

THE

Bugle

July 2016
A Publication of
Bethany Christian Church

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

SUNDAY MORNING:

9:00 A.M.
Worship
Sunday School
Kids Church

10:30 A.M.
Worship
Sunday School

COMBINED SERVICE JULY 3 | 10:30am



Coffee, Milk, Juice, & Donuts at 10am!!

Upcoming Events

- 7/2 Office Closed
- 7/4 Office Closed
- 7/5-7/7 3rd Grade Camp (at The Ark)
- 7/7 Holiday World (Jr & Sr High)
- 7/8 Movie Night (family event, 6:35 pm)
- 7/10-7/14 VBS (6:00 - 8:30 pm)
- 7/14 Bereavement Support (7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall)
- 7/17-7/22 Jr. High Camp (at The Ark)
- 7/24-7/29 Sr. High Camp (at The Ark)
- 7/27 Ft. Wayne Zoo Trip (family event)

STAFF:
Bob Bell,
Senior Minister

Chris Bell,
Students

Gabriel Ohmes,
Worship

Tim Fair,
Discipleship

Tisha Schultz,
Children



Ball State Project



As one of their service projects, the 1-6th graders raised money to purchase flowers for the Ball State Campus House and then planted them on June 12th. Afterward, they enjoyed cookies and ice cream!

Sideways

In 1989, Australian cartoonist Michael Leunig was asked to produce a weekly cartoon for an Australian newspaper. He wondered if the paper might be willing to carry a small spiritual message in the form of his cartoons to counter-balance the anxiety often caused by the daily news. Since that time, two collections have been gathered into books: "A Common Prayer" and "The Prayer Tree."

One prayer, included in "A Common Prayer: a Cartoonist Talks to God," confused me just enough to cause me to read it again. It was in the second, third, and fourth readings that I had to smile at the wisdom of the prayer.

*God give us rain when we expect sun.
 Give us music when we expect trouble.
 Give us tears when we expect breakfast.
 Give us dreams when we expect a storm.
 Give us a stray dog when we expect congratulations.
 God play with us, turn us sideways and around.
 Amen*

My heart and attention are more quickly turned to God, not when the day goes as expected, not when my everything adds up and balances out, not when $1 + 1 = 2$, but when things do not go as expected and do not add up and balance out. It's the unexpected which causes me to stop and pay attention. It is the sudden change of events which force me to no longer run on auto-pilot. Those are the

Bob Bell

times when I recognize the intricacies of life are many and varied. Those are the times when I realize I am not in control. Those are the times which cause me to stop and look around.

I will be honest, I like my schedule to work, everything to add up, and for it all to balance out. I do not like when things do not go as I had planned. Yes, I like spontaneity, but only when it is planned spontaneity! I have found that dealing with the unexpected and not being able to control events makes me feel small. I don't like to feel small. I prefer to feel powerful.

But then I read Leunig's prayer and realize that it is only when I embrace the fact that I am small that I also begin to get a glimpse that God is big. God is BIG. The truth of God's bigness causes me to take a deep breath and relax. Trying to be big myself by controlling the outcomes and end results is exhausting and seldom beneficial. But accepting my smallness and trusting God's bigness removes the burden from my back and the worry from my mind.

So, God play with us, turn us sideways and around. Show me what I already know to be true, but act as if it's not, that I am small. But remove my fear as you remind me all over again that you are big.

Project 765



On June 16, 21 students from Bethany's Student Ministry participated in Project 765, a service day for teens. This year the focus was on cleaning up the schools in Anderson.



Hospitality

Tim Fair

You ever have those moments where this particular idea or concept just keeps coming up in conversations with people from different circles in your life? Usually when something like this happens in my life and I keep having these similar conversations, I know I need to pay attention. I need to pay attention because I believe that is one way that God is trying to move me somewhere.

