



Ministry Report 2013

for the

Winter Congregational Meeting

February 2, 2014

Bethel

Lutheran Church & School

Bethel's Vision

I pray that, according to the riches of His glory, He may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through His Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. (Ephesians 3:16-17)

UPDATE FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR



Dear Bethel Community,

Much has happened since the last annual report has been put together. In January 2013, we had a new interim lead pastor in place, a Call Committee had just been commissioned, and the “interim process” of critical evaluation of Bethel’s strengths and weaknesses had barely begun.

Things began to speed up in Spring. The Call Committee hosted several Sunday morning “Fireside Chats” to listen to the congregation’s hopes, dreams, and assessment of Bethel’s present and past. A leadership retreat at Pajaro Dunes continued this process. First results of the Fireside Chats were presented and sobering financial and attendance figures were presented by the interim lead pastor. The chair of Bethel’s Stewardship Committee, Brett Deutscher, successfully recruited new members into a Stewardship Taskforce, which designed an ambitious program of over 20 small groups, each of which had a host, a facilitator, and a scribe. The combined notes from these small groups amounted to over 50 densely printed pages! I wish to thank, once more, all who designed, attended, hosted, facilitated, recorded the small groups and all who then critically reviewed and evaluated the findings.

In August, we celebrated a lively Commitment Sunday. The sanctuary and the outdoor worship space felt abuzz with palpable excitement and willingness to step up to provide for Bethel’s future ministry—time, talents, and financial resources (see the financial update on page 2 for faith commitment data).

In September, the taskforce charged with analyzing the small group data, proposed a ministry direction plan for Bethel and identified five ministry priorities: engaging communication, revived children and family ministry, the restructuring of Sunday mornings (to allow for adult Bible Study), service opportunities, and relationship building (i.e., evangelism). The work done at the Labor Day Retreat helped us to further brainstorm around these five ministry priorities.

In September, with input from a wide range of Sunday morning ministry leads, a basic Sunday morning structure was agreed upon. The Worship & Music Committee then, after surveying the worship attendees over a span of 4 weeks, proposed a new Sunday morning schedule, which, together with the new Bible Study curriculum, was implemented on January 12, 2014. Over 70 people attended the first two Bible Study classes.

8:45-9:45	Traditional Worship Service	
9:45-9:55	Fellowship Time (10 minutes)	Nursery Kid Connection Confirmation Class Youth Group
9:55-10:35	Adult Bible Study (40 minutes)	
10:35-10:45	Fellowship Time (10 minutes)	
10:45-11:45	Contemporary Worship Service	

In the other four ministry priorities, important groundwork has been laid, as well:

Family Ministry. Support was provided to implement initiatives that had come from families (such as Second Sunday Picnic, Moms’ Night Out); increased resources (such as magazine subscriptions, classes, new library resources) are made available to help families raise Christ-centered children.

Relationship Building. The Caring Connections program (see page 8) has begun to bear fruit in form of newly strengthened relationships within the congregation.

Service. Behind the scenes (and in collaboration with Bethesda ministries) planning for a new ministry with and for people with special needs has begun. Watch for more information during Lent.

Communication. The Executive Committee, in conjunction with the HR Advisor, is currently reviewing the position of the Communications Specialist to improve communication within the congregation and advertising to the outside.

Bethel Grace in Action



With great joy, I present to you this report which reflects the vibrant ministry that is carried out at and through Bethel, and give thanks to God for His abundant Spirit which makes the ministry that has been done in Christ’s name. I look forward to reaping the fruits of this flurry of work in the coming year, studying together God’s Word and watching that word to bear fruit in our lives, shared ministry, and Gospel-centered service to our neighbors.

Jalrik Sobot

IN MEMORIAM

The Bethel family of faith has bid a final farewell to a number of dear members who have been part of our community for a long time and proclaimed the message of God's saving grace in word and deed. We wish to remember them in this report, acknowledge their gifts to this community, and thank God for their faithful service. We celebrated the earthly life of: Marion A. Francis, Rodney Dabagian, and Helen Smith.

BAPTISMS

In 2013 we baptized the following individuals in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:
Michael Erhardt, Albert Ford, Holly Boniface, Gunnar McGinnis, Karina Lui

NEW MEMBERS

In 2013, we welcomed the following individuals as new members to our congregation:
Workench Ayele, Kristine Lui, Elizabeth McGinnis

CONFIRMATIONS

In 2013, the following Bethel youth affirmed their baptismal faith promises:

January: Erik Dabagian, Michael Erhardt, Albert Ford, Cameron Kurtz, Lilly Meyer, Alexander Montano, Tarun Nappoly, Lucas Nelson, Amelia Wheaton, Erin Woodell

