

The Bethany

Volume 13, Issue 6

Broadcaster

From Our Pastor

Hospitality is defined by the words; welcoming, generous and receptive.

As part of an urban ministry seminar, Steve and I entered the world of the homeless on the streets of Chicago for three days and three nights. During the first morning the January

temperature dropped from mid-thirties into the low teens in a matter of hours. Before long half the money I had decided to take with me had been spent of fast food coffee; buying me not only a hot beverage, but the access to the warmth of a closed building. Not long after the coffee turned cold I was made to know that my presence was no longer welcome in that place.

Because of the cold, the homeless people in that normally bustling subculture had disappeared. I knew that there were shelters in the area, but there was no one to show me where to find one. Finally, a man who discerned my crisis told me to follow him. He led me to a storefront with no sign and I followed him in. There I discovered beautiful warmth and a room filled with tables and chairs. Every chair was taken and every inch of the wall was lined with the overflow crowd standing shoulder to shoulder.

I also discovered the warmth of a community. I found individuals who had less than what I had, interested in my story, willing to share information, and genuinely concerned with who they saw as a newcomer in their community. Because of their hospitality I was to find shelter; a place to sleep and warm food over the next three days.

In the letter to the Romans, Paul is concerned with presenting the truth of the Gospel message. But near the end he gives us two clues as to how that truth is shared. "Practice hospitality," he commands in chapter 12. And then in chapter 16, he lists the names of people and households who have demonstrated hospitality with him and with their communities.

Sometimes the task of the church seems complicated. As a community of faith, Bethany Covenant has a strong tradition of being generous with what we have and know, being welcoming, and receptive to newcomers. As we look to a new school year and the kick off of a new season in church activities, let's accept the basic task: practice hospitality.

-Pastor David Kelly

"Practice hospitality."

Romans 12:13b

From the Trustees

We feel the operating costs of the church facilities are about as lean as possible. In view of learning from past Financial Secretary, Laurelle Pearson and Treasurer, Emilie Nemick that we are averaging about \$200 behind in our expenses each week, it is especially important to operate the church economically. To continue our low operating costs, we have to depend on volunteers for much of the repair/maintenance work. Soon the property commission of the Trustees will post on a bulletin board, projects that need workers. Please give the projects your careful consideration.

We have been blessed with wonderful workers on our Trustee Board in the past year. Some are leaving the Board and deserve recognition. Dennis Ellingson has been Buildings and Grounds Commission Chairman and has done Yoeman services. He has been remarkably available personally and has lead a corps of volunteers for property maintenance and improvement including Jim Louisiana, Vern Lund, Jake Depuydt, Blaine Joerger, Rosemarie Foster, Chad Stayko, Bill Fagerstrom – an incomplete list – that have saved us much money. Dennis, please remain a helper. The Memorial Commission of the Trustees will be without our diligent historian and memorial person, Alex Gunderson.

There are no “cooked” financial records at Bethany. Laurelle Pearson, retiring Financial Secretary, has brought us to financial reality many times. We are ever grateful for her services. Wally Abramson of the Financial Commission of the Trustees has also completed his term.



Thanks to all of you.
-The Trustee Board / Paul Olfelt

Thank you, Dale Schuveiller

Dale completed his current term as Chairman of Bethany Covenant Church at the end of June. It has been a busy time for him and Bethany; a time of many, not easy, decisions including the calling of a new pastor. Under his leadership the congregation maintained a remarkable stability during the interim between pastors. Continuity of programs, preservation of congregational moral, and optimism about the future were preserved and enhanced. Not only did he apply some organizational glue that held us together, he inspired us by words from the pulpit.



Dale's diligence, integrity, and fairness in conducting church business were a blessing to all of us and exemplified his love of the Lord. It is especially gratifying to us senior types to watch Dale Schuveiller, not long ago a Sunday School lad at Bethany, grow and work in the path of the Lord and become a leader at Bethany.

