



### Pastor Bruce was thinking about pulling Pastor Dave's article...

*in order to focus more on "Go The Distance" (GTD) our new capital funds campaign. Instead he encourages you to prayerfully read Pastor Dave's excellent article as an encouragement for you to consider your glad and generous involvement in GTD as God leads you. This can make a real difference in God's plans for ministry through our Bethel family! So, please read and respond.*

## Pastor Dave's Corner



### Getting from Here to There

This month we will be traveling to Michigan to visit our son Jonathan and our soon-to-be daughter-in-law Abby. We have spent some time looking at the maps deciding how we want to make the trip. We have decided that we want to avoid Chicago. We thought about making it a real adventure by driving around Lake Superior through Canada, but with gas prices the way they are we thought better of it. We have decided that we will drive across Wisconsin, over the U.P., and down into Michigan.

I have been thinking a lot about another journey that I am taking. It is the journey of moving Bethel from where we are now to where God wants us to be in the future. For the majority of my time at Bethel God has

blessed us with steady growth. I confess that I began to take that for granted. We had a ten year period of time when our annual growth was between 6-10%. Then a couple of years ago we hit a plateau. We seem to have gotten stuck in the flatlands. I have been struggling to understand the reasons for this. I don't have all the answers, but one thing I know is that God does not want us to stay where we are.

There is a story in the Old Testament about the time when the people of Israel were finally going to go in and claim the Promised Land. As Joshua prepared the people to cross the Jordan River, he cast a vision of what the Promised Land would be like. There would be obstacles to overcome, but God had already given them the victory. All they had to do was to claim it. God made a powerful promise to Joshua. **I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses.** (Joshua 1:3) Two of the tribes didn't buy into the vision. Instead they decided that they liked it on the far side of the Jordan so they

asked if they could skip the rest of the journey. In the end those two tribes missed out on the preferred future that God had in store for them.

God has given to us an opportunity to make a difference for the Kingdom of God far beyond our size. We have already seen some of that. We have seen young adults respond to God's call in their lives and go out to make a significant difference for the Kingdom. We have had the opportunity to speak into the lives of hundreds of people. We have been on an exciting journey and have seen some amazing things. It is time now to make the new move. It is time to let God enlarge His kingdom right here at Bethel. There are many obstacles in the way, but we can overcome them through the power of God. The danger is that we will settle down on the far side of the Jordan and miss the blessings God has planned for us.

At the 2010 Willow Creek Leadership Summit Bill Hybels gave a talk about moving from here to there. He made some powerful observa-

(Continued on page 16)

### Special points of interest:

- OUR NEW CAPITAL CAMPAIGN - "GO THE DISTANCE"
- THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
- YOUTH HOST FAMILY HOUSE PARTIES BEGIN
- WOMEN & MEN'S FALL RETREATS

### Inside this issue:

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# Vision

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## Leadership Board Update



“PLEASE CONSIDER WHAT ROLE GO THE DISTANCE PLAYS IN YOUR PRAYER LIFE, AND YOUR GIVING AT BETHEL.”

Your board continues to work hard on issues facing Bethel. It's easy to be frustrated with a problem or crisis, but it's clear that there are "silver linings" to this. We get more creative. We challenge underlying (often unstated) assumptions we've held. We get out of our comfort zone and take some risks. I'm ok with that.

One thing you'll hear about soon is the "Kwik Trip" fundraiser. We can buy "script cards" for various amounts, and use them for gas, etc., at any Kwik Trip. 10% goes to Bethel. If I buy a \$100 card from Bethel, I can get \$100 worth of gas (about two tanks!), and Bethel gets \$10. Costs me nothing more. I already get my gas there, so buying a gas card

instead of using my credit card...isn't much of a change. Pastoral staff and leadership board will be "guinea pigs" to make sure any kinks have been worked out. Then, you'll hear more about the program. It seems pretty low-risk, and if it helps ease some of the financial pressures, that would be great. (This program is only available to churches and nonprofits.)

You've probably also heard about the revitalized and re-christened capital campaign. **"Go The Distance"** was a clear winner in the voting. (No recount, no "hanging chads" were discovered!) Please consider what role "Go The Distance" plays in your prayer life, and your giving at Bethel.