October: Skyler Barr, Neil Trytten, Abigail Wheaton



MARRIAGES

In 2013, we celebrated the holy matrimony of Dan Dixon and Alexis Baker.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Financial Officer: POSITION OPEN

Finance Committee Members: Laurie Bryson, Dave Tribby, Jack Wedgewood,

Stewardship Committee Chair: Brett Deutscher

Audit Committee Members: Kathy Arnold, Tony Stieber

Parish Administrator: Fara Brock

The FY'14 income budget was built on the strong stewardship results and the facility use income negotiated by our business administrator, Fara Brock. The expense budget came together based upon the income available, cuts recommended by the Church Council task force, and continued tight expense control. Throughout the fall months, giving to the general fund was on track to meet the new budget of \$660,000 in giving to the general fund, and showed a modest increase over the previous year. After five years of declining giving, this is a welcome result.



Stewardship Data

	2013	2012	Change
Number of commitments returned:	120	63	190%
Including "cannot commit now":	131		
Total of commitments:	\$480,580	\$293,640	164%

BETHEL MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS 2013

2013 MINISTRY THEME: RIPPLES OF FAITH

In 2013 Bethel aligned its ministry goals, stewardship, adult education, and mission outreach programs under the motto *Ripples of Faith*.

A task force, comprised of members of the Church Council, Call Committee, Stewardship Committee, and program staff crafted the following four ministry goals:

- Rooted in Scripture and the Lutheran faith tradition, we strive to more fully experience God’s love, grow deeper in faith, and better serve others in Christian love.
- We assist one another in being disciples for Christ and embracing the unique ways that each person shares the love and hope of Jesus, builds community, and strengthens relationships.
- While based in Lutheran theology, we acknowledge the need to respond to our changing culture and adapt our worship and service so that they remain relevant and meaningful.
- We seek to be a welcoming and spiritually vibrant place of Christian faith, grace, and love in the midst of its surrounding Silicon Valley community.



SERVANT HEARTS OF THE MONTH

Each month in 2013, one ministry leader was featured in our bulletins, narthex, and eNewsletters. This gave our congregation the opportunity to get to know one another better, to learn from each other, and to be inspired by the faith and commitment of some among our outstanding leaders. All of these individuals have been nominated by their peers as someone who went above and beyond in serving the Bethel community. Nominations can be put into the nomination box in the entry. The following individuals have received Servant Heart of the month recognition in 2013. Congratulations to the 2013 Servant Hearts:

January	Hella Bluhm-Stieber (service as Church Council President)
February	Kathy Arnold (services as Discipleship Ministry lead)
March	Joanne Stensaas (service as Caring Ministries lead)
April	Brett Deutscher (service as Stewardship Ministry Lead)
May	Margaret Lund (services as library committee chair)
June	Amanda Laughlin (service as Children’s Ministry Coordinator)
July	Jeanine Woodell (leading many Jr. High events, especially Rock ‘n Water trips)
August	Tom Cole (leading the Men of Monday)
September	Bill Weberg (Men of Monday, providing emergency facility coverage for most of the year)
October	Doreen and Paul Baldwin
November	Tom McAvoy (service as Worship & Music Ministry lead)
December	Mary Thomas (service on the Church Council and the Board of Deacons)

BETHEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL

School Board Chair: Minnie Sudarsanam,

School Board Members: Jenny Edstrom, Steve Klinger, Shandi Holder, Robyn Winegardner, Kaisa Palomaki, Pr. Gabriele Schroeder
Marion Abney, Principal

Mission Statement- Adopted in 2013

“Bethel Lutheran School is a Christian school whose mission is to actively engage students in a strong academic and enrichment curriculum with the goal of developing the fundamental skills and unique talents of each student. Our experienced staff, along with dynamic programs, encourage faith development, increased self-confidence, creative expression, and compassion for others.”

2013-2014 Annual Theme and Bible Verse

Bethel Builders, InC.

Building Faith, Friendship, Knowledge, Creativity, & Service Together in Christ

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” (Colossians 2:6-7)

Enrollment Statistics

137 Students:

Current Preschool: 48 (Last year- 58)

Current Elementary: 89 (Last year- 81)

Ethnicity:

Asian: 72%

Caucasian: 18%

Hispanic: 4%

Mixed-Race: 6%

Church Affiliation:

Christian: 50% (Bethel: 6 students)

None: 37%

No Information Given: 13%

Staff

The overall average student teaching staff ratio is 10:1

Dynamic, experienced staff with 9 years average length of service

Fire and Recovery

An arson fire occurred on 9/5/12, severely damaging a preschool classroom and affecting areas of Torvend Hall. Clean up efforts, planning for rebuilding, selection of contractor and building plan submission are completed. Plan approval is anticipated in the next few weeks.