*Thank you, Dale.
-Paul Olfelt*

Report from the 117th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church

Did you know:

- There are local Covenant churches in 42 states and 5 Canadian provinces?
- The Covenant has 108 career and 30 short-term missionaries in 17 countries?
- North Park University enrollment has increased 2.3 times since 1990 to a present enrollment of 2660 students?

These were things that we did **not** know before attending the 117th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church! As delegates from Bethany Covenant, we represented our church at the meeting, which was held from June 25-28 in scenic Keystone, Colorado (about 1½ hours west of Denver). It was a privilege to be part of this gathering of the Covenant family, and we would like to share with you some of the highlights of this year's meeting.

- Total registered attendance was 840, with 260 churches represented.
- Complete news coverage of the 2002 Annual Meeting remains archived on the Covenant website at www.covchurch.org.
- Growth statistics:
 - Denominational attendance increased by 6800 people to 135,343 – an increase of 5.29%.
 - Attendance at new churches (10 years or younger) tops 33,000.
 - There were 8895 new members in 2001, the second largest number in the church's history.
 - Church giving from local churches to the denomination in 2001 was \$7,912,000, reflecting an increase of 3.8% over the previous year, and 41.9% over the last seven years.
 - Individual giving to local churches increased 10% to \$196 million, or \$1449 per attendee – the highest average contribution per attendee of any of 62 reporting Protestant denominations with membership over 5,000.
- The 2003 Coordinated Budget was totaling \$12,471,700 was approved, of which \$8,994,000 will be sought from Covenant churches. The budget supports the ministries of World Mission (\$4,772,300), Church Growth and Evangelism (\$2,830,800), Christian Formation (\$819,900), Department of the Ordered Ministry (\$507,400), Communication (\$497,700), North Park University (\$1,043,000), and General Administration (\$2,000,600).
- Seventeen proposed amendments to the new Constitution and Bylaws were presented and voted on by delegates.
- New rules for the Ordered Ministry were presented by the Covenant Ministerium and approved.
- Resolution on Volunteering and on a religious response to terrorism was presented by the Commission on Christian Action and approved.
- Resolution of Sympathy was introduced, praising God for the lives and ministries of a combined 36 ministers, missionaries and spouses who died in the past year.

- Sixteen new churches were received into membership.
- Glenn R. Palmberg was elected to a second four-year terms as president of the Covenant.
- David Dwight was elected president of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence. He succeeds Paul Peterson, who retired after 24 years in administration with CMB.
- Doreen Olson was elected to a second four-year terms as executive minister of the Department of Christian Formation.
- Richard Lucco was welcomed as the new superintendent of the Great Lakes Conference, succeeding David Dahlberg, who was honored with a reception.
- Delegates honored missionary Donna Larson, who served in Congo and Mexico during a 23-year career. She retired July 31.
- We celebrated the dedication of 13 new short-term Covenant missionaries to serve in five countries, the commissioning of six individuals for staff ministry, and the ordination of 16 men and women.
- A promotional video for CHIC2K3 was viewed. CHIC will be held July 31-August 6,2003 at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.
- The Department of Christian Formation reported that a "Making Churches Safer" resource was recently sent to all churches to raise awareness and supply sample documents for fostering a safer ministry environment and to help churches establish clear policies to guide youth and children's ministries.
- It was announced that the 118th Annual Meeting will be held June 26-28,2003 at the Holiday Inn O'Hare International in Rosemount, Illinois. Mark your calendars!

We came away from the meetings encouraged by what is happening in our denomination! It was interesting and thought-provoking to hear debate over various issues, and to discover that there can be friendship and ongoing respect even despite disagreement. We were also impressed by the many examples of capable, committed leadership present at the meetings – at local church, conference and denominational levels. The delegate role gave us a unique opportunity to better understand the diverse yet distinct flavor of the Covenant, and we would whole-heartedly encourage others to consider representing our church as delegates at future meetings!

