



Good News from the Bethesda Church Family

The Encourager

“Therefore encourage one another, and build up one another...” I Thess. 5:11

Volume 17, Issue 4

April, 2006

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“The Beauty of the Cross of Christ”

by Pastor Mark Matychuk

We will soon be taking a further step of moving in to our new facility. So many things have been accomplished to make this place “home” as we come to worship and fellowship together in the name of Jesus Christ. One factor is striking to us all by its absence, and that is the placement of a cross in the front of our sanctuary. We all feel so deeply about this and have given a great amount of consideration to this essential aspect of finishing our new sanctuary. This year’s Easter offering is being dedicated in part to the placement to this precious symbol in a place of honor and focus in our place of worship. Isn’t it amazing and wonderful how deeply we all feel about this? For the world, the cross is a stumbling block or an offence. To the modern man the cross is a point of confusion, a dated symbol of irrelevant religiosity. To us the cross speaks to everything that is precious in our faith.

The humility of the cross pierces our hearts because we see how our Lord, “humbled

Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” He readily sacrificed everything for us. He became poor that we through His poverty might become rich. He emptied Himself with utter willingness; enduring profound shame and the mockery of the crowds, and received the suffering of death as they pierced His hands and feet. Yet, how amazingly the humility of the cross fills our hearts with the knowledge of God’s love for us!

The power of the cross captivates our hearts. Seeing Christ die is to the spiritually blind man a picture of failure and loss. However, “...the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but to us which are saved it is the power of God!” Through it we see God’s power applied to us in a saving way. We find in the cross God’s power to justify the guilty, God’s power to reconcile the estranged, and His power to redeem the enslaved. The cross is the point of triumph and victory and we join Paul is saying, “I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes!” We rejoice in

the power of the cross because upon it the precious blood of the lamb was spilt to satisfy God forever.

The glory of the cross is something we all embrace deeply. Every song we sing and every message we speak shares the focal point of glorifying our God who alone is worthy. Paul’s words resonate with us when he says, “God forbid that I should glory in anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Paul is clear that everything else is “but refuse in comparison to the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus our Lord.” The substitutionary death of Jesus Christ is the center of God’s work for us and we find unending reason to praise and honor our Savior in all He has accomplished.

As we joyfully enter into the Easter season, may the Lord fill our hearts with wonderful perceptions of His perfect work at Calvary. May the cross ever be before our eyes and hearts. May the Lord give us sweet joy in placing this precious symbol and reminder as a focal point in our sanctuary so that we might always glory in the beauty of the cross.

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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

REJOICE IN THE MIRACLE OF



EASTER!

Sunday, April 16

6:30 a.m.	Sunrise Service
8:30 a.m.	Easter Breakfast
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School & Adult Classes
10:30 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship
10:50 a.m.	Morning Worship

Getting to Know You...

By Shirley Calvin

A cornhusker and a gopher! What a combination. I’m talking about **John** and **Julie Francis**. John’s dad was career military so they moved a lot. When it came time for college John had a scholarship to the Air Force Academy, then flew for the Air Force for 7 years before coming to Minnesota. Julie was a U. of M. gymnast where, through

Campus Crusade, she felt the need to dedicate her life’s work to Christ. While raising support for that purpose she asked this cute, young fellow if he would support her. And he sure did!

John is a pilot for Northwest Airlines and Julie cares for their home, coaches at Minnesota Valley Gymnastics in Savage, and home schools **Forrest** -14, **Jamie** -13 and

Michael -11.

John and Julie bought an old farm near Jordan and have transformed it into everyone’s dream. There’s a pond for canoeing, skating and fishing; a huge vegetable and flower garden; room for hiking and cross-country skiing and critters and fun. Forrest, Jamie and

(Continued on page 2)

Bethesda Family & Friends Prayer Requests

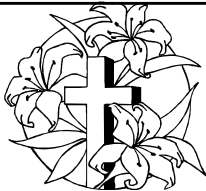
SALE OF CHURCH - Pray for the group prayerfully seeking the Lord's direction to purchase the building in Minneapolis for their ministry.

JIM GUEST - Continues to recover from his second hip surgery. Praise he was at church last week and is doing well.

HENRY OLSON - (wife, Gladys) He was recently hospitalized with pneumonia. He's home now but very weak. Pray for physical strength - difficult time walking.

GARY ENGVALL - (wife, Phyllis) Pray for healing as he begins chemotherapy for lung cancer and then surgery in June. Praise it was found at an early stage and is in only one lung.

ANGIE CARLSON-(Cousin-Matychuk's & Myhra's) from Sue & Trent..."Each day is full of successes in Speech Therapy. Angie said with a great deal of effort 'Mom, Dad' and 'I love you' - coached by her therapist. The words were breathy and weak, but *definitely* there. She is beginning to eat solid foods. Your prayers are being answered daily!" For updates go to <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/angiec>.