We're not out of the woods yet, and as we implement other solutions to the current financial crisis, we will call an all-church meeting. We need to review the current situation and the solutions. The timeline is still a bit elastic, but I imagine we'll want to have a meeting within a month or so. More information as details become available. Lastly, please pray for your board members. They're here, working hard, wrestling with tough problems and really doing a great job.

In His service and yours,  
Andy Reeves  
Chair, Leadership Board  
[areeves3000@yahoo.com](mailto:areeves3000@yahoo.com)



## Vision

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### Notes from Pastor Bruce (Adult Ministries and stuff ...)

#### Juicy Fruity Messages on Sundays



We continue our year-long focus on the fruit of the Spirit. In July, our focus will be on kindness and it will be the topic on 7/10, 17 and 31. July 3 is a communion Sunday and we will be considering Jesus as the Good Shepherd from Jn. 10:11-21. On July 24 we will be in 2 Cor. 9:6-15 where it says that God loves a cheerful giver. As I have mentioned to you before, it appears to me that we are in very, very good company when we give generously. "For God so loved the world that He gave..." Jn. 3:16

And I trust you are aware that we as a church family are now in a place where we very much need people to give generously and cheerfully, especially in regard to our building fund needs.

(Please use the Xtreme Steps commitment cards) You will be hearing more about this, but the needs are very real at this time and your glad response can help make a real difference.

"AS I HAVE MENTIONED TO YOU BEFORE, IT APPEARS TO ME THAT WE ARE IN VERY, VERY GOOD COMPANY WHEN WE GIVE GENEROUSLY."



#### **Baptism**

At Bethel we practice New Testament believer's baptism by immersion. We plan to have a baptismal service at the lake on August 14. If you are interested in being baptized or would like to visit with a pastor about this, please call the church office.

#### **Discovery Class Update**

We will be offering a Discovery Class in the fall. Due to some scheduling conflicts we will not have a class this summer. This class is the place to learn more about Bethel Baptist - what we believe, where we have come from, where we are headed, and how one can become a member of Bethel. Please let Christian Kohs or me know if you are interested in a class in the fall. We will meet for three hours in the evening. The date will be established later.



Discovery  
Class

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## Notes from Pastor Bruce (Adult Ministries and stuff ...)

### Participating in “Go The Distance”

Our new capital funds campaign will be called **“Go The Distance.”** We have an extreme need at the current time to increase giving specifically toward this campaign so that we can pay our mortgage commitments without having to drastically cut into regular operating funds, missions and or the support of our staff. In this year’s budget we have already cut some ministry expenses and reimbursable expenses. We want to be able to expand our mission and ministry in this community and beyond as Pastor Dave has expressed and yet we must be faithful in our payment of our mortgage on this great facility built for ministry. This is how you can help in this time of family need.

✓ You are asked to make a commitment and to regularly and clearly designate your giving to GTD. Such giving should not come from regular offerings given to the operating funds and missions for the church. It needs to be over and above.

✓ Please understand that giving in the offering does not help pay the mortgage, unless it is clearly marked “Go the Distance.” Designate GTD giving by use of church envelopes or in the memo of your check. State what portion of your check is designated to Go the Distance (GTD).

✓ People who have continued their giving through the previous campaign (Xtreme Steps) need to sign a new card indicating their participation/commitment in GTD.

✓ Please prayerfully consider what God would have you to give and then respond with gladness for the privilege of being involved in His great work. (2 Cor. 8:1-7).

Commitment cards are available.

The offering plate and the boxes marked GTD are the appropriate places for you to put your commitment card. You may also drop them off at the office.



“WE HAVE AN  
EXTREME NEED AT  
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# Vision

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## Notes from Pastor Bruce (Adult Ministries and stuff ...)

### My Story

Wasn't it great to hear of God's goodness and of the very real struggle and victory of faith as Jenna and Ben shared with us Sunday, June 19! We look forward to more people sharing their stories. If you missed it and would like to see and hear Jenna, Ben and Brielle, please let the church office know.

One of the ways we want to communicate the Good News of the gospel and share the goodness of God's transforming love is by sharing our stories. Please consider writing out your story of how God's love has transformed/is transforming your life and submit it to Pastor Bruce or the church office. We want to video some of our stories and show some short versions in our services as a means of encouraging people in the Lord. The initial step in this story-telling is getting it down in writing. If you have questions about this, please check with Pastor Bruce.



