-worker family units and 14 ministry organizations.

Several short and long term partnerships ended this year as our partners for various reasons left their field of service to serve the Lord in other ways. These were Joanne Borchert who ministered on Milwaukee campuses, the Brian Entner family who ministered in the Peoria area, the Kyle Talbot family who ministered in Streator, and the Rick Schupp family who ministered to internationals. We are thankful for their service, and pray that God will bless as they adjust to new surroundings and responsibilities.

The BFC Global Outreach Ministry also started financial and prayer support partnerships with five Peoria Area Campus Ministry (PACM) interns who minister to students on the Bradley,

ICC and other local campuses. We invite you to pray for them as they represent us in ministry, and they would welcome you to minister alongside them if the Lord is leading you to volunteer in campus ministry.

GO-Conference

Our annual GO Conference is an important time to connect our partners and churches. Our conference guests in October were Josh Ausfahl, Catharine Coon, Don & Nancy Estep, Katrina Forseth, Shannon H., Fouad Masri, Jonathan & Kristen Walberg, and Micaiah & Erin Wilmoth. Our partners typically participate in a GO-Conference only once every three to four years, and this conference is our main and sometimes only opportunity to visit with these important partners when they are on home assignment. With only two weekends in the conference, opportunities for each of the three churches to fellowship with the partners come primarily through ABC class presentations, Sunday night presentations and on Wednesday evenings with youth and Awana. There was also a special event held at Bethany Community Church on Saturday where many of our partners were present and individuals could spend time in discussion and asking questions. We encourage you to make a commitment now to set aside time for this year's conference which is from October 16—23 this fall.

Global Outreach, continued

GO-Ministry Progress

Besides the partners that join us as guests of the GO-Conference each year, we also have visits at other times throughout the year. Many partners set aside specific home assignment time, and visit for extended times, like Shannon did this past year from May through February. Our short-term trip ministry is important to our overall Global Outreach strategy because it is an excellent additional means of direct personal involvement, and it helps us to grow in our understanding and appreciation of our full-time GO-Partners as we build relationships directly with them. Praise the Lord for your prayer and financial support this past year that enabled 55 people to participate on the following six trips for God's glory:

1. A team of 17 sent to Ecuador partnering with both Pablo & Judi Perez, helping them renovate their residence to serve as a ministry dormitory, and Cesar & Nancy Cortez helping with a water project and conducting a children's VBS in the same village as the water project.
2. A team of 10 sent to India to conduct a VBS for children of GO-workers and to observe God's working in various ministries in that country.
3. A team of 15 sent to the Czech Republic partnering with the international church in Prague to lead a camp for GO-worker children.
4. A team of five sent to the Solomon Islands to conduct a VBS for the children of a team of Bible translators during their spiritual life conference and to encourage sent GO-partners John & Lori Havenga.

5. One person was sent to Pakistan with Tom & Barb Ward to pray for the worldwide ministry to the Sindh people.

6. A team of seven sent to Rwanda, Kenya and Uganda to visit our partners Gary & Barb Bennett and their coworkers in Kigali, Rwanda, to conduct a children's VBS for GO-workers at a spiritual life conference in Mombosa, Kenya, and to teach children in Masaka, Uganda in partnership with Hope Alive! and Catherine Coon.

BFC GO Changes

Since 2008 the Global Outreach (GO) ministry has been shared by the three churches of the Bethany Fellowship of Churches (BFC). Beginning May 2016, each church will assume full shepherding responsibility for its own GO-ministry, determining their own strategy, overseeing their own budget, and deciding which partnerships to develop. Short-term trips that have already been planned will proceed without change. Future trip planning will be carried out by each church, and invitation to participate will be at the lead church's discretion.

Our GO-partners have received communication about these changes in a letter from the three senior pastors, and an additional letter from each of the BFC elder teams explaining what the impact of this decision will be on each partner from the perspective of each church.

We invite you to rejoice with us in what our great God is doing through us and among us as we "go to the end of the earth!"



by Jill Gerst

Open Hearts Open Homes

Open Hearts, Open Homes Ministry exists to glorify God as we equip the local church to care for orphans, foster children, and at-risk children along with supporting the families who are ministering to these children.

We are thankful for the support of the church in the ministry of Open Hearts, Open Homes. In the past year two children have been adopted into Bethany Community families. There are four families in the process of adoption currently. There are also three children currently being fostered. Families have been ministered to in several ways: financial support to help in covering the cost of completing their adoptions, meals as children have arrived in their home, babysitting has been provided/encouraged for families that are in need of respite. Through the weekly prayer list other families within the church are praying for families as they walk through the process of fostering, adoption, and Safe Families.

The Orphan Care Bible Study was completed in the Spring of 2016 at Bethany Community, with nine people attending. These families were encouraged as they studied God's Word and what it has to say about caring for the fatherless.

Focused Fellowship continues to meet quarterly for ladies anywhere in the process of fostering and adoption. This is an evening of prayer and talking through some of the challenges that are unique to families that have brought children into their homes.

We are encouraged by the short-term mission trip in June of this year to Hogar de Vida in Guatemala.

Safe Families for Children comes under the umbrella of Open Hearts, Open Homes Ministry. Safe Families is led by Jill Gerst. Safe Families provides host families for children of families that are experiencing a crisis. There are currently six families from Bethany Community approved as host families or family coaches. Two families are currently hosting children through this program. There are many ways for the body of Christ to be involved with Safe Families, including a closet of very gently used/new children's clothing/items for families to make use of as they bring children into their homes. It is exciting to see how this ministry is growing and Lord willing will continue to grow in the coming year.