

The Spotlight

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May 2010

Northwest Conference Annual Meeting - Pastor Mark

The 126th annual meeting of the Northwest Conference was held at Crossroads Church, Woodbury, MN April 22-24. The following is a brief report of my time spent at the conference with a few data points that might be of interest. A packet of information relating to the conference is available in the church office.

The goal of the NWC staff is "to increase the level of health and vitality in our churches by identifying, developing, resourcing, and supporting local church pastoral and lay leadership." We have a great crew of people on board to help accomplish that goal.

The first day and a half of the meeting was devoted to ministerial issues and the rest of the time spent on conference business with delegates representing their respective churches. There are the traditional worship experiences and fellowship time in the evenings which I was not a part of due to my home/farm responsibilities.

From the Ministerial Association meeting two items of interest coming from our discussion on Human Sexuality and the Ethical Principles for Those Serving in Ministry were (1) the slow, silent intrusion of the State on the institution of marriage and (2) the slow, not so silent intrusion of the Covenant

on matters of conscience concerning women in ministry.

Concerning the first, we pastors are simply agents of the State when it comes to performing marriages and the State is putting more responsibility on those agents. Prediction: pastors will tell their parishioners to get married by a JP and then come to church for a 'service of blessing.'

Concerning the second, the Covenant continues to push its agenda of egalitarianism. Many of us Covenant pastors are complimentarians (if you don't understand the terms, ask me). It will be interesting to see what the future holds in this regard both locally and nationally.

All the written reports are available in our church office. Bullets:

- There are 20 new and developing churches in the NWC, seven which became members of the conference this year.
- The Conference is in pretty good shape financially but always in need in order to meet increasing demands.
- Minnehaha Academy is a shining star in our midst. There is a new president this year, Dr. Donna Harris overseeing 1,080 students from PK thru grade 12.
- Ministries of the Covenant such as Parish Nurses, Covenant Women and Camping are vital and active.

Friendship Place - April Newsletter Excerpts

Friendship Place tries to be a role model and friend to children living in the Meadow Park area in southeast Rochester. We started about 15 years ago with a VBS program and a "Monday After School" club at Meadow Park Church of Christ. By 1999, with a generous donation from 1st Baptist Church, an apartment was rented and a regular after school program began. In 2003, we moved into the house across the street from the apartments, our current location. One of the volunteers, Greg Parker, lives on the second floor and helps maintain the property. The program director, Mandy Mirau works there every school day. Volunteers show up on a regular basis in the afternoons and evenings.

Being in the neighborhood gives credibility and allows us to continuously model our values. The neighborhood children

stop by to see if we are open or even just for a drink of water. We fix their bikes, arbitrate disputes and visit them in their homes. Recently a little boy said to one our volunteers, "You are the only ones that care about this neighborhood."

We still need volunteers for our summer program from 1-3 p.m. During the weeks of July 5-9 and July 12-16. Volunteers will read with children, participate in games and crafts, and generally just have fun with them in a one-to-one fashion. Friendship Place staff will lead the sessions, but we need plenty if volunteers to work and play with the children. Contact Greg Stewart if you can help or call Linda Richardson (753-2280)

Greg Stewart
Board member and volunteer

Bible Bee Coming to SRCC

Salem Road Covenant Church will be a local host site this summer for the 2010 Bible Bee.

Sponsored by the Shelby Kennedy Foundation, the Bible Bee conducts summer family-discipleship activities that culminate in local Bible Bee contests held throughout the nation on August 28. Contestants will be asked to recite Scripture and answer Bible knowledge questions. There also will be a less-demanding "Timothy Tract" for families not interested in qualifying for the National Bible Bee.

Online registration opens May 1, with contestant materials arriving about June

1. More than 17,000 youth nationwide registered in 2009 for the local bees. Last year, 12 children from Minnesota advanced to the National Bee.

The top 100 students in each age division — primary (ages 7-10), junior (ages 11-14) and senior (15-18) — will be invited to compete in the National Bible Bee, November 11-13 at the Marriott Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center in Schaumburg, Illinois. A family discipleship conference will be held in conjunction with the National Bible Bee.

If you would like to help, or for more information, call Judy Boyum at 285-9912 or e-mail jboyum@poetworld.net.

Women's Ministry News

I would like to thank everyone for attending our Spring Fling. We had a great turnout and a great time. I know, I have a better appreciation for cast iron cookware now!! A HUGE thanks to my hard working co-workers: Linda Lewis, Lisa Lucas, and Danielle Hanson.

We have a Woman's conference opportunity in the fall (Sept 23-25th) in Indianapolis, IN -- called "*True Woman 10: now is the time.*" It is put on by Revive Our Hearts. The web site:

www.TrueWoman.com We would like to be able to purchase discount tickets. The cost for individuals is \$129. If there are 10 of us we can get this down to \$99. We are also looking into housing for this time. The sooner we know how many are going - the sooner we can send in registrations and firm up housing. There will be more about this in weeks to come. Brochures will be available out by the mailboxes.

Jeanette Lorang

Congratulations to our Graduates

On May 23, our four high school graduates will be honored with a breakfast in the youth building starting at 8:15 a.m. They will be recognized in our worship service followed by a reception in their honor after the service. Congratulations to Seth Boyum, Zechary Novinger, Stacy Parker, and Alexa Zerbe.

