

# Bethany Beacon

## Special Interest Articles:

- Leadership Training
- Church Picnic
- Extraordinary Women's Conference

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## Right Sizing *By Pastor Eric*

Downsizing has been in the news for the last few years. Companies are letting people go because they don't have enough work. Unless jobs are lost, business will survive. Downsizing is about accepting a future with fewer accomplishments and results. It is about survival. We at Bethany are not focused on downsizing. We are not here to survive. We are here to do great things for God. I believe that God has an incredible future planned for our church and that we will be a transforming presence in the lives of many people to come.

Last month, when I met with the Elders, Deacons and Trustees for our joint meeting, we talked about our future and God's plans for Bethany. We also talked about the challenges we face. Have you ever noticed that in life we tend to be our own biggest impediment? In our efforts to do more, we at Bethany have recruited more. But as the profile of Bethany has naturally evolved over the years, our way of carrying out ministries has not and, as a result, we have become in some ways, an obstacle to ourselves.

At our joint meeting we agreed that we have too many people serving on boards based on the size of our congregation. In order to fill every seat and every position, we need to grow by over 20 people. Because of this environment, our energy tends to be more focused on filling "chairs" and less focused on filling the pews. We have made the decision to rightsize our church.

*Rightsizing is the method of reducing a workforce to an optimal size.* Trying to elect 24 officers\* for a church of less than 100 people has been counterproductive. This year, our average attendance has been 79. It was time to examine ways to optimize our ministry force.

We have agreed that we will work toward a Deacon board of 10 people. This amount will enable the Deacons to carry out the ministries for which they have been ordained. Other hospitality services will be carried out in ways that don't require as many people or take the focus off ordained ministries. The Elders and Trustees have reexamined their purposes. Our constitution has defined the work of the Trustees to be that of administering to the financial needs of the church; ie; buying, selling, leasing property, insurance, etc. In other words, it is not necessary to elect people to carry out building maintenance. (We don't elect people to serve on teams such as worship, mission, or Christian Ed., why are we electing people to oversee the upkeep of our building?) Because our Elders have already been doing the work of Trustees (as defined by our polity) the two committees have determined to follow the steps that many other church have been doing for a while now. That is, they will become one board so that those who are elected to be Elders will simultaneously serve as Trustees. We will continue our building maintenance through

a Building and Grounds team. I want to be clear about some things. First, I have always been impressed by the people of Bethany. Your commitment and care to service is one of the attributes that inspired me during my interview process. Rightsizing the church has nothing to do with disappointment. It is about maximizing our resources. Second, nothing is being taken away from anyone. Those who have been elected to serve will have the opportunity to carry out their terms. We have entrusted you with certain privileges and I as your pastor and we as a congregation have faith in your leadership. Finally, I don't want ministries to think that things are being taken away from them. I do want our ministries to understand that we have been ordained to carry out particular responsibilities based on the purposes of our committees. By focusing on our purpose we will be able to accomplish more. Ultimately, we know it's about God and when we serve Him first, God always makes a way for everything else to come together.

Blessings,  
Pastor Eric

*\* 9 Elders, 7 Trustees, and 18 Deacons*

**A Puzzle!**

Submitted by Joan Keener

Titus 3:5a: says, "Not by works of righteousness that we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us."

Here is a puzzle to help us understand the verse.

Using the alphabet and numbers as follows:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Nothing short of God's love will take us to heaven.

We may try works but we will fall short of this

H A R D W O R K

- - - - - = 98%

We may try learning everything we can

K N O W L E D G E

- - - - - = 96%

We may try giving our money to good causes and the church

O F F E R I N G S

- - - - - = 99%

We could never get to heaven by our works but how thankful we are that God showed and extended His love and mercy by having His son Jesus, die on the cross for our sins.

H I S M E R C Y

- - - - - = 100%

And the Love of God goes beyond all measure!

L O V E O F G O D

- - - - - = 101%



## Deacons – from July and August

Submitted by Marilyn Buske

The Deacons met on July 18<sup>th</sup> for their monthly meeting. There were ten present. We received a "certificate of appreciation" from Love, Inc. for the contributions from our Bethany congregation, of personal items for the Paper Angel closet. These are distributed before our monthly meeting to people who have been screened by Love, Inc. This month there were four families who received some of these items.

It was reported that the Sam's club card the Deacons were issued had expired. We discussed whether the Deacons should purchase another one for \$35 or buy from a closer area. We will do some comparison shopping and decide at the next ministry.

It was also noted that many of the Deacons committees do not have members whose terms expire in 2013 so we will be encouraging our active members to get involved.

On August 15<sup>th</sup>, there were 7 members present. Hope reported that she has donated 20 of the old pew Bibles to Carpenter's place, 16 to the Rescue Mission and there are 14 left to donate.

Personal needs: Five clients were scheduled and two came. We need tissues, toothbrushes, shampoo, and cleaning needs.

### LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP September 28 and October 5 7-9pm

I'm excited about an opportunity here at Bethany. We are full of ministries. This leadership workshop is about receiving training to maximize those ministries by better utilizing our resources.

In this workshop we will examine; Who, What, Why, and How. Who are some of the great Biblical leaders? What defined their greatness and what does it mean to be a leader in the church today? Why is leadership necessary? How will we carry it out?

A church run by one leader can do great things. A church run by multiple leaders united in mission and vision can do amazing things, world changing things.

If you are the chair of a committee or in any leadership position; i.e. a teacher, please rsvp for this course by calling the church or emailing me at [ekeller@bethpc.org](mailto:ekeller@bethpc.org).

## Mission Update

Submitted by Ginny Falnes

### September Mission of the Month

Rockford Jail Ministry Watch the Worship bulletin in September for further information.

### BETHANY LIBRARY

#### ENJOY READING?

Have you taken a few moments to browse in our library? There are many good books; novels, nonfiction, study books and much more. Billy Graham has written several books through the time of his long ministry. His autobiography, "Angels" and "Born Again" to name a few. The library is there for your use and enjoyment! Read a good book today!

### THANK YOU FROM THE BUDGET AND STEWARDSHIP TEAM

We on the Budget and Stewardship Team would like to thank all of you who have freely given to pay off our capital loan. When we refinanced our loan, one option was to borrow \$28,000 (the cost of repairs needed) and refinance an existing debt for an additional 15 years. We instead challenged our community to raise half the money, borrow the difference and refinance for 10 years. We have surpassed all expectations! This past month, we were all pleased to hear Paul Brown announce that a second large payment toward our principal had been made. Our ten year loan of \$52,000 will now be paid off at least 32 months early! This is a savings of \$8,300 over the life of the loan and a \$35,000 savings had we not done any fundraising and refinanced with a 15 year loan. Thank you for your generosity and building up the ministries of Bethany!

### ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

The Church picnic will be held at  
Schoonmaker Park on September 11th  
10500 Ventura Boulevard in Machesney Park

Arrive between 11:30 and 12:00

Picnic at 12:00

Wear your picnic clothes to church

**Extraordinary Women**



**Conference 2011**

November 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>  
Rockford Metro Centre

Who: Julie Clinton, Sheri Rose Shepherd, Thelma Wells, Elisa Morgan, Anita Renfro, Michael O'Brien, Meredith Andrews and Mark Schultz.

How much: \$71, includes lunch

Register by September 11<sup>th</sup> to Jen Keller with a check payable to the Bethany Women's Association.

**MEETING DATES (5-2-11) (6-6-11) (8-1-11)  
BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT MAY & JUNE & JULY 2011**

**MEMBERS ATTENDANCE:**

WALLACE ZIPPERER  
CHERYL OLSON  
BRUCE WYATT  
SANDY HEWITT  
ERIC KELLER

**SUBJECT DISCUSSED:**

BOILER ROOM LEAK  
OUR LAST CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY

**PLANNED & IN PROGRESS:**

REPAIR SHELF IN SHED  
REPLACE NEIGHBOR'S CONNER POST'S  
COVER STRONGHOLD DRAWING  
BABY CHANGING STATION (NATHEX BATHROOM)  
REPAIR NARTHEX CEIL TILES  
REPAIR LEAK IN BOILER ROOM WALL (EAST-SIDE)  
REPAIR SANCTUARY WINDOW SILLS (SOUTH-SIDE)  
REPAIR CHAIR LIFT NATHEX DOOR (PART OF DOOR IS FIXED)  
REPAIR JESUS SIGN LIGHTS  
MOUNT STAT CONVEYANCE NUMBER TO CHAIR LIFT  
GET CHAIR LIFT ANNUAL SAFTY INSPECTED  
UP DATE PER MAR FIRE CODES  
UNCLOG WOMAN FLOOR DRAIN  
REPAIR WOMANS EXHAUST FAN  
READJUST NARTHEX DOORS  
FIX ALL DOORS SO THEY WILL CLOSE

**COMPLETED IN 2011:**

CHANGED OUT VALVE IN MEN TOILET  
REPAIRED STRIKE PLATE ON DOOR FRAME (AIR HANDLER ROOM)  
REMOVED WOOD FROM STORAGE ROOM  
REQUESTED STATE CONVEYANCE NUMBER FOR CHAIR LIFT  
ADJUSTED NARTHEX DOORS SO THEY CLOSE  
PICKED UP NEW NARTHEX CEIL TILES  
CHOIR ROOM RENTAL AGREEMENT SIGNED

**BUILDING & GROUNDS EXPENSES 2011**

	BUILDING & GROUNDS	CUSTODIAN SUPPLIES
JAN.	\$531.98	\$61.36
FEB.	\$854.43	\$38.34
MAR.	\$135.90	\$124.46
APR.	\$402.12	\$131.91
MAY	\$179.67	\$17.84
JUN.	\$49.82	\$102.07
JUL.	\$58.20	\$0.00

**REPORTED BY JAMES WALLACE ZIPPERER  
815-636-1767**

## September Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 20px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Women's Fall Brunch September 24<sup>th</sup> See Marilyn Buske for all details</b></p> </div>		
<p><b>4</b> 9:00am: Sunday School 9:00am: EZ Choir 10:15am: Worship Celebration with communion 11:45am: Chime Choir</p>	<p><b>5</b> Labor day Office closed 6:30pm: Buildings and Grounds</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b> Session Reports Due 5:30pm: Bethany night of prayer 6:30pm: Praise team practice 7:30pm: Chancel choir practice</p>	<p><b>8</b></p>		
<p><b>11</b> 9:00am: Sunday School 10:15am: Worship Celebration 12pm Church picnic</p>	<p><b>12</b> 7pm: Session</p>	<p><b>13</b> 7pm: Uriel circle</p>	<p><b>14</b> 6:30pm: Praise team practice 7:30pm: Chancel choir practice</p>	<p><b>15</b> Beacon Articles Due! 9am: BYKOTA circle 7pm: M&amp;M circle</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p>
<p><b>18</b> 9:00am: Sunday School 10:15am: Worship Celebration 11:45am: Chime Choir</p>	<p><b>19</b> 7pm: Deacons Meeting</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b> 12:30pm; Hannah circle 6:30pm: Praise team practice 7:30pm: Chancel choir practice</p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b> Women's Association Fall Brunch</p>
<p><b>25</b> 9:00am: Sunday School 10:15am: Worship Celebration 11:45am: Chime Choir</p>	<p><b>26</b> 7pm: Christian Ed</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b> 6:30pm: Praise team practice 7pm: Leadership training 7:30pm: Chancel choir practice</p>	<p><b>29</b> 6pm: Parents prayer group</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 20px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="text-align: center;">BYKOTA circle meets September 15<sup>th</sup> at 9am at Spring Garden Restaurant and 10am at the church.</p> </div>

***Thank you to the dedicated nursery helpers in September.  
September 4—Dave & Jennifer Bock  
September 11—Terri Bailey & Youth  
September 18—Homer & Karen Troy  
September 25—Deb Krug & Lori Mitchell***



**BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN**

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**We're on the Web!**

*See us at:*

[www.bethpc.org](http://www.bethpc.org)

**Staff Directory**

Eric Keller, Senior Pastor  
Julie Peet, Office Administrator  
Peder Carlson, Pastor Emeritus  
Marlys Marsh, Pianist  
Tim Krug, Worship Director  
Jack Hoffman, Chime Choir Director  
Matt Spencer, Custodian

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