

# The Encourager

*"Therefore encourage one another, and build up one another..." I Thess. 5:11*

**Bethesda Church**  
15033 Hwy. 13 South  
Prior Lake, MN 55372

Office: 952-226-6651  
Fax: 952-226-6652

www.bethesdachurch.com

### Inside this issue:

- Praise & Prayer 2
- Teachers' Training  
February Calendar 3
- "Sweetheart Banquet" 4

**The Encourager**

If you have an event or news you would like to have published, please submit articles to the church office by the third Tuesday of the month.

e-mail: bethesda@bethesdachurch.com

## Look on the Fields

by Pastor Mark Matychuk

It is a thrilling thing for us to anticipate the soon-coming, any-moment rapture of the church, the Body of Christ. When we truly focus our hearts on our heavenly hope it stirs us deeply with the love and grace of our heavenly Father. Jesus Christ's soon return effects us in so many ways, but perhaps the one of the most wonderful is in motivating and energizing us to live for Him. The time is short, let's be about the Lord's business...

We have often said to ourselves as a congregation, "we want what the Lords wants..." and truly we believe His priorities have served as the driving force of our move to Prior Lake. He has called us here,...to this place, to this community, to this field. In a host of ways we have seen how He has prepared the ground, the mission field around us and He wants us to see these fields as He sees them. In John 4 we find Christ interacting with His disciples saying, "Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest..." The Lord had an urgency and a sensitivity to the condition of the fields, that

the disciples did not have. He challenged them to "lift up their eyes and look on the fields", to look on the spiritual fields of men's souls.

As we continue in positive steps forward in ministry, we must occupy our hearts and minds as the Lord instructed. All around us are fields that God cares about. At times we recognize them as battle fields where we are to take a stand as good soldiers. (II Tim. 2:3) and fight the good fight. (I Tim. 1:18) Paul warns us of satan's devices (II Cor. 2:11) and of his schemes, (Eph. 6:11), and snares. (II Tim. 2:26) We know that as we seek to honor the Lord in all we do that God's enemies will oppose us in many ways. We need to be alert and keep our eyes on the battle field, and "having done all to stand firm." (Eph. 6:13)

The fields around us are also cultivated fields. Paul says of himself that, "he planted" and that Apollos, "watered". In the parable of the sower we see the importance of faithfully planting seed. But, we clearly must recognize that the field described is "God's field". (I Cor. 3:9) The field is His, and He is dealing with it and He alone gives the increase. God superintends the tilling of the fields. He summons the work-

ers to the task. In countless ways God has been working in Savage and Prior Lake before we even arrived. He has specifically summoned us here because He needs more workers in the fields. What a privilege to join God as "*laborers together with Him*" in the fields of men's soul's. Our eyes need to be on the task He has given in cultivating hard ground, planting good seed, and watering with love and grace.

Wonderfully, the Lord also describes the fields as harvest fields that are white in readiness. (John 4:35) I am convinced that the Lord could return at any moment and the urgency of that reality propels us forward with a critical message. The concern is always as we see in Luke 10:2, that "the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few..." Paul is very clear that God has "given to us the ministry of reconciliation." (II Cor. 5:18) We are the ones serving in this ambassadorial and harvesting role.

It has been a joy for us to pray for the neighborhoods around our church even as we are just getting to know the people. It is wonderful to sense the real burden God has put on our hearts to make a difference here as we labor in the fields He has given us. May God bless us to His glory are we "look on the fields."

## The Encourager Editor Retires

by Carol Anderson

Dorothy Rivenburg our long-time newsletter editor officially retired as of Dec 31, 2005. She has written articles and coordinated the newsletter for over 15 years!

While looking at old copies of the newsletter, the first editor was Gloria Hole back in March, 1988. It was called "Bethesda Ministries" for many years. Dorothy was asked to coordi-

nate it beginning August, 1989 and in January, 2003 it was renamed "The Encourager."