Construction will include enlargement of classroom, replacement of tile and kitchen flooring, and relocation of storage, washer, and dryer.

Half of the worn Torvend Hall roof will also be re-shingled.

Completion is expected this Spring.



Academics

Preschool has adopted a new curriculum to enhance learning
Measurements of Academic Progress (MAP) is replacing SAT testing

WASC Accreditation

An accreditation team will be visiting this fall to assess qualifications for Initial Accreditation

Mission Projects

Support Ninos con Valor child, honored veterans with chapel and coat collection, collected food for Second Harvest, participated in "Jump for Heart", and ELCA Health Kits, and will participate in "Pennies for Patients"

Cooperative Facility Use

Fusion Afterschool Program, TechKnowHow, and LAF summer school program rented classroom space providing additional income and opportunities for outreach.

Annual Fund

The church and school community will be given an opportunity to purchase and customize an engraved brick for installation in the bench/patio area adjacent to Torvend Hall. Money raised through this project will be used for school programming, facility needs and the tuition assistance scholarship program.

Noteworthy Programs

Open to Community: Extended Care with special interest classes, Spring Track Meet, Summer Camp, Art Fair, Science Fair
Our Parents' Organization hosted Fall Walkathon and Carnival
Fall Musical: "Sing a Song of Aesop", Preschool and Elementary Christmas programs

Thank you to Bethel Lutheran Church for your prayers and donations that have enabled our students to grow academically, emotionally, and spiritually through God's guidance and grace.

WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY

Ministry Leads: Tom McAvoy, Brian Schuette,

Visual Arts Coordinator: POSITION OPEN

Lead Usher: Jeanine Woodell

Coordinator of Deacons & Lectors: Mark Evashenk

Altar Guild: Lois Eid

Worship & Music Staff: Melody Bast (organ), Marina Dolgonosov (Piano Accompanist), David Herberg (All Bethel Choir), Chris Hogan (A Joyful Noise Bell Choir), Clayton Johnson (Contemporary Music Coordinator), Barbara Larsen (Seraph Choir, volunteer director), Elise Holst (Media Shout Designer), Tom Hoegel (AV Coordinator).

The active engagement of each and every one of us in Sunday morning worship enriches our lives and the community we serve. Please consider participating in one of the following Worship & Music ministries:

- Adult ("All Bethel"), Bell, and Seraph choirs rehearse weekly and provide special music at scheduled worship services.
- Drama Ministry and creative video add unique worship elements.
- Music Support and the Worship Team meets and practices periodically to integrate musical expressions into worship.

Thanks to all who also serve to make the worship services vibrant: pastors, musicians, visual arts folks, audio/visual support, altar guild and flower delivery, activity bags, ushers, greeters, deacons, students, youth, staff and active worshippers.

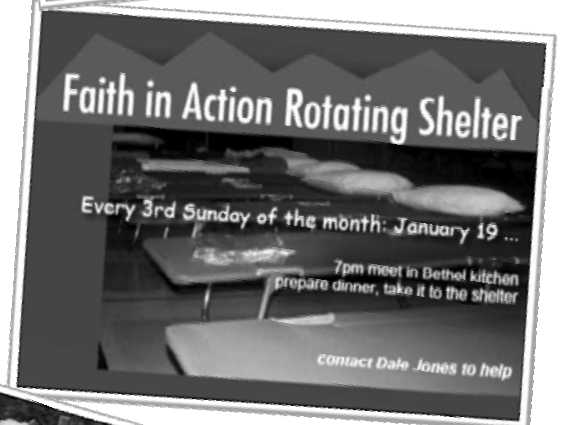
MEMORIES FROM BETHEL'S WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY



MISSION OUTREACH MINISTRY

Ministry Leads: Dale Jones, Lois Brouillette

- Assembled Health Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief
- Assisted our youth who held a clothing drive to fundraise for Invisible Children, a nonprofit to aid children in Africa forced to fight as soldiers
- Attended a World Food Day potluck and raised money for ELCA World Hunger
- Cleaned up trash at Calabazas Creek and Calabazas Park
- Collected groceries from our neighbors for West Valley Community Services, and from our congregation for the Lord's Pantry
- Cooked and served breakfasts at the San Jose Family Shelter
- Created beautiful quilts for distribution by Lutheran World Relief
- Donated our belongings and worked to raise money for the Sunnyvale FISH Junque Sale
- Hosted homeless men of the Rotating Shelter for the month of May at our Stelling site
- Poured concrete and built homes alongside our brothers and sisters in Mexico in partnership with Esperanza
- Prepared and served dinners for the homeless men of the Rotating Shelter while being cared for by other congregations
- Purchased Christmas gifts for foster children with Help One Child
- Raised money for the education of needy children and youth in Tanzania
- Sewed dresses for girls around the world with Dress-A-Girl
- Sorted donated food at Second Harvest Food Bank
- Struck up new friendships and continued old friendships during visitations at Sunny View Retirement Community
- Visited the incarcerated in San Jose with CIC Ministries, and attended the CIC Ministries Art Fair
- Walked and raised funds to fight hunger at CROP Walk in San Jose
- Wrote Bread for the World letters to our representatives in Congress on the issue of hunger
- Made fleece blankets for homeless individuals locally and in San Francisco (distributed through the San Francisco Night Ministry).