We are hosting the Summit - live via satellite

**Join Us!**

**Bethel Baptist Church · 1250 Monks Ave**

**Thursday & Friday · August 11-12, 2011**

**9:00 am – 5:00 pm**

Register at [www.bethelmankato.com](http://www.bethelmankato.com) or 507.345.4011

**Early Registration by July 10<sup>th</sup> \$140**

**July 11<sup>th</sup> – August 11<sup>th</sup> \$150**

2011 Global Leadership Summit Guest Faculty include:

**Bill Hybels** "He's a winner. He could be running a company -- or a country." Jack Welch in Fast Company about Bill Hybels

**Howard Schultz** Has returned to Starbucks as CEO "to bring the iconic coffee company back to financial health without sacrificing its humanity."

**Erwin McManus** "He leads a complex, multi-campus church, yet convention, programs, and structures repel him."

**Michelle Rhee** Founder and CEO, [studentsfirst.org](http://studentsfirst.org) Former Chancellor, D.C. Public Schools · Washington, D.C. Education reformer featured in "Waiting for Superman"

**Cory Booker** Mayor of Newark, New Jersey · Urban Reformer

**Seth Godin** Bestselling Author; Squidoo Founder · Renowned Marketing Blogger

**Brenda Salter McNeil** She is "a lightning rod for transformation..."

**Len Schlesinger** President, Babson College; Harvard Professor "In today's climate of social and economic uncertainty, conventional approaches to problem-solving don't work ..."

**John Dickson** "The leader's strongest tool is humility ... It intensifies credibility." Author of Humilitas

**Steven Furtick**

**Mama Maggie Gobran**

**Henry Cloud**

"We encourage you to take advantage of the Early Bird registration for the Global Leadership Summit."



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## Bethel Worship Notes

What a great site I had this past week to see 70 plus children each night singing and worshipping the Lord. Singing lyrics such as "I Am the Way the Truth and the Life" was an awesome site to see. It was very encouraging to see the many volunteers and their devoted efforts to make VBS 2011 a great success. Thanks again to all of you that were a part of impacting the lives of our children through your work with VBS this year.

My family and I look forward to spending some time this summer with my family in Wisconsin. I am grateful for this time ahead and know God will provide renewal and refreshment.

This summer as many of you have already heard we face a family crisis as a church in regards to the church finances. Many of us have very negative stereotypes of past churches/ ministries that have caused damage to the cause of Christ in the way they have solicited funds from their church members/ ministry supporters. I know Bethel is committed to making the need known to the church and allowing God's Holy Spirit to work in each of us as individuals. I would challenge each of you to seek the heart of God and ask what Him what He may have you do.

Here are some of the things that I have learned through this process and ways all of us may consider doing to help out:

- The need Bethel has right now is for more funds to be given so that it can pay the monthly mortgage payment. (Currently \$8,000.00 per month short)
- I discovered that all of the funds given in the offering go to our general fund, not the mortgage payment (unless designated on your check "extreme steps")
- Extreme Steps ended over a year ago, and if I want to participate in helping pay the mortgage at Bethel, I need to sign up for the new campaign/ commitment card. (I believe the new campaign will be titled "Go the Distance.")
- I learned that we will be introducing the opportunity to purchase Kwik Trip gas cards through the Bethel office as early as the end of June. For every \$100.00 we purchase Kwik Trip will be giving the church \$10.00 that will be applied to our mortgage payment short fall. If our family uses \$400.00 per month in Kwik Trip gas cards, \$40.00 each month (this will be an ongoing program) will be donated to Bethel by Kwik Trip and go towards our mortgage payment shortage. Church wide this will add up!!
- Rick Krueger mentioned the following idea in his letter to the church regarding our financial challenge. I did my own quick calculation and realized that if each family or individual sacrificed an additional \$15.00 per week (\$60.00/ month), between \$7,000 - \$8,000 per month would be generated meeting our current mortgage payment shortage.

My family will be helping in both of these areas, one, purchasing the Kwik Trip gas cards from our office and two, taking on the \$15.00 additional per week giving challenge.

Part of Worship is giving. In Philippians 4 Paul is thankful for the church as they met his needs in ministry and shared this promise with that church: Phil. 4:19 "**And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.**" What may God be calling each of us to do? Money is never an easy thing to talk about and has many emotions/ thoughts connected to it. I believe as each of us seeks the Holy Spirit's direction in this, great things will happen and many more lives in Mankato will be impacted through Bethel and the power of God at work here.