Over the years Dorothy has worked with many different pastors as well as a number of church secretaries. She said some of the pastors had a real flair for writing and they were always easy to work with. The secretaries worked on the mailing labels and the sorting and postage.

In the old days the newsletter was typed in columns and then cut and taped together to create the originals that were printed on photocopy machines and then the riso-graph printer. The original format was also printed on legal sized paper. In 1995 they began to type it completely on the computer.

There have been many

*(Continued on page 2)*



**"Sweetheart Banquet"**  
Thurs., Feb. 9, 5:30 p.m.

**Timber Lodge Steakhouse**  
Southtown Center  
Bloomington

## Bethesda Family &amp; Friends Prayer and Praise Requests

**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING** - Pray for our boards and committees as they share with us at our annual business meeting on Sun., Feb. 5, 12:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall.

**KAY HAAKENSEN** - Continues to recover from shoulder replacement surgery. Praise - it went very well.

**DARLENE CHERRY** - had surgery on Jan. 25 to replace her pacemaker. Praise - it went very well and she was able to go home the same day!

**JIM GUEST** - He is hospitalized at Fairview Southdale for physical therapy for his hip. He is also dealing with arthritis.

**ANDREA OSTERLUND** - Pray for doctors wisdom and for medications to bring healing of intestinal problems. She has missed a lot of school.

**AARON TRIPLETT** - Pray for doors to open for him as he continues to apply to medical schools. Pray for clear direction.

**KEN & MARY MUELLER** - Grace Ministries, Intl. - Writing Ministry in Portuguese. Pray for them as they travel to Southern California on a deputation assignment, February 1-14. They will be presenting their ministry with GMI in the grace churches in Anaheim and Riverside, California.

**ANGIE CARLSON** - (*Cousin-Myhra's & Matychuk's*) Angie continues to

make slow, steady progress following a car accident, Dec. 9. Pray for her family too as they continue to help Angie get well. Angie has been moved to Gillette Children's Hospital in St. Paul for continued therapy and healing. For updates and a place to send greetings to Trent & Sue go to <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/angiec>.



*With Sympathy*

**Ethel Benson** went home to be with the Lord on Sat., Jan. 28. She's the mother of Gretchen (Art) Matychuk and grandmother to Mark (Kathy) Matychuk; Pam (Chuck) Myhra; David (Nancy) Matychuk and Wayne (Karen) Matychuk. A funeral service will be held on Thurs., Feb. 9, 11:15 a.m. visitation, 12:00 p.m. service at Lakewood Memorial Chapel, 3600 Hennepin Ave. S., Minneapolis, 55408. There will be a luncheon following the service and interment at Bethesda Church, Prior Lake. Pray for the family at this time.

#### Birthdays

2-02 Joy Gowdy  
2-03 Lois Hendrickson  
2-07 Linnæ Knoll  
2-12 Linda Bowdin  
2-12 Angie Juneau  
2-14 Peggy Phillips  
2-18 Pam Myhra  
2-22 Kendra Hollenbeck  
2-26 Leah Hollenbeck  
2-27 Arthur Matychuk

#### Anniversaries

2-14 Don and Rindy Koukal

#### Missionary Birthdays/ Anniversaries

2-03 Isabelle Campos  
2-06 Nancy Spooner  
2-12 Jeffrey Green  
2-14 Zach Benton  
2-17 Joe and Michelle Campos  
2-17 James Lawley  
2-21 Joe Campos  
2-22 Lisa Crouse

### Dorothy Rivenburg

*Editor Retires...Continued from page 1.*

changes through the years but the message has been the same... to share the good news of the Gospel and to encourage each other in our walk with the Lord!

One of the favorite columns Dorothy began was "Wally, the Church Mouse." It seemed like Wally was everywhere checking on families and announcing special celebrations. Many folks would check on the Wally column first to see what was happening at Bethesda!