MISSION OUTREACH: QUILTS

Ministry Lead: Joann Weberg

Another aspect of Bethel's outreach ministry are the many quilts that our congregation is able to distribute to people in need — locally, nationally, and internationally. This year, for example, the receiving groups include: LWR, Bethel Esperanza Int. Mexico Outreach, Bethel Lutheran School, First Emmanuel COME, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Habitat for Humanity, Heritage House, J.W. House Santa Clara, Palo Alto Vets, San Jose Family Shelter, Santa Clara Medical Center ICN, South Hayward Parish, Faith in Actin Silicon Valley Rotating Shelter (Stelling Site), Stonecroft Ministry, Sunny View Retirement Community. **Our quilters were able to produce an truly astounding number of quilts: a total number of 344 quilts (219 large and 125 small. Over they years, the group has made a impressive total of 3,129 quilts.**



EVANGELISM/CARING MINISTRY

Ministry Lead: Joanne Stensaas

Pastor of Care & Visitation: Rev. Ken Bancroft

Adult Ministry Coordinator: Patricia Myerholtz

There has been a positive response by most receiving flowers, but we can always use more people who can drop off flowers on Sunday afternoon. This is a great service opportunity that won't take much time.

HOSPITALITY (Patricia Myerholtz)

- An Easter egg hunt for the community served 300+ children.
- New worship cards ("Caring Connections") were put in the pews for weekly use.
- Flowers were given to all women on Mother's Day.
- Mints were given to all men on Father's Day.
- All members are encouraged to be welcoming to visitors as well as other members.
- Good-bye parties hosted for long term members who were relocating.

SUNSHINE TEAM (Patricia Myerholtz, Joanne Stensaas, and Sharon Parady)

- Birthday cards are being sent to all members on their respective month.
- Cards are sent to all on prayer list.
- New birthday card with the Bethel Logo was designed by Debbie Bakker.

VISITOR FOLLOW-UP (Patricia Myerholtz)

- Visitor worshipping at Bethel are being responded to by email or card within 48 hours.
- A gift is available in the Narthex to all visitors.

CARING CONNECTIONS (Joanne Stensaas & Pr. Ken Bancroft)

- A video highlighting caring ministries at Bethel was compiled and presented by Miranda Meyerholz to the congregation at a worship service.

BETHEL CARING CONNECTIONS	THANK YOU FOR JOINING US IN WORSHIP TODAY!		PLEASE MARK ALL THAT APPLY
	Name _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> First time visitor
Address _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Interested in membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Desire call from pastor
Email _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> New in the area	<input type="checkbox"/> New address
Phone _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Add me to weekly eNews	<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Request (on back)
I am / We are <input type="checkbox"/> member(s) <input type="checkbox"/> visitor(s) _____	_____ (home church)	<input type="checkbox"/> How did you learn about Bethel?	<input type="checkbox"/> Friend
<input type="radio"/> 8:45am	_____ (date)	_____ (city / state)	<input type="checkbox"/> School
<input type="radio"/> 10:45am	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Telephone Directory
check one	PLEASE PLACE IN OFFERING PLATE OR HAND TO AN USHER.		<input type="checkbox"/> Internet
			<input type="checkbox"/> Other

- Over time, worship attendance has gradually declined and our community has become concerned over those whom we haven't seen for some time. As a pilot project, a "Caring Connections" program was developed. Stephen Ministers attended a six-week workshop on "Listening for Depth of Understanding" lead by then Interim Pastor Carol Been. Subsequently, each Stephen Minister was given a list of 5-9 people among the Bethel community who they would contact on a regular basis. The project has been well received and we hope that it can be expanded in the future in order to foster greater concern for one another. The goal was and is to make Bethel a more caring community. Towards that goal, the Caring Connections volunteers seek to make personal connections, give those called an opportunity to express likes and dislikes at Bethel, to inform them regarding special events, and generally to show we care.



STEPHEN MINISTRY (*Joanne Stensaas & Pr. Ken Bancroft*)

- Stephen Ministers are now meeting monthly on the second Monday of the month rather than the first Tuesday. The first half of the meeting will deal directly with reports re care receivers of the Stephen Ministers and the second half will be a Caring Connection review.
- Pastor Ken will continue to lead the Stephen Ministry/Caring Connection meetings on a volunteer basis as he is able.