Thankful for the opportunity,



THE *BROADCASTER* TEAM

Editing/Layout: Teresa Depuydt

Reporter: Ruth Johnson

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Note: *Issue 7 of the Broadcaster will be a combined October/November Issue, so be sure to submit articles and announcements that pertain to both months.*



Note from the Editor: Your articles and information are welcome for the next *Broadcaster*. The deadline is September 15. Please email submissions to church (office@bethanycov.com) or place in the "Broadcaster" box in the office. We still need help! If someone is interested in doing the calendar pages call me! -Teresa Depuydt

Saturday Morning Crew **Lost!**

Five brave members of the Saturday morning breakfast group set out June 15 for Lewis Lake, the site of Vern and Elaine's summer home for a "Lund breakfast." Stops were made at Constance Free Church, where Rick Johnson's forefathers staked a claim, and Lewis Lake Covenant Church, before realizing that a well-defined map was not followed by these navigators.

The reception by the Lunds was very forgiving, and no one commented on the fact that Lawrence Swanson ate many Swedish-style pancakes! Reminiscing back thirty-seven years, each visitor recalled past experiences here, in this beautiful lakeside cottage. Several ambitious visitors hiked around the lake to work off the bountiful breakfast, while others dozed and took advantage of the quiet stillness of the day.

Hostess Elaine insisted on serving sloppy joes, with homemade bars and cookies, to make sure everyone made it back to Bethany full of good food and fellowship. Many thanks, Vern and Elaine!

Richland Court Ministries

The June 8th Courtyard Party was a success, thanks to good weather and the 28 wonderful volunteers who came to help. Everyone had a good time. At least 27 residents enjoyed the music provided by RoxAnn Kelly and Tim Hansen, the games, face-painting, hot dogs, gorp-making with Nancy Peterson, and free stuff from 3M provided by Rob Peterson. Six fortunate residents won \$30 Cub certificates in the drawing. Dale Schuveiller donated chips and Hyland Properties donated pop. Several contributed cookies and bars. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the party such a good success.

In spite of vacationing director, teachers, and volunteers during June and July, the program is continuing with Gametime, Pooltime, and English Language Learning. Three RCM youngsters are participating in Blazers; we will be recruiting kids for the Bloomington VBS, which begins August 12. We are encouraging entire families to join us in visiting Woodlake Nature Center on Aug. 3. During the last week of August we will hold a school supply evening. Anyone who wishes to contribute items such as note book paper, backpacks, folders, spiral notebooks, crayons, markers, pencils, pens, and calculators may deposit them in a box in the church office. Thank you for your participation in this evangelistic, peace and justice ministry. Please continue to pray for God's blessing on Richland Court Ministry.

Ann Pates, Director

Galen and Jill

Galen and Jill are back!

Their address while on Home Assignment is: 4646 15th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55407. Their email address will not change: galenjill@harmattan.org

Please pray for wonderful classmates and teachers for Elli as she is introduced to school in the US. (5th grade at Minnehaha Academy) Also please pray for wisdom for Galen and Jill in choosing what and how to share with churches, groups and individuals this next year.

They plan to worship with us on August 11, and we will

Summer
Blazers

The Blazers Program ends on August 1. The summer was a huge success with over 30 kids attending. Most encouraging was the fact that many new children were introduced to the church! There were ten kids from church, nine kids that were new to Blazers this year and 21 neighborhood kids who have been involved in our programs previously. It is see the results of our outreach efforts as well as to continue to disciple the kids that are already a part of our church family.

We have many to give special thanks to! Thanks to our staff; Kris Whalen, Faith Gavin, Ben Feijoo, Bethany Isaacs, Erick Abramson, Ryan Kelly, Jeff Kelly and Lars Stromberg. Thanks to our drivers; Pastor Kelly, Jan Schau, and Carmen Gavin. Thanks to our van maintenance man; Jim Louisiana.

Highlights of the summer-

- ◆ Special music led by Erick and Ryan
- ◆ Jeff Kelly was trained as a junior counselor (Discipleship)
- ◆ Christian Park clean-up (Service)
- ◆ Field trips to Apple Valley Zoo, Camp Snoopy, Wave Pool, and Cascade Bay Pool
- ◆ Lessons from Genesis
- ◆ Cool Crafts (Dirt!!!)