Serving our Lord Together, Blessings,  
Pastor Glenn



PS – Currently we have a need in the area of singers for all of our worship services. Even if you can only sing one Sunday per month your gift is needed. Please contact me at: [pastorglenn@bethelmankato.com](mailto:pastorglenn@bethelmankato.com) Thank you!!

## Young Adults Ministry by Christian Kohs

### Young Couples Potluck!

Come and Join us on July 19@ 5:30 p.m. as we begin to grow relationships with each other! It is sometimes hard to meet and hard to find the people that are in our **similar age and life situations** and this is something we are going to begin to do on a regular basis.

Please contact me if you are able to make it so we can work out food!

Want to be involved in Young Adults Ministry this fall?...contact Christian  
(507) 696-2286 or christian@bethelmankato.com



### How to Glorify God

*By this is my father glorified, that you bear much fruit.*  
John 15:8

The glory of God is the single most important thing in the world to God. And therefore **you glorifying God is the single most important thing you can do with your life.**

But if we were honest, most of us have little to no idea what that actually means. We talk about God's glory in abstract ways. We talk about glorifying God in convoluted ways. And so at the end of the day, we know what everything is for – the glory of God – and what we should do – glorify Him – but we don't know how to actually do it.

Do we simply go around saying “for your glory” after every little thing we do and at the end of every prayer?

Is it just that we know that everything is for the glory of God? If I'm a professional athlete, is it mentioning God's name after I win a game? If I'm a designer, do I have to stitch a verse somewhere on my clothing?

It can get pretty complicated and nebulous. Luckily, Jesus says it's actually pretty simple, straightforward, and concrete. **It's the practical fruit of your life that produces the glory of God.**

In other words, I don't know that it matters to God that you can articulate the Westminster Catechism's definition of the glory of God and our duty to glorify Him. I don't know that it matters if you top off your prayers with a little “glory of God” throw in at the end.

**I think what matters to God and what actually glorifies Him is that**

**you do life His way.** That you live in such a way that God's activity is actually visible in your life. And not just your words.

Let me put it simply: When husbands love their wives as Christ loved the church, it glorifies God. When you manage your finances God's way, it glorifies God. When you honor the people around you, it glorifies God. When you love the waiter that's serving you on Sunday and leave them a good tip, it glorifies God much more than when you sang about His glory an hour earlier.

Let's all stop the abstract “glory” talk and let's get down to the business of actually doing it. Press into Jesus. Live life the way He intends it. And let the fruit you're producing do the talking for you.

“AND THEREFORE YOU GLORIFYING GOD IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN DO WITH YOUR LIFE.”



# Vision

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## Youth Ministry

“As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem.”

*Isaiah 66:13*

“Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.”

*Psalms 37:3*

“IF YOU HAVE A HOME YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTACT HARRISON FOR A SPOT IN AUGUST TO HOST A HOST FAMILY HOUSE PARTY.”

### Trust (Eat)

When I was a kid I got my first chance to play real guns when my dad bought me a BB gun. He bought me this to kill the barn swallows that were crapping all over the restaurant. I did this. After I accomplished that I turned my gun on the robins. It wasn't until I had a small pile of them in my yard before my mom informed me that robins were the good birds. “Never shoot the robins!” she said. That was my first and only time of ever hunting. I didn't want to let my mom down. After all, she didn't hunt and always had food on the table. She always took the time to cook healthy food even when it would have been easier to let me eat junk food. Sometimes she would make me eat things I didn't like, like liver and onions, I always knew it wouldn't kill me. I always knew it was good for me. Anybody ever seen a baby robin? I have. If not you have probably seen a picture of a baby robin with its eyes shut and mouth open for whatever mama robin brings them to eat. God is described in Is. 66:13 as a mother who comforts her young. A mother we can completely trust to take care of us and our needs. Ps. 37:3 tells us to trust in the Lord and feed on his faithfulness.

### Host Family House Parties (HFHP)

Summertime is here and during July and August the youth families are hosting Wednesday nights at their homes! If you have a home you are encouraged to contact Harrison for a spot

in August. Hosts are encouraged to provide a small meal or substantial snack and think of activities unique to your home that youth might enjoy.