2014 GOALS

- Find ways to get more sign-ups for flower delivery.
- Continue and expand the Caring Connection ministry.
- Continue the birthday card ministry and recruit more volunteers.
- Keep encouraging all worship participants to fill out the Caring Connection cards in the pews each Sunday.
- Be open to new ideas.



YOUTH MINISTRY

<i>Marianne Nadell, Mark Evashenk:</i>	<i>Ministry Leads</i>
<i>High School Youth Volunteers:</i>	<i>Molly Schrey, Brett Deutscher, Rich Teed, Marianne Nadell</i>
<i>Common Ground Sponsors:</i>	<i>Elissa Barton, Brett Deutscher, Jamie Jacobson, Adam Klopfenstein, Chris Larsen, Alex Nadell, Brian Schuette, Adam Klopfenstein, David Schrey, Molly Schrey, Leah Thomas, Dana Torgerson, Chris Larsen, Katlynn Hoegel</i>
<i>Jr. High Youth Volunteers:</i>	<i>Jeannine Woddell, Carol Wheaton</i>
<i>Confirmation, Affirmation of Baptism:</i>	<i>Robyn Winegardner, Susan Leavitt</i>
<i>Common Ground Director:</i>	<i>Katlynn Hoegel</i>
<i>Youth Director:</i>	<i>Tom Hoegel</i>
<i>Youth Assistants:</i>	<i>Josh Myerholtz, Jonathan Stolan, Amber Johnson (2012-13) Charlotte Wilkie, Rachel Sudarsanam, Mel Brouillette (2013-14)</i>

What a ride! Beginning in 6th grade through College, our youth are encouraged to "Love Like Jesus." While this may sound like just a catchy slogan, it is really a challenge to each of us to refrain the way we look at our place in the world. We encourage a balance of fellowship, service, learning, and worship, all the while finding lots of room for joy and laughter. Our Ministry Leads are Marianne and Mark, while our lead staff are Katlynn, Robyn, Susan, Marianne, and Molly. Along with this group are dozens of young adults and parents that give hundreds of hours. We cannot do this without you :-)

"I Am"

This year's youth group theme is "I Am". We are exploring the wonderful creation that God made in each of us. There are so many labels and identities that get put on us by society. We are discussing what it means to be created in the image of God and finding ways to share that good news with our surrounding community. Our challenge is to be Christ to those we encounter: "Love Like Jesus".

Epic Fail, Epic Faith

One large adventure we are embarking on this coming summer is the Western States Youth Gathering on the campus of California Lutheran University. We will gather with 800 you and adults from all over the western US to sing praise, worship, learn, serve and generally have an awesome week. There will be many opportunities to support us in the coming months including an auction/night of fun at Firehouse Brewery on Saturday night March 29th. Make sure to save the date!!!

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Children's Ministry Leads: Corinne Devine, Patrice Sera

Children's Ministry Coordinator (until July 2013): Amanda Boniface

Interim Children's Ministry Coordinator: Amanda Laughlin

Vacation Bible School 2013: "Kingdom Rock" (Group Publishing)

- Combined program with BLS
- More than 75 participants (preschool-6th grade)
- More than 45 – Middle School, High school and Adult volunteers throughout the week
- Special Service Project during the week, "My New Red Shoes" provides shoes and supplies for children in low income families and or is living in shelters. We collected over 90 pairs of shoes and with the help of members of Bethel, sewed 35 bags which the shoes go in before they are delivered to the kids who need them.

Kid Connection

- Average 30 children per week (preschool-6th grade)
- 12 teachers: John Boniface, Amanda Boniface, Kristine Lui, Elizabeth McGinnis, Minnie Sudarsanam, Amber Myerholtz, Shelly Aamold, Alice Isaacson, Lynne Stasi, Brett Deutscher, Jamie Laughlin, and Carol Wheaton
- Fun and Captivating Kid Connection opening — Mmusic and skits — led by two High school youth: Amelia Wheaton and Erin Woodell
- Offering goes toward Bethel's designated fund of the month

Family Ministry

- 2nd Sunday Family Picnics
- Moms' Night Out
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Mid-Summer "Thank You" party for Amanda Boniface

Special Classes

- First Communion Class (First Communion on Maundy Thursday)
- First Bible Class (in the Fall; bibles presented on Reformation Sunday)

Christmas Program "Away in a Manger"

- 22 children participated – (preschool – 6th grade)
- Directed by Sonya Hanson and Amanda Laughlin

Nursery

- Great team – Laverne Hayden, Miranda Myerholtz, and Amber Myerholtz



DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

Discipleship Ministry Lead: Kathy Arnold

Adult Ministry Coordinator: Patricia Myerholtz

Our Growing in Faith Ministry addresses the part of our mission statement that states "Grow and Equip one another as devoted followers of Jesus Christ". Several member-led groups achieve this by meeting monthly or weekly to deepen their knowledge of the Bible and Lutheranism by reading Lutheran magazines, study books and videos. They are: Women of Wednesday, Saturday Women's Bible Study, and Martha Bible Study. These groups have been studying God's word for years and welcome anyone would like to join. In addition to these on-site groups, there are several other groups that meet offsite.