(Volunteers
Enlisted to
Assist People)

Our food we gave to VEAP in June was 25 pounds. So Don't let up with your generous donations of food for VEAP. Summer is a time when donations decrease, but the need dramatically increases. Children are not in school who receive free or low cost breakfasts or lunches. This would be a good time to give peanut butter and jelly, tuna, cereal, snack bars, etc.

We are in desperate need of drivers for our transportation program. VEAP volunteer drivers provide rides for low-income seniors to medical appointments, visits to hospitals and nursing homes, personal errands, or to the grocery store. We need drivers who are willing to drive their own cars to transport our clients.

VEAP's Back to School Program will continue until August 23. Distribution is the last week of August. Half of the students wear adult sizes. Thank you for remembering the less fortunate in our cities.

-Rosemarie Foster
(Any questions? 612-861-4210)

VEAP's

Back to School Program 2002

VEAP needs your help in giving our neighborhood children in need to chance to start the school year with the basics of a good education. Last year more than 1,100 children received supplies, a 15% increase over the prior year.

VEAP's Back to School Wish List

- *Socks

Men: Sizes 10-13	Women: Sizes 9-11
Boys: Sizes 7-8 ½ & 9-11	Girls: Size 7-8 ½
- *Underwear

Men: S-XL	Women: 5-8
Boys: 8-18	Girls: 14 & 16
- *Scientific Calculators
- *Colored Pencils
- *Backpacks
- *Spiral Notebooks
- *Loose-Leaf Paper: Wide & College lined
- *Rulers: 12 inch with metric
- Full-size Erasers
- #2 Pencils: Packages of 8-10
- Elmer's White School Glue
- Glue Sticks
- Highlighters
- Blue or Black Ink Pens
- Scissors: Metal Fiskars Sharp Point
- Folders: 2 Pocket, Solid Basic Colors
- Markers: Water-based & Nonpermanent
- Pencil Boxes or Zippered Pencil Pouches
- *Most needed items

All donations must be new items. VEAP cannot accept used items. Please remember half of the students VEAP distributes to wear adult sizes, so donations of adult sizes are greatly appreciated! Donations will be accepted at VEAP starting June 3 through August 23. Collections sites will be set up in the community starting July 30. Volunteer opportunities begin August 2. Distribution is the last week of August. For more information call Diane at 952-888-9616, Monday-Friday, 9-4.

"Memories" of Bethany

By Gundy and Margaret

AUGUST 1977 – TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Aug. 7th, Sunday – Pastor Wilder and family are vacationing in Upper Michigan. Guest preacher is Rev. K. Wesley Olson of Salem Covenant Church in New Brighton, MN – Thursday, Aug. 11th Wedding shower for Kris Anderson & Wahlberg's at 8 pm. Kris has been Bethany's Youth Worker this past year. She will wed Randy Bloom at Park Avenue Covenant Church in September. – Sunday morning service. We welcome Mr. Phil Madsen to the pulpit this morning. Mr. Madsen will begin work later this month as our new Youth Director. Next Sunday's guest speaker will be Rev. Bill Goodwin, Assoc. Pastor of Edina Covenant. – From the Sunday Bulletin of Aug. 28. This week we welcome Mr. Phil Madsen to Bethany's staff. He is busy preparing the coming fall program. Next Saturday, Sept. 3^d, he will join Linda Gunderson in Holy Marriage at Phil's hometown of Luck, WI. SEPTEMBER 1977 On Thursday evening, Sept. 15th, Bethany Covenant Women hold an old fashioned supper in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your, 'I Remember Mama', stories to tell the group. Sat. Sept. 17, Lynne Soeffker & Kim Benson were married here at Bethany. Monday, Sept. 26, Installation of Rev. Craig Nelson as President of Minnehaha Academy.