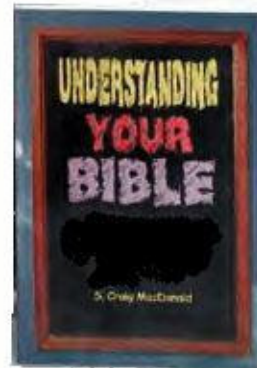
Dorothy, your sensitivity to what the Lord was doing and your wonderful way of putting on paper the heartbeat of our ministry will not be forgotten. As we take steps to continue this ministry, we know you have left big shoes to fill. Thank you and God bless you.

Let's all pray together for positive leadership to continue this good work!

## UNDERSTANDING

### A FREE GIFT FOR ALL VISITORS...

- A great resource
- A refreshing treatment of some very important issues.
- A great help in grasping God's Word
- An excellent intro to dispensationalism.

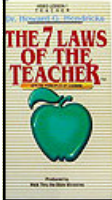


## YOUR BIBLE

Thank you for so generously giving to our "Book Project" in the Christmas Offering. We have purchased 900 copies of this excellent book to be given out to our visitors....

*(If you have newly attended Bethesda in the last six months we want you to have a complimentary copy.)*

**ALL Teachers Join Us for a Training Session**



**7 Laws of the Teacher**  
by Dr. Howard Hendricks

**Lunch/Video/Discussion**

- ◆ Full of vivid graphics and realistic classroom dramas.
- ◆ Helps teachers stay motivated in the face of great challenges.
- ◆ Unlocks the principles of teaching found in the Bible.
- ◆ Helps teachers prevent burnout and stay excited about their work.

For all small group leaders, adult bible study leaders, Sunday school teachers, AWANA leaders, youth leaders, VBS teachers and any potential teachers etc... We will be serving a complimentary *lunch - salad & sandwiches*. Please sign up by Feb 15.



**Bethesda Church**  
**Women's Winter Retreat**  
**March 10, 11, 12, 2006**

**Mount Olivet Retreat Center**  
**Farmington, Minnesota**



Our guest speaker, Cathy Hansen will share "Hidden Treasures." We look forward to Cathy sharing with us from God's Word. She and her husband, Pastor Frosty live in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Our stay includes: hotel style rooms and dorm rooms, indoor swimming pool, whirl pool & sauna, game room with pool & ping-pong tables, conference room with a beautiful view, cross-country trails (bring your own ski equipment), sliding hills (bring your own sleds).

*Meals Saturday:* breakfast, lunch, supper, snacks  
*Sunday:* breakfast, snacks lunch




*Cost:* Hotel Style Room: \$150.00  
Dorm Room: \$125.00

Call the church office, 952-226-6651 for a registration form.

*Registration begins February 12 and continues until March 5, 2006*

You can also check out their website at [www.mtolivet.org](http://www.mtolivet.org) to see the grounds and buildings we will be staying in.