Begun in the Fall 2011, Fun with Faith begins with a light supper followed by a one hour class on Wednesday evenings. The sessions begin the Fall and end at the start of Lent. Each session features a class each in "Bible Study", "Life Skills", and "The Arts". A session typically lasts 3 weeks.

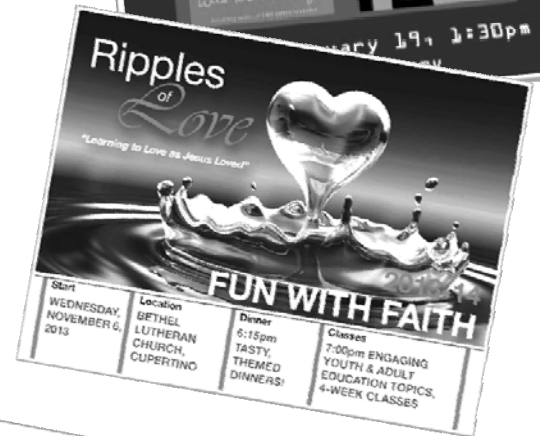
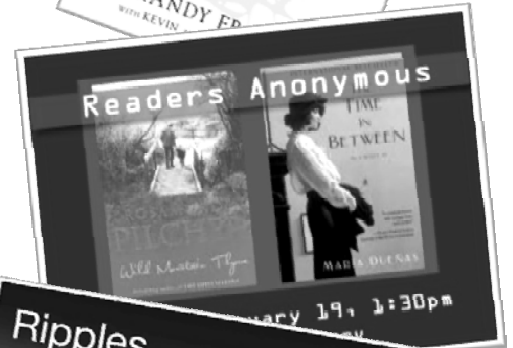
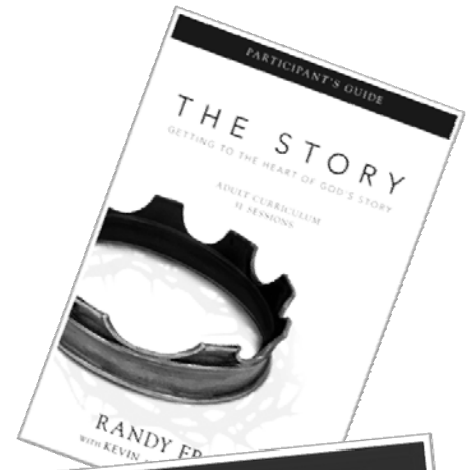
The new addition to Discipleship this year is Adult Bible Study on Sunday mornings which began on Jan 12, 2014. Based on small group input over the summer, the Music & Worship committee carved out a 40 minute niche for that class between services. Unlike the short cycle Fun with Faith topics, the Adult Sunday Bible class focusses on a single topic in depth over a period of several weeks. With only 2 weeks into the program, attendance has been remarkable and the group table conversation is engaging. It will be a good year.

CALL COMMITTEE

Members: Erik Edstrom, Rachel Sudarsanam, Ordetta Hovland, Janice Martinson, Doreen Baldwin, Angela Brown, Ann Marie Kenitzer, Brian Hadding, Dana Torgersen

Seven members started meeting in January 2013 to begin the process of calling a new lead pastor, nine were commissioned in March 2013. We gathered information through the use of surveys of the congregation in fireside chats. Along with 60% of the Bethel membership, we participated and listened in the Mission and Visioning small groups through the summer. Data was compiled to complete and submit the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) which is the job listing. Throughout the process we were in consultation with the Executive Board and Synod Representative. We are presently refining the interview process and questions and awaiting a list of candidates from the Synod.

Respectfully submitted by the Call Committee members.



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

Ministry Lead: Sue Jacobus

Adult Ministry Coordinator: Patricia Myerholtz

Highlights:

Art Fair: "Tree of Life" We had many who made 'trees' to be put on display and some were put into the Cupertino Courier. There was a cartoonist, raffle, food, and wonderful art displayed from both the school and Bethel members. Common Ground also performed. The events gets bigger every year.

Easter Egg Hunt: Hundreds from all over the community attended this fun filled event and many volunteers helped to fill eggs and help at the event.