Christ is Risen!
Christ is Risen Indeed!

Getting to Know You ...Continued page 1.
Michael are All-Around in

gymnastics. They train 12 hours a week and compete 8 week-ends during the winter months. Then there are chores to be done. John's motto: Learn by doing! I'm sure you've seen them pitching in around church.

The Francis family caught Les Feldick's TV program, attended some of his seminars and, in seeking a church that taught the dispensational message, were drawn to Bethesda. They liked Pastor Art's Sunday School teaching and Pastor Mark's messages. They especially felt it was important their children understand the Bible and dispensationalism. Julie incorporates Les's TV program into their school curriculum, and Pastor Mark's Sunday message and Sunday School reinforce their learning.

And --- aren't we all blessed to have this fun family become an important part of

BECKY & ANDY WERTZ - (*Becky is the niece of Beth Osterlund & Anne Olson and she grew up at Bethesda.*) Their baby son (6 weeks old), Shaun, suddenly passed away on March 8. Pray for the family at this time of difficult loss. The funeral was on Mar. 13. Their address: Becky & Andy Wertz, 4412 Chowen Ave., Robbinsdale, MN 55422.

TIM & TRACY PETERSON - Their nephew, Chet Peterson, died of a heart attack Mar. 9 while playing in a hockey tournament in Las Vegas. He was only 31 years old. Pray for the family at this time of sudden loss. Tim and Tracy's: 14891 Pixie Point Circle, Prior Lake, MN 55372.

HANSEN FAMILY- Frosty's father, Traynor Hansen, Sr. passed away Mar. 15 after an illness. Pray for Frosty's mom who lives in the Seattle, Washington area. Also other family members (that we know) include Pastor Jim and Teresa Shemaria who were on staff at Bethesda Church in the mid-70's. (Frosty & Teresa are brother & sister.) Addresses: Pastor Frosty & Cathy Hansen, 1214 Fairfield Drive, Hudsonville, MI 49426 and Pastor Jim and Teresa Shemaria, 546 N. 79th, Seattle, WA 98103.

GERALD HARRIS - Passed away on March 21. He was a former member of Bethesda Church. Preceded in death by his dear wife, Arletta. Survived by daughters, Judith (Gary) Murphy and Barbara (Jerry) Pottorff; sons, Douglas (Luella) and Ronald (Kathy); 13 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. His funeral service was on Mar. 25 at the Holcomb-Henry-Boom Funeral Home, 515 W. Highway 96, Shoreview, MN 55126.



May God Bless You on Your Birthday

April Birthdays

- 4-01 Eleanor Larson
- 4-01 Mark Matychuk
- 4-01 Don Swanson
- 4-04 Larry Bakke
- 4-04 Ruth Lillimoe
- 4-04 Dean Davis
- 4-04 Haliey Dahmen
- 4-04 Tom Vellani
- 4-07 Garan Williams
- 4-10 Marcus Grund
- 4-13 Sandra Toeller
- 4-16 Marian Lambkin
- 4-18 Andy Hollenbeck
- 4-18 Adam Jones
- 4-21 Woody Flanders
- 4-21 Asia Franklin
- 4-22 Tammy Williams
- 4-28 Cassandra Berg
- 4-30 Andrew Brandt

Anniversaries

- 4-02 Bob & Lucille Dugan
- 4-09 Tony & Marion Berglund
- 4-12 Claudia & Peter Hennen
- 4-12 Gary & Bev O'Day
- 4-17 Ken & Mary Mueller
- 4-21 Ted & Judy Brown

Missionary Birthdays

- 4-09 Sandra Muthyala
- 4-10 Sharayah Spooner
- 4-17 David Sorteberg
- 4-22 Mary Sue Reed
- 4-24 Mary Sorteberg
- 4-25 Lynn Sorteberg
- 4-28 Mike Benton

Missionary Anniversary

- 4-23 Urian & Jule Rios



"Being a Contagious Christian"

Saturday, April 29, 9:15 a.m. --12:00 p.m.

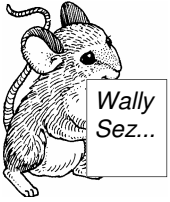
Ever wondered how to share your faith? Ever wanted to overcome your fear of sharing your faith? Then come and learn how to effectively share the gospel so you can infect all those around you with God's love and joy.

Whether you have been a Christian for 20 years or 2 weeks, let's all come together for this important time of refreshing and renewal in serving the Lord as His ambassadors.