**Bethesda Church - - February 2006**

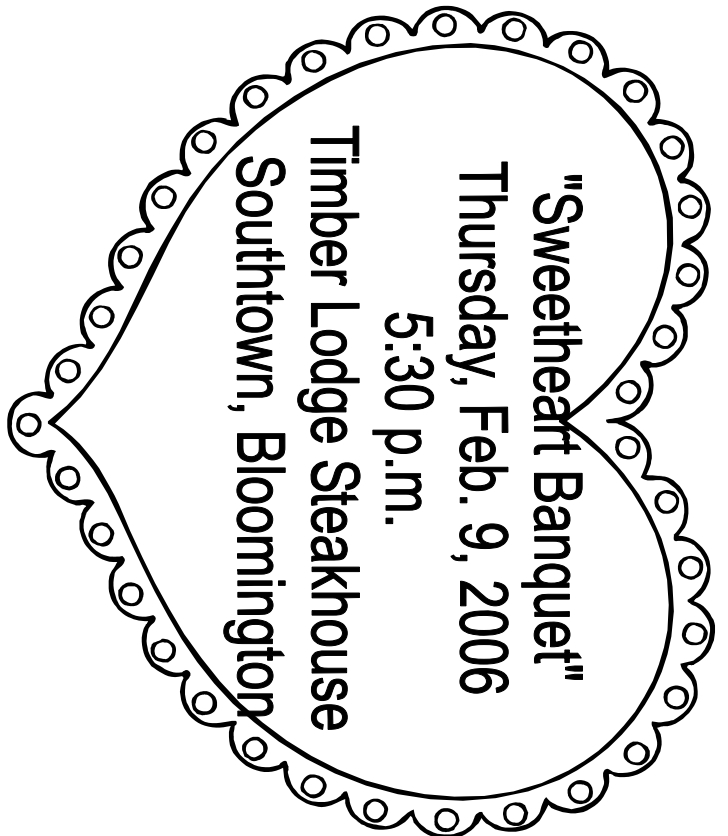
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Sunday Night Satellite Groups continue to meet throughout the month. For more information contact the church office.</i></p>			<p><b>1</b> 6:45 PM AWANA <b>6:45 PM JAM Jr. High</b> 7:00 PM Bible Study &amp; Prayer 8:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> 8:00 AM Prayer Gathering 9:00 AM Pastor's Welcome 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM Impact Outing</p>
<p><b>5</b> 9:30 AM SS &amp; Adult Classes 10:50 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM Business Meeting &amp; Covered Dish Lunch 5:00 PM Youth Super Bowl Party</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b> 7:00 PM Impact Sr. High Youth</p>	<p><b>8</b> 6:45 PM AWANA <b>6:45 PM JAM Jr. High</b> 7:00 PM Bible Study &amp; Prayer 8:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>9</b> 5:30 PM Sweetheart Banquet Timber Lodge Steakhouse</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b> 8:00 AM Prayer Gathering</p>
<p><b>12</b> 9:30 AM SS &amp; Adult Classes 10:25 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:50 AM Worship Service Pastor Dwight</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b> 7:00 PM Impact Sr. High Youth <i>Valentine's Day</i></p>	<p><b>15</b> 6:45 PM AWANA <b>6:45 PM JAM Jr. High</b> 7:00 PM Bible Study &amp; Prayer 8:30 PM NO Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b> 7:00 PM Jr. High Lions Den at Church </p>	<p><b>18</b> 8:00 AM Prayer Gathering</p>
<p><b>19</b> 9:30 AM SS &amp; Adult Classes 10:25 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:50 AM Worship Service</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b> 7:00 PM Impact Sr. High Youth</p>	<p><b>22</b> 6:45 PM AWANA <b>6:45 PM JAM Jr. High</b> 7:00 PM Bible Study &amp; Prayer 8:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>23</b> 6:30 PM Women's Crafts and Scrapbooking </p>	<p><b>24</b> 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM Sr. High Lion's Den at Church</p>	<p><b>25</b> 8:00 AM Prayer Gathering</p>
<p><b>26</b> 9:30 AM SS &amp; Adult Classes 10:25 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:50 AM Worship Service</p>	<p><b>27</b> 6:00 PM CE Committee Meeting</p>	<p><b>28</b> 7:00 PM Impact Sr. High Youth 7:00 PM Women's Reflections Small Group</p>	<p> <i>Valentine's Day</i> Tuesday, February 14</p>			

**Bethesda Church**  
15033 Hwy. 13 South  
Prior Lake, MN 55372

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

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Prior Lake, MN  
Permit No. 32

Remember our  
**Annual Business Meeting**  
**Sun., February 5, 2006**  
following the Morning Service.



*All Adults Welcome!*

Join us for our annual "Sweetheart Banquet" held in the banquet room at Timber Lodge in Bloomington. The food is delicious - dessert is included. We will also enjoy a special program.

Please call the Church office, 952-226-6651 to reserve your place by Tuesday, Feb. 7.

*We look forward to a great time of fellowship and sharing!*