Evergreens: continues to be strong with the help of Shirley Gross helping with communication. Bingo has become a popular part of the event and the group also was able to go out to a wonderful lunch at the Santa Cruz pier with the Bethel Bus. Future events will include more outings with the Bethel Bus.

Ministry Fair: This years theme was "Ripples of Love" and all the ministries did a great job promoting and many were able to recruit more members and volunteers. Of course there was plenty of food.

Fourth of July: This year, the Labor Day Retreat Team and Sue and Jim Jacobus were the leaders at this popular fun event that included the traditional chili cookoff and many other family events.

Picnic Sundays: It was a great opportunity for Bethel families to meet on a Sunday night and share in fellowship and have the kids play on the playground. We hope to continue with this ministry in late spring 2014.

Readers Anonymous: Led by Kathy Arnold Readers Anonymous dove into nearly a dozen books this year. The group discusses fiction, primarily, but occasionally a non-fiction e.g. biography is selected for discussion the previous meeting. Book discussions are usually held the third Sunday of each month at the library. All are invited.

Sunday at the Movies: Led by Carol Olson; Meets every 2nd Sunday at 2pm. Both current and older movies are shown along with popcorn and sodas to eat.

Supper Club: Led by Laurie Bryson, the Supper Club had 30 plus people participate for a time of fellowship, sharing good food, and fun at least once a month. This is not only for couples it is for anyone wanting to meet new people or strengthen existing friendships.

Out 'n About: Bethel hosted 10 events with almost 200 participants! Events included: Jelly Belly Factory, Microbrewery Tour, Scandinavian Festival, Kayaking, Book Tour with Pr. Nadia Bolz-Weber, Hymn sing at Mt. Hermon, Hearst Castle, Santa Run, and Ice Skating/ Caroling. These events continue to connect us through fun and fellowship and all events are open to anyone. The committee meets a few times a year to plan and if you have any ideas or would like to host an event, please contact the church office or Molly Schrey.



Labor Day Retreat: led by Molly Schrey, Liz Barton, and Tom Hoegel. Over 100 Bethel members and friends were part of “Epicenter” the theme for the retreat at Mt. Cross from Aug. 31 to Sept. 2, 2013. The speaker was Pr. Dave Nagler from Central City Lutheran Mission in San Bernardino California. He spoke to Bethel’s journey to become more relevant in our own community and also how as individuals we can be an “epicenter” to those whom we come into contact with everyday. Participants also had the opportunity to brainstorm with others on one of the 5 areas of interest that came out of the small group meetings held over the summer: Sunday mornings at Bethel, Children and Family Ministry, Service, Communication, and Connecting with others. There were also the usual FUN activities that included an new game show “Are you Smarter than a Sunday-Schooler”, the carnival, campfire, storytelling, variety show, and Olympics. Retreat goers had plenty do from service projects to kicking back and relaxing. Many thanks to all of the committee members who made the weekend possible.

Family Fellowship: There were ice cream socials, Fall Festival, and an old fashioned Christmas Party. Fun was had by many.

MEN OF MONDAY

Ministry Leads: Tom Cole, August Colandrea

Repairs

- Air conditioning and filters
- Kitchen ovens and new garbage disposal
- Dishwasher, preheater and grease trap drains
- Lights, lamps and ballasts
- Electrical wiring and switches
- New Zoar Hall drinking fountain
- Doors and windows
- Frequent plumbing and carpentry jobs

Landscaping

- Trimmed trees, shrubs and vines
- Clean roofs and rain gutters
- Fences, walls and gates
- Lawn sprinklers and timers
- Metal trash removal
- General campus trash pickup



It was hard to condense all the work without dismissing all the effort the men donated.

FROM THE FACILITIES SUPERVISOR

Facilities Supervisor (part-time): Tom Hoegel

As most of you know, Torvend Hall was set on fire by a troubled teen last September and we are in the process of rebuilding and refurbishing. While the insurance company is paying for the cost due to the fire loss, we are also taking this opportunity to make some minor changes to the space to better support the ministry of the church and school as we move forward. We will also be analyzing the entire building to rejuvenate the space as we move into the next decade. Ten years ago, we had hoped to have a new structure in place but the economy has proved to be a big stumbling block. It is time to give it some well needed TLC.

The other significant effort this coming year is our participation in Cupertino’s Green Biz program. The three areas we are concentrating on is energy consumption, waste reduction, and the ever present need for water reduction. Our hope is in the coming year to reduce all of these and model great environmental stewardship to the congregation.

