
THE

Bugle

January 2008
A Publication of
Bethany Christian Church

1920 N. Rangeline Road
Anderson, IN 46012
Phone: 765.643.5713
www.bethanyweb.org

SUNDAY MORNING:
9:00 A.M.
Worship
Sunday School
Kids' Church
(It Rocks)

10:30 A.M.
Worship
Crossfire Student
Ministry Worship
Sunday School



car·ni·vāle; Pronunciation: kahr-nuh-val – *noun*

1. An evening in winter, usually late January, for children and their families, of Anderson and surrounding areas. Featured are game booths, an inflatable obstacle course, a special game area for little ones, and dinner consisting of pizza or a Coney dog!

This is a great opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors to a night of fun. The carnivale is for kids (grade 5 and under) and their families.

Best of all, it is completely FREE!

This event is supported by the fine folks of Bethany.

We are asking Life Groups and Sunday School classes to staff the booths. Sign-up in your Sunday School class or LifeGroup. If you are not involved in a Life-Group or Sunday School class, we still need your help! Please contact Larry Lipps or call the church office, 643.5713. It takes EVERYONE'S help to pull off this fantastic evening. See you Friday, January 25th!

Come, be part of the fun as we SERVE THE WORLD together!



STAFF:
Bob Bell,
Senior Minister
David Coplin,
Worship
Larry Lipps,
Families and Children
Larry Marshall,
Outreach and
Development
Kent Stookey,
Pastoral Care and
Involvement

A NEW YEAR

BOB BELL

It is a new year and a new beginning. Even though it is really just the turning of a calendar page, the beginning of a new year often brings a sense of renewal. As Bethany enters 2008, I am excited about what is ahead!

2007 was a hard year. Thank you to all those who have been patient and flexible as we have worked to reshape and retool some of our methods of ministry. Our objective remains the same as always: to make disciples. Bethany has a rich history of flexibility—a willingness to change methods to try to do a better job of making disciples in an ever changing world. Walking that path is not always easy. Walking that path requires those of us who have been around for a while to make adjustments for the sake of those not yet reached. I appreciate and honor those who demonstrate the heart of Christ and are willing *“to consider others better than yourselves”* and *“look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others”* (Philippians 2:3-4).

I am excited about what this new year will bring. With a sharpened focus (LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS, AND SERVE THE WORLD) and ministries in place to assist people in making a connection with Jesus and the church, we hope to see the Kingdom expanded. God has placed within this church every gift, talent and ability needed for us to accomplish all that He desires. His desire is for all people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4).

As each one of us does our part, we will grow together and the church will be strengthened (Ephesians 4:16).

May we look ahead to this new year with thanksgiving. May 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 be the way we approach this new year and all that takes place within the church. Paul writes, *“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”*

May we have the heart of the early church who *“devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”* (Acts 2:42-47)

May we pray, believing God can *“do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.”* (Ephesians 3:20-2)

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THE FINAL WORD

JOE WISLEY

If you are reading this article, then you are probably aware that since this is the January issue of the Bugle, this is my last installment as a minister here at Bethany. I have struggled for the last couple weeks with what I should say to close out my time here as Student Minister. I thought it fitting to include some excerpts from the very first Bugle article that I ever wrote. You will find them listed in **BOLD** throughout this article:

“Bethany Christian Church is a congregation that is truly blessed and I count myself blessed to be able to be a part of what is happening in this church. There is a sense of anticipation that I feel around this place and that really excites me.” This is a statement that still rings true today. I’ve seen countless lives changed over the past 5 years at this church, not the least of which has been Melissa’s and mine. Thank you for your love, support, and friendship these last few years. I look forward to many good things to come from Bethany Christian Church. May lives continue to be changed for Christ!