### Valley Fair Trip

We will be going to Valley Fair on Thursday, July 21. Meet at Bethel at 8:00 a.m. and we will be back by 10:00 p.m. The cost is \$33. Bring extra \$\$ for food &

games. Also bring a sack lunch/dinner. Bring a swimsuit, sunscreen and towel as needed.



# Vision

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## Youth Ministry



“THERE ARE SOME GREAT ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE MONTH OF JULY. HOST FAMILY HOUSE PARTIES AND VALLEY FAIR!”

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
7/4	<i>Independence Day</i>	—
7/6	Host Family House Party @ Larson's 516 Homestead Rd., Mankato 507-420-6408	6-9 pm
7/13	HFHP @ Edward's 48811 State Hwy. 68, Lake Crystal 507-947-3982	6-10 pm
7/20	HFHP @ Winch's 311 Royal Rd., Mankato 507-344-0199	6-9 pm
7/21	Valley Fair Trip	8 am-10 pm
7/27	HFHP @ Burton's 6 Indian Creek Rd., Mankato 507-469-5041	5-9 pm



### Host Family House Party Details for July

July 6 @ the Larson's: Park Games & Sloppy Joes - Bring clothes to run in

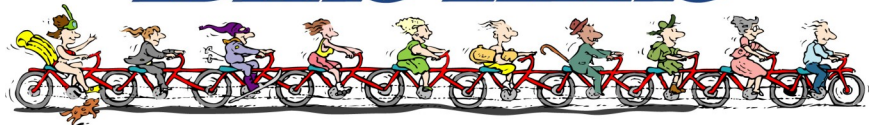
July 13 @ the Edward's: Weenie Roast & Night Games - Bring clothes to get dirty/wet

July 20 @ the Winch's: Tacos & Cell Phone Hunt - Bring your cell phone

July 27 @ the Burton's: Bike Ride & Hot Dog/Marshmallow Roast - Bring a bike to the  
Burton's



## *Bike Hike*



## Children's Ministry

### Nursery Schedule

Londa Krueger is our Nursery Coordinator. If you would like to help out in the nursery just give her a call at (507) 385-1374

Date	Time	Infants	Preschool
July 3	9:00 10:30	Matt & Kristi Borowy Angie Cherney & Jodi Mansfield	Todd & Lori Coyour Janet Johnson & Sam Mansfield
July 10	9:00 10:30	Joey & Shannon Ruzic Scott & Angie Hoffman	Carolyn Baker & Amber Lundsten Jody Bryant & Family
July 17	9:00 10:30	Mike & Kari Hennager Carol Edwards	Melanie Burton & Abby Cherney Sarah Ruggless & Jan Johnson
July 24	9:00 10:30	Dawn & Natalie White Candace Kolander & Monica West	Rick & Londa Krueger Caryl Zernehel & Jennifer Neufeld
July 31	9:00 10:30	Chad & Brooke Riley Shawn & Gwen Berry	Kevin & Gwen Case Claussen Girls



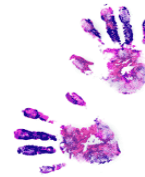
### Fall Planning

We are in the process of evaluating our children's programs from last year and planning for our fall programs. If you have any comments or suggestions for us in our evaluation and planning process, please contact Donna

Nelson, Children's Ministry Director. You may reach me by phone at 507-388-1509 or email me at [nbrunna@gmail.com](mailto:nbrunna@gmail.com)

Please contact me also if you would like to help in our programs in the fall or have questions

about helping in nursery, Sunday School, Awana, Kid's Praise, Children's Christmas program, or the Harvest Party.



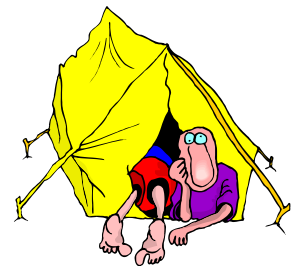
"WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF EVALUATING OUR CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS FROM LAST YEAR AND PLANNING OUR FALL PROGRAMS."

### Camping News

We have 13 campers going to Trout Lake Camp this month.