The following people are receiving advanced degrees:

Jacob Johnson graduates from St. Mary's University with a masters in Inter-

national Business and a masters in Geographic Information Science

Luke Johnson graduated in December from the University of Minnesota with a B.A. in Education and Kinesiology

Liz Mosbo VerHage receives her PHD in Theology and Ethics from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary on May 14.

Emily Schobel graduates from the University of North Dakota on May 15 with a masters in Clinical Laboratory Science.

Thank You Note

Dear Salem Road Family,

Thank you very much for the \$100 to help us minister to people at Macha Hospital in Zambia. We had two extra suitcases which cost \$200 each. Here is the receipt for one of the suitcases and the list of contents of both of the extras.

Blessings, David and Jeannie

See the note and list on the bulletin board. If you have extra suitcases, the Byers are always collecting suitcases to fill with medical supplies for Zambia and Ghana. The next trip is to Ghana in September. Contact Jeannie if you have large pieces of luggage to donate.

Lake Beauty Retreats

May 14-16 Mother Daughter Retreat

The speaker, Becky Dornbush from Hope Covenant in St. Cloud will explore the topic of beauty, inward and outward, and will talk about the differences between the world's definition of beauty and God's definition.

May 28-31 Memorial Day Family Camp

The speaker is John DuBall, pastor who planted New Day Covenant Church in Rochester this past year. He is passionate about helping others discover God's amazing love, healing, and hope.

Registration brochures for both of these are in the hall rack.

June Dates

June 5 - 8 - 12:00 Church Work Day

June 5 - 5:00 p.m. Barn Bash at Evingers' Help Pastor Mark kick off his sabbatical with fun on the farm for the whole family. Bring meat to grill and a dish to pass. You could bring a kite to fly. Square Dance in the hay loft. More details to come.

June 24 - 27 - Covenant Annual Meeting in St. Paul - Contact the church office by May 2 if you would like to represent our church as a delegate. This is a great opportunity to learn more about what's going on in our denomination. It is the 125th anniversary of the Covenant.

Weddings

Amy Evinger & Jesse Spampinato on May 22

Births

Joshua Ryan Byer on March 27

Parents: Brian & Sharon Byer

Grandparents: Dave & Jeannie Byer



- 1 - Bob Driscoll
- 9 - Quinn Robinson
- 9 - Zachary Lorang
- 12 - Andy Petersen
- 15 - Brielle Johnson
- 17 - Dwight Boyum
- 17 - Nan Halbmaier
- 21 - Mike Bjaastad
- 22 - Jonathan Lorang
- 23 - Micah Johnson
- 25 - Zechary Novinger
- 28 - Bruce Johnson
- 28 - Patty Iott
- 30 - Nancy Driscoll
- 31 - David Warner

May Anniversaries

- 16 - Luke & Jodi Ouverson
- 20 - Brian & Melissa Gillis
- 29 - Dave & Lynda Capps
- 30 - Dave & Linda Mosbo

Set Up

- 2 - Lorang
- 9 - Lucas
- 16 - Riegler
- 23 - Parker/Driscoll
- 30 - Naatz

Ushers

- Reimer
- Hanson
- Therneau
- Engstler
- Boyum

Greeters

- 2 - Halbmaier
- 9 - Driscoll
- 16 - Roberts
- 25 - Bredeson
- 30 - Lewis

Nursery

- Iott
- Johnson
- Hanson
- Driscoll
- Gustafson



Wanted: A Few Good Hands!

Imagine over 1500 Christians from many local churches working together to serve our city on a single day. Many of you have served on this one-day event of community service designed to show the love of Jesus all over Rochester. Mark your calendar for June 19 to help clean, repair, paint, landscape, & provide other services.

Beyond the schools and parks, this year's focus will remain on serving the needy and elderly. Our desire through CareFest is to build bridges of grace over

LBBC Town Hall Meeting

On May 18 at 7:00 p.m. Brian Alnes, Executive Director, will be here to present the Master Site Plan for Lake Beauty. This plan is the culmination of almost two years of prayerful and thoughtful consideration of the goals to pursue at LBBC in the next 20 years. You are encouraged to attend this meeting and come with your questions. All the churches who support LBBC will have the opportunity to hear Brian present the plan at one of nine churches in the district. Our church is the host site for Rochester Covenant and New Day besides SRCC and any others close by who couldn't attend their closer site. This site plan will be voted on at Lake Beauty's Annual Meeting on Oct. 30.

which we can share the Good News of Jesus with those we serve. We serve people without strings attached to show that Jesus is alive in us, reaching into our city to tangibly show His saving and restoring hope. Service to one another and to those outside of Christ, done with a humble spirit, contributes to the health and vitality of our church body and our city.

Larry Edmonson will be the site leader for our church. A site will be announced soon.

Schedule for the day

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| 8:15-9:00 a.m. | Check-in, Pick up t-shirt, team devotions |
| 9:00-4:30 p.m. | Serve our city! |
| 5-6 p.m. | BBQ celebration at Graham One! |



May 6

12:10 - 12:50 p.m. Prayer Gathering at the Government Center Council Chambers - 1st floor - 151 4th St. SE
7-8 p.m. Evening Prayer Gathering at Rochester Assembly of God Church, 4240 18 Ave. NW