If you have any ideas about these or other things related to facilities, please let me know 😊

TECHNOLOGY MINISTRY

Ministry Leads: Liz Tribby, Brad Martinson

Web Master: Dave Arnold

Web Committee : Elise Holst, Chris Larsen, Liz Tribby, Pr. Gabriele Schroeder

Bethel Wireless Networking Taskforce: Liz Tribby, Brad Martinson, Laurie Beckett, Kumar Dasari

Bethel's home page was visited 9054 times in 2013, from 3827 unique browsers. In total, the web site served 173,873 pages. The top three pages accessed were:

- Sermon podcasts
- Calendar
- Home page

84% of the visits were from desktop browsers, 9% from mobile and 7% from tablets.

New features added to the website this year include:

- Ministry video (starting with Mission to Mexico and Labor Day Retreat), thanks to Chris Larsen
- Council reports, thanks to Hella Bluhm-Stieber and Mary Thomas c
- Financial reports (moved from the bulletin), thanks to Fara Brock & Leslie Steen
- The new Constitution, thanks to Mary Thomas
- The weekly eNewsletter, thanks to Elise Holst

Our file transfer logs show 2284 website updates in 2013 to keep the content up to date, thanks to Patricia Myerholtz and many of our Ministry Leads.

We are working on a new design for our web pages that will be more friendly to the increasing number of mobile browsers.

In 2012, a major upgrade to internet access on the Bethel campus was begun. That year we changed service providers and added new network hardware. In 2013 the work continued with wireless access points added in Torvend Hall (including new outdoor wireless access capability for outdoor worship), and some additional access points added in the Sanctuary building to improve coverage. The campus-wide wireless network has now been completely installed. We are still working on some performance enhancements in Zoar Hall, where the largest concentrations of regular users reside. We should have our performance monitoring system in place by mid year, which will help solve these bottlenecks. The Torvend fire affected connectivity in Torvend and Preschool for a few weeks until the melted cabling was located and replaced. Your wireless internet device should be able to be used anywhere on our campus, including the front lawn.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Hella Bluhm-Stieber (President), Victor Chinn (Project Management Advisor), Trish Cunningham (Ministry Liaison), Mark Evashenk (President Elect), Donna Kuester (HR Advisor), Hannah Lutke (Youth Member-at-Large), Minnie Sudarsanam (School Board Chair), Mary Thomas (Communications Officer), Dave Tribby (Member-at-Large), position open (Financial Officer), position open (Senior member-at-large)

Highlights from the Council Meetings in 2013

The Church Council proposed changes to the constitution in regards to informing members by e-mail of the congregational meeting. The changes were approved at the congregational meeting in February 2013 and ratified in October 2013.

There was a leadership retreat for council members, ministry leads, and committees on April 27, 2013 at Pajaro Dunes. The retreat participants worked on establishing a draft of mission goals for Bethel to present to congregation.

The Church Council recruited an interim lead pastor who served Bethel until mid-July. After the interim lead pastor's resignation at the end of July, the council decided together with Pr. Gabi not to hire another interim pastor at this time in our call process, rather to use the wonderful talents of our members and other pastors to assist with preaching during the remainder of the interim period.

The Church Council addressed the budget shortfall by having a very intentional stewardship campaign and by approving a three-four month budget extension.

Many small group meetings were held over the Summer to provide members with an opportunity to discuss our ministry goals draft, provide feedback, and come up with some concrete goals for the near future as well as to provide stewardship information.

The Church Council confirmed the first five program areas arising from small group discussions, Sunday morning modifications, Communication, Service, Children/family ministry, Building relationships/evangelism.

A small subgroup from the Church Council revised the verbiage of our four ministry goals to enhance clarity and the Council approved the final draft of our four mission goals.

The Church Council hired a consultant from Alban Institute to assist in developing an appropriate staffing pattern and budget for Bethel's mission. A small subgroup from the council worked together with the consultant. The budget taskforce came up with several recommendations, that were approved by the council.

The Church Council had several meetings with the call committee and Bishop's Associate Nancy Nelson in regards to the call process for a new pastor.

The Church Council approved the Ministry Site Profile (MSP), developed by the Call Committee. Instead of using the Healthy Start Program the council decided to create our own intentional process to introduce the new pastor to the congregation.

The Church Council decided to follow the recommendation from the Mission Outreach Committee to again host the Silicon Valley Rotating Shelter at the Stelling Site during May, since there was an excellent response to assist with this endeavor from the congregation.

The Church Council decided to post a financial overview on the website to make Bethel's finances more understandable.

The Church Council asked the website committee to add online giving to the website to make it easier for people to make donations.

Stelling: the 7-year agreement regarding relationship with former Redeemer Church site ended. Bethel's stewardship of the site was positively acknowledged by the Synod.

The council reviewed the 5-year energy consumption report. Our solar production remains the same over the past 5 years. Interestingly, our energy consumption has increased since 2009; conservation is important for all of us to consider when we use the facilities at Bethel.

The council will support and encourage all adults to participate in "The Story." (Adult Bible Study program, beginning 1/12/14)