Anthony Mansfield  
Jace Hague  
Kirsten Peters  
Aaron Winch  
Evelynne Larson  
Ashley Anderson  
Amber Lundsten

Sam Mansfield  
Tyla Krueger  
Megan Peters  
Jordan Hathaway  
Jacob Larson  
Rachel Anderson



Thank you to all who have given to the camp fund so we could help in paying part of their registrations.

Please pray for them as they go and that this will be a life changing week for each of them.

# Vision

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## Children's Ministry



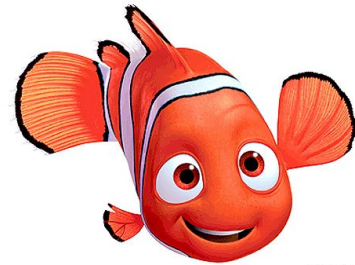
We had an outstanding week at Sonsurf Beach VBS! 86 children were ministered to throughout the week with over 50 volunteers involved in making this event happen. Fun in Jesus was had by all! (just ask the adults too!)

## Thank You to all the Volunteers

that helped to make **VBS** great!

We appreciate so much your servant hearts and love for children.

**Assembly Leader:** Shawn Berry  
**Music Leaders:** Jennifer Reeves, Alyssa Winch  
**Technical Crew:** Heather Milton, Mike Jensen, Glenn Winch  
**Drama Team:** Rob Milton, Julie Carlblom, Elizabeth Banfield, Luke Milton  
**Beach Bible Lesson:** Carol Edwards  
**Summer Games:** Harrison Musser, Rich Delestre, Kale Burton, Youth Group Kids  
**Snack Shack:** Jan Johnson, Gretchen Bohl, Susan Peterson  
**Surf Shop / Crafts:** Lori Coyour, Jodell Anderson, Gwen Case  
**Island Missions:** Cita Maignes  
**Publicity:** Jerry Oman & Random Acts Group  
**Registration:** Diane Peters, Kristy Borowy  
**Preschool Teacher:** Donna Nelson  
**Preschool Helpers:** LeAnn Wilcox, Monica West, Lauren Daly, Rachel Anderson, Candace Kolander, Jody Bryant  
**Kindergarten:** Carolyn Baker, Evelynne Larson  
**1<sup>st</sup> Grade:** Carissa Delestre, Kirsten Peters, Michelle Scott  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** Londa Krueger, Jenny Cachiaras, Chelsey Cummings  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:** Cindy Larson, Alyssa Winch, Mary Hale  
**4<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Gwen Berry, Melissa Alexander, Elizabeth Banfield  
**5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grades:** Dani Burroughs, Brent Pearson  
**Nursery:** Lori Nelson, Abby Bailey, Angie Cherney  
**Provided Snacks:** Jan Johnson, Kirsten Peters, Binette Goebel, Monica West, Amber Rick, Angie Cherney, LeAnn Wilcox, Michelle Scott, Abby Bailey  
**Set Up / Decorating:** Berry Family, Dani Burroughs, Mike Jensen, Larsen Family, Winch Family  
**Co-Directors:** Rachael Winch, Ann Winch



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## Senior Adults

### Men's Coffee & Bible Study

9:00 a.m. Monday's

### Women's Coffee & Bible Study

9:00 a.m. Monday's



### Senior Adult Lunch

12:00 Noon, Wed., July 20

This will be a potluck dinner



### Stitch 'N Time

1:30 p.m., Tues., July 26



## The Annual MIBC "2nd Half for Him" Pig Roast!

Mark your calendars for the annual Pig Roast held at Oak Haven Church in Ham Lake, MN. Enjoy friends, food, and a great musical program by the Alzen Family!

#### Where:

Oak Haven Church  
1555 Constance Blvd.  
Ham Lake, MN

#### When:

Thursday, August 18th  
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Cost: \$10

To register contact the church office for a registration form.



"THERE ARE

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PIG ROAST &

PRIME TIMERS

ISLAND GET-

AWAYS."

## Prime Timers Get-Aways

Come to the "Islands"! Let the warmth of God's family surround you!

Choose a 3 or 4 day retreat. "Island Hospitality" from our warm and caring staff. Dining at its finest. Two person room with private shower/bath. Cozy fireside lounge. *Come! Relax! Enjoy!*

Dates to choose from are: Mon., Sept. 19-Thurs., Sept. 22 (\$169)

Mon., Sept. 26-Wed., Sept. 28 (\$145)      Mon., Oct. 17-Wed., Oct. 19 (\$145)

Mon., Oct. 24-Wed., Oct. 26 (\$145)

To register contact the church office for a registration form. Hurry! They fill up fast!