AUGUST 1952 - FIFTY YEARS AGO S u n d a y morning service, Aug. 3^d. Pastor Dewey Sands is on vacation and in his absence, our guest speaker for today is Rev. Chester Johnson. The evening service will be held at Bethel Baptist Church. There will be good music again, including the Sunday Evening Volunteer Choir. – From the Sunday Bulletin of Aug. 17th. Congratulations to Art & Bernice Anderson, who were married last Friday, Aug. 15th, in Duluth, MN. Also to Willard & Dorothea Berggren, who were married last evening, Aug. 16th. SEPTEMBER 1952 Sunday, Sept. 14th an important day at Bethany. Pastor Dewey Sands preaches his final services today, morning & evening. Today is also "homecoming Sunday". 2 pm on Wed. Sept. 17th is "Guest Day" for the Dorcas Society. Each member is urged to bring a friend. Rev. Arthur W. Anderson and musical

talent from Minnehaha Academy will present the program. – From the Sept. 28th bulletin: During the past weeks, our Board of Trustees have arranged for the redecoration of our parsonage. (Rev. G. Harold Ahlberg becomes Pastor of Bethany on October 1st.) The property committee and several members have been working daily, painting the kitchen, bathroom & basement. All the floors have been sanded and dressed. The Dorcas ladies washed and cleaned the house Thursday, so that the parsonage is now ready for Rev. Ahlberg's furniture, household goods and family. We sincerely hope and pray that they will have a rich, fruitful and joyful ministry at Bethany. Also, our Dorcas ladies invite you to share in their Food Shower on our new pastor's family. They want to fill the clean but empty shelves in the parsonage. Your gifts of canned goods and staple foods are welcomed. Please bring them to the kitchen in the church basement early this week.

AUGUST 1927 – SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

From the Betania Vänner of August: Sunday, Sept. 4th, will mark the beginning of Rev. O. B. Olson's sixth year at Bethany. We expect to have at our morning service that day, the male chorus from Duluth Mission Covenant Church. – From the Congregational meeting on Aug. 1st: A.L. Skoog was not available to come to Bethany for a month to get the choir underway for fall. – Brothers August Pearson, Charles Erickson and Loyd Lindvall will arrange the 70th birthday party for Pastor Constantin Olson. – The Dorcas met on Aug. 26 and said they will make their annual trip to the Ebenezer Home in Buffalo on Sept. 11th. Mrs. N.P. Nelson & Mrs. O.B. Olson will arrange for rides. SEPTEMBER 1927 From the Betania Vänner of Sept: Church Chairman, Enoch Nelson and wife, Hulda are on a trip to the east coast. Board Meeting of Sept: Pastor Olson requested permission to speak at Mission Meetings in Anoka the 9th of Oct. for one week. Request granted. The Salvation Army asked to use our church for a concert, but because we do not allow ticket sales at the door, we could not accommodate them. Sept. 8th Cong. Meeting: Two candidates were presented to the congregation for Choir Director, Philip Anderson and Oscar Le Vahn. Mr. Le Vahn received the most votes and would be offered \$35.00 a month salary. On the 30th of Sept. the Dorcas provided a Fruit Shower for Ebenezer Home. The fruit was delivered to the home by Pastor Olson. * * * A M E N * * *

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AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2002



Twin Cities Covenant Women's
Fall Retreat 2002

**Unveiling the Secret
Garden: Experiencing Authentic
Relationships &
Spiritual Intimacy**

Guest Speaker: CHARLENE BAUMBICH
September 27-29, 2002
Covenant Pines Camp, McGregor, MN

Youth Leaders Needed

The C.E. Board is seeking individuals to lead our youth program. There are two areas of need. The first is a coordinator for the Wednesday Blazers Program. The second area of need is a person to develop a ministry with the Jr. High youth. If you are interested or know of individuals who would like to work with the Bethany Covenant Youth Program, please talk to Pastor David or Laurie

**Thanksgiving
2002**

The Hospitality Commission is planning a Bethany Family Thanksgiving Thursday, November 28, 2002

This event is open to all who would like to join us for Thanksgiving. The turkeys will be provided, all you need to bring is a side dish and yourself or yourselves.



More information as time gets closer. It's never too soon to be thinking ahead. Thank you.
-Arlene Stafstrom and Ann Hanson