Sign up and pick up a training packet with helpful guidelines to help you grow deeper in your walk with Christ and *equip you to be Contagious!*

To register call the church office, 952-226-6651
or email Pastor Dwight at pastordwight@bethesdachurch.com

Wally's Back on the Beat...



Hi - I'm back! Took a little trip but I'm happy to see **John and Sandra Toeller** kept Bethesda shiny as a new penny. Speaking of Toeller's - beautiful daughter **Angie**

will be graduating from MN State University, Mankato WITH HONORS, May 13. Nice goin' Angie! She's getting a B.A. in Elementary Education. Think I could "squeak" into her class?

Shanda Peens has visited Bethesda with her brother, **Eric Bottema**, who has been attending for several months. **Lois and Vern Hendrickson's** encouragement caused Shanda to attend the Women's Retreat in spite of recuperating from an illness. She was seeking more of God's Word and felt the fellowship with others gave her a beautiful foundation. Shanda said she often felt there were chosen ones who escaped the storms of life, but listening to Cathy Hansen's experiences and hearing how others coped helped her realize we all have trials.

Is there a doctor in the house? Indeed! **Wanda Teply** received her Master's Degree in Health Services Administration from St. Francis University, Joliet, Illinois in January. Part of her duties at U of M

Med Center - Fairview is to evaluate new procedures. She is responsible for bringing Robotic surgery, Bariatric surgery, the sleep lab and weight loss programs, to name a few. **Dave Teply** has his own home construction business and, bless him, has done extensive work to bring our old Bethesda Church up to code and make it appealing and inviting to prospective buyers. I've even checked my favorite entrance holes and found them so snugly fixed I've had to return to the new building.

On Sunday, March 26, we enjoyed a delicious *Mexican Enchilada Dinner* with Mexican rice, salad, chips and salsa! The young people going on the summer missions trip prepared and served the meal. Special thanks to the parents who cooked - **Lori Crumb and Joyce Gunn**. Continue to pray for the young people going on these trips as they prepare.

Betty and Jim Crownover are soaking up the rays and feeling great in Florida. Betty swims daily. The only dip I take is when I can lure the church cat into the pool!

See you next month! Wally

Brazil Bound

Ken and Mary Mueller ask for your prayers as they plan for and travel to Brazil on April 18 to end of May. This will be their sixth time since returning to carry on the Portuguese writing ministry in the United States. The main purpose of this trip is to Field Test Volume 1 which is now finished in the ACTS Commentary series. Much time will also be spent preparing studies and messages in Portuguese as opportunities are presented for teaching God's Word.

"Pray for wisdom in preparation, safe travel, sound health and that we might be a blessing as we know our believers will be a blessing to us." *Ken & Mary*







Summer Missions Trip 2006

Youth Team Members:
Joel Anderson, Keira Anderson, Leah Crumb, David Ebert, Hilary Gunn, Sari Gunn, Ailyse Matychuk, Brendan Matychuk, Rachel Matychuk, Justin Myhra, Kristin Myhra.

Adult Team Members:
Dwight & Darlene Anderson

April, 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Easter Sunday, April 16						
	6:30 a.m. <i>Outdoor Sunrise Service Lakefront Park, Prior Lake</i> 8:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast at Bethesda, Fellowship Hall 9:30 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Classes 10:50 a.m. Easter Morning Worship Service			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="margin: 0;">REMEMBER to set your Clocks</p>  <p style="margin: 0;">Set your clocks ahead on April 1.</p> </div>		<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SPRING AHEAD</p> <p>8:45 AM Prayer Gathering 10:00 AM Elder Board Meeting</p>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:30 AM SS & Adult Classes 10:25 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:50 AM Worship Service	6:00 PM CE Committee Meeting	7:00 PM Impact Sr. High Youth	6:45 PM AWANA 6:45 PM JAM Jr. High 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:30 PM Choir Rehearsal		9:30 AM Sat., April 8, Missions Trip Meeting	8:00 AM Prayer Gathering 9:00 AM Pastor's Welcome Class 7:00 PM College & Career Gym Night
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
PALM SUNDAY		5:15 PM Impact Outing	No Awana or JAM No Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal		GOOD FRIDAY	8:00 AM Prayer Gathering
9:30 AM SS & Adult Classes 10:25 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:50 AM Worship Service					7:00 PM Evening Service	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
EASTER SUNDAY		7:00 PM Impact Sr. High Youth 7:00 PM Trustee Board Meeting	6:45 PM AWANA 6:45 PM JAM Jr. High 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:30 PM Choir Rehearsal			8:00 AM Prayer Gathering
6:30 AM Sunrise Service 9:30 AM SS & Adult Classes 10:25 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:50 AM Worship Service						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:30 AM SS & Adult Classes 10:25 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:50 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM Teachers Training