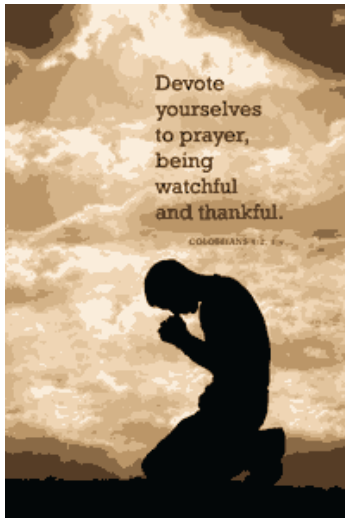


# Vision

## Praise & Prayers



There is a prayer group that meets on Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. to pray for our attendees, their families & friends, and those in our community. If you would like to be part of this group, contact Suanne Banfield at (507) 388-4432 or [banfield@hickorytech.net](mailto:banfield@hickorytech.net) or come and meet us at church on Wednesdays.



- ◆ Praise for the success of **Vacation Bible School**
- ◆ Pray for **Bruce & Janet Johnson's sister-in-law & nephew** who was severely burned in a gas explosion
- ◆ Pray for **Christian & Erica Kohs** in the loss of Christian's grandma and grandpa
- ◆ Pray for **Jim Moore** who is undergoing chemo & radiation therapy
- ◆ Pray for **those devastated by tornado damage** around the US
- ◆ Pray for **Dan & Kay Karvonen** in the loss of their son, Stephen, and for **Stephen's wife & 3 children** as they grieve his passing
- ◆ Pray for our **Missionaries of the Month: Jami Strandberg**
- ◆ Pray for **God's leading and blessing** in our days of growth & change
- ◆ Pray that **Bethel** will be a church that is culturally relevant & a transforming power in our community
- ◆ Pray that we will see **people coming to faith** in Jesus at Bethel on a regular basis
- ◆ Pray that **we all reach out** to others & plant seeds of hope in Jesus
- ◆ Pray that **we as a congregation** will be able to warmly welcome & incorporate all of the new people God brings our way
- ◆ Pray for our **sister churches in Votlivka & Tenovka, Ukraine & Cadunan, Philippines**
- ◆ Pray for the **peace of Jerusalem**, Psalm 122:6
- ◆ Pray for the **speedy resolution** to the crisis in Iraq & Afghanistan



### Family & Friends Serving Overseas:

- ◆ **Nick Berry** - nephew of Shawn & Gwen Berry
- ◆ Pray for **our troops** around the world

## MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH - Jami Strandberg

Jami Strandberg is originally from Bloomington, Minnesota, but she has a strong Mankato connection. Jami attended Bethel Baptist for several years in the late 1980's while she was a grad student at MSU. She was appointed in 2001 as a missionary to Mexico with Converge Worldwide (BGC), and we as a church have supported her with prayer and financially since then.



Jami lives in Irapuato in central Mexico. She attends and ministers through Dunamis Baptist Church. Some of her recent activities include:

- meeting with a small group in a home in the town of Abasolo for prayer and Bible study.
- teaching church planting classes with 2 different groups
- teaching a course in evangelism, which includes sharing the gospel with people in Irapuato
- leading weekly prayer meetings and giving messages on some Sunday evenings at Dunamis Baptist
- meeting weekly with a group of women who do not yet understand the gospel
- strategizing with Mexican Baptist leaders and missionaries about how to reach their six-state region of Mexico (less than 2% of the population are Christians)
- always looking for more opportunities to get to know people and to share Christ with them

Jami asks us to pray that God would give her wisdom in all ministry decisions, that she would know His will, walk in faith, and be moldable and useful as His instrument. Pray for the salvation of the women in her Bible study group, for a woman with breast cancer, for Jami's friend Ricardo (recently lost his wife and his sister), and for many others to come to know Jesus. Pray for Dunamis Baptist Church and all of its ministries--that God would lead and direct their steps and be glorified in all things.

Thank you for your part in supporting Jami's work for the kingdom and for your prayers!

“JAMI ASKS US TO PRAY THAT GOD WOULD GIVE HER WISDOM IN ALL MINISTRY DECISIONS, THAT SHE WOULD KNOW HIS WILL, WALK IN FAITH, AND BE MOLDABLE AND USEFUL AS HIS INSTRUMENT.”

## MISSIONARY VISIT ON JULY 31!

Gregg and Myriam Grano, former Bethel members, will be visiting on **Sunday, July 31**. The Granos are serving at Black Forest Academy in Kandern, Germany.

They will be sharing with us about their ministry during the worship services and the coffee time.



**That evening (Sunday, July 31) everyone is invited to an ice cream social at the Banfields' home at 7 p.m. Bring an ice cream topping to share.**

**Gregg and Myriam (and their boys) would love to spend more time with everyone.**



## Vision

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### Men & Women's Fall Retreats



Men & Women's Fall Retreats are right around the corner. It is time to start preparing now. Men's retreat is scheduled for September 16-18, 2011 and women's is September 23-25, 2011. Both retreats take place at the beautiful Trout Lake Camps. Look for brochures and registration forms on the table in the front foyer.

There is also a brochure about Buddy Check that is happening on July 23, 2011 also at Trout Lake Camps. They would like to reconnect with you. It is a chance to celebrate the past and get excited about the future. To register online at [troutlakecamps.org](http://troutlakecamps.org) or by calling 218-543-4565.

"TO CATCH THE READER'S ATTENTION, PLACE AN INTERESTING SENTENCE OR QUOTE FROM THE STORY HERE."

### Support Group

The National Alliance on Mental Illness-Mankato offers the Connection Support Group **every Thursday** at 6:30-8:00 p.m. This is for anyone who lives with a mental illness.

There is also a support group for family mem-



bers. It meets the **2nd & 4th Thursdays** of the month at 6:30 p.m. Both groups meet here at Bethel.



### Overflowing Lost & Found



Many of you are missing items left here at church. We have a surplus we cannot store. Please check out the Lost & Found tables in the Flow the next 2 weeks to take home your belongings. Anything left after that will be donated to the needy. Contact the office if you are missing more valuable items...cell phones, keys, etc...

Transformed by the love of Jesus Christ.



BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

1250 Monks Ave.  
Mankato, MN 56001  
(Across from All Seasons Arena)  
Phone: 507-345-4011  
Texts: 507-291-9981  
Fax: 507-345-4008  
E-mail:  
office@bethelmankato.com  
Website:  
www.bethelmankato.com

*Senior Pastor: Dr. David J. Banfield*  
*Pastor of Adult Ministries: Dr. Bruce Nelson*  
*Pastor of Student Ministries: Harrison Musser*  
*Pastor of Worship Ministries: Rev. Glenn Winch*  
*Pastoral Intern: Christian Kohs*

### Summer Sunday Worship Services

Family/Traditional	9:00 AM
Contemporary	10:30 AM

Nursery is Available During All Services

**BETHEL IS  
COMMITTED TO:**

**Connecting people to  
God and others**

**Equipping people to  
serve God and others**

**Engaging people in  
service for God and  
others**

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## We're on the Web!

[www.bethelmankato.com](http://www.bethelmankato.com)

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### **Pastor Dave's Corner-Continued**

tions that I want to share with you briefly.

First, we need a clear vision of what God has in store for us. I have said for many years that we should be a church of 1000. Our community can support it, but more importantly our community needs it. God wants us to be a vital, growing church that is a major influence in this community. This community needs a strong Evangelical church. If not us, who? If not now, when?

Second, we need to understand that we cannot stay where we are. It is not that where we are right now is a bad place. It isn't. That is

part of the problem. It is too easy for us to become comfortable where we are and lose sight of the greater things God wants to do in and through us. The hard reality is that when a church stops actively pursuing growth they begin to die. For most churches it is a slow and often painful death. God is not done with Bethel yet. Our life-cycle is not complete.

Third, we need to be committed to doing what it takes to move from here to there. You can have a clear understanding of where you are and where you would like to be and still remain stalled. The fuel that will move us

forward is our enthusiasm to see God do amazing things among us. He wants to do those things. The question is will we stay camped on the far shore or risk crossing the river?

It is time to cross the river. Ephesians 3:20-21 **Now to him who is able to 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, for ever and ever! Amen.**

***"Go The Distance"***

To see how you can participate, go to page 4 in this letter.