“Bethany Student Ministries is ready to continue growing and has the student base to make that happen.” I never cease to be amazed at the group of students here at Bethany. While the name of the ministry has changed, and there are many new names and faces, the spirit of the group remains. I have talked with countless young people who have come to call CrossFire Student Ministries their home, and without exception they have spoken of the kindness they encountered from others here at this church. We still believe that students grow best in the context of relationships and those relationships continue to thrive

today. The leadership of our volunteers, and the students themselves, point to many more successful years of student ministry at Bethany.

“God works in mysterious and wonderful ways and it’s cool to get the chance to see that happen.” This is a statement that has proven itself over and over again in our life and the lives of your students. There has seldom been a trip or an experience where I haven’t had the chance to see God working in the lives of students in ways I would never have expected. I’ve seen students make some life and career altering decisions as a result of an encounter with Christ. I have full confidence that will continue to happen.

“We **MUST** be willing to submit our entire beings to God as an act of worship every minute of every hour of every day.” These words, though written a few years ago, have become more true for Melissa and me over the course of the last few months. While we have **LOVED** our home here at Bethany, in reality it’s never been about us and our comfort. We believe that God has called us to work at Rainbow and we are doing our best to be submitted to Him in that. It’s a bit scary, as we’re now responsible for raising our own support, and are leaving the safety of a wonderful church body. However, we trust and pray that God will allow us to continue close relationships with many from this church, and we are also looking forward to the new people that God will place in our path who will bless us and for whom we can be a blessing.

Please keep us in your constant prayers and know that we have counted it a great privilege to work and serve alongside such wonderful people. May God bless this church and may God bless each of you who are reading this.

In His Grip,
Joe



GOT LIFEGROUP?

It's time for our winter sign-up blitz for LifeGroups. We're convinced that our Christian journey is not intended to be done alone. LifeGroups are an opportunity for each of us to link arms with others and pursue the life that God intended for us. We have many groups already formed, but we're looking to launch new groups. If you're new to Bethany, or for whatever reason didn't get in a LifeGroup during the first launch, here's your chance! Visit the Life-Group display in the Atrium for more details and to get signed up. Or visit www.bethanyweb.org for more details.

"The great danger that arises when we don't experience authentic transformation is that we will settle for what might be called pseudo-transformation. We know that as Christians ... our faith and spiritual commitment should make us different somehow. But if we are not marked by greater and greater amounts of love and joy, we will inevitably look for substitute ways of distinguishing ourselves from those who are not Christians. ... If we do not become changed from the inside-out, we will be tempted to find external methods to satisfy our need to feel that we're different from those outside the faith. If we cannot be transformed, we will settle for being informed..."
 - John Ortberg

NOVEMBER STATISTICS:

November Offering Received..... \$74,652.08
 Average Offering per week..... \$18,663.02
 Percent of Monthly Budget..... 107%

YEAR-TO-DATE

Budgeted offering needed..... \$812,960.88
 Actual y-t-d offering received \$744,228.42
 Budgeted weekly average offering needed..... \$17,297.00
 Actual weekly average offering per week..... \$15,834.65
 Deficit to budget (year-to-date)..... (\$72,853.96)
 Percent of budget (year-to-date)..... 91%

2007 FAITH PROMISE GIVING UPDATE

Total funds sent to C.M.F for support of the
 Kineman Family: November YTD
 From Individuals: \$2,447.00 \$23,979.00
 From Missions: \$1,100.00 \$12,100.00
 Total: \$3,547.00 \$36,079.00

2007 IMAGINE #1 GIVING UPDATE

November, 2007..... \$900.00
 Total given in 2007..... \$59,979.10
 Total campaign gifts..... \$524,482.53

2007 IMAGINE #2 GIVING UPDATE

November, 2007..... \$6,324.50
 Total given in 2007..... \$42,351.50
 Total campaign gifts..... \$51,956.500

FAITH PROMISE PLEDGES: Again the supporters of the Kinemans have been faithful and generous! The monthly pledges for '08 are \$2,035/month, exceeding '07 pledges of \$1,952/month. Pledge cards are still being accepted. *To assure your gift will go to the Kinemans, please use the envelopes provided at the Welcome Center.*