Lately the theme has been hospitality. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews encourages us to practice hospitality to strangers, "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it." Often times, it is difficult to love and include those who do not seem to fit our opinions of the righteous or do not meet our expectations of what we think good behavior is. What I am learning though is that often what I need to do is be available for people. Bob Goff often says that people follow availability not vision. How available are we to people, and not just to the people in our lives to whom it is easy and beneficial for us to be available?

What I have found is that often when my heart is filled with prejudices, worries and fears, there is often very little room for a stranger or for someone that doesn't think or act like me. Henri Nouwen says that "Real hospitality is not exclusive but inclusive, requires a radical openness, and creates a space for a wide range of human experience." It can be a scary thing when boundaries that had been

there for a long time are pushed out and walls that we had in place for a long time begin to break down.

We often enter into some relationships with people who live differently than how we may live and make decisions that we may not agree with. It is way too easy to simply throw out our opinions and thoughts on how they should live and the decisions they should make without first entering into their story and learning who they are and how they got to the spot that they are in. Henri Nouwen again says that it gets real when we decide to first enter into this place to "suffer with another in a community of equals in the solidarity of powerlessness." Often times, the best thing we can offer anyone are the gifts of availability and hospitality. We get to address our brokenness, live in and from our brokenness because of who Jesus is and the love and grace that He offers us. And if we have been given anything, it's so that we can give it away.

One of the many things that I am learning is that I don't have to wear the hat of judgment or sit on the seat of being a judge, and neither do you. We get to offer hospitality to others. We get to be available to others. We get to love others well. Jesus tells us not to judge in Matthew 7:1. We get to include and invite and love others into this new way of living. We get to put on display this new life that Jesus offers.

Jesus tells us that the world will know that we belong to Him by how we love.

High School Grads



Shelby Beltz



Faith Culp



Sanna Walden



Worship Arts BBQ at the Ohmes' Home



In appreciation to all our volunteers!

THE BETHANY BUGLE

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JULY 2016



Care Ministry Birthdays

Please remember the birthdays of our shut-ins with cards and visits.

Corrina Chambers - 7/7/18

1910 Lindberg Road
Anderson, IN 46012 642-5996

Norma Van Metre - 7/22/34

Edgewater Woods - Rm. 103
1809 N. Madison Ave.
Anderson, IN 46011 442-1292

New Decisions

Shelby Beltz - 6/5/16

Amanda Sims - 6/26/16

Births

Lillian Skye Crawford - 6/19/16

Parents: Brandon & Vanessa Crawford

Deaths

Larry Bauer - 5/28/16

Larry Burns - 5/30/16

Husband of Donna Burns; Cousin of Helen Flowers, Phyllis Harless & Nancy Rushton

Viola Walters - 6/3/16

Mother of Kenny Walters; Sister-in-law of Florencie Walters

Juanita Braswell Gray - 6/6/16

Mother of Sharon (Wayne) Priest

Vernon Root - 6/12/16

Father of Barbara Baugh

Madonna Jack - 6/18/16

Mother of Elizabeth DeLong

Statistics as of May 2016:

GENERAL BUDGET

- May Offerings \$71,292
- Year-to-date budget needs \$352,846
- Year-to-date actual giving \$322,195
- Amount under YTD \$30,650
- Budgeted weekly income \$16,038
- Average weekly income \$14,645

FAITH PROMISE

Funds sent to C.M.F. for support of the Kineman Family (Individuals/classes)

- May offerings \$3,006
- YTD offerings \$13,777

AVG WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

- Year-to-date 541 (as of 5/29/16)

Please contact the church office (765-643-5713) if you would like to request giving envelopes or set up your gifts for automatic withdrawal.

The office will be closed July 4th



Help bless the

TEACHERS of HIGHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

We are collecting:

- bottled water
- individually wrapped candy (for goody bags)
- loose leaf or bound paper
- pencils



Drop off
donations
by **JULY 24th**
at **CONNECTING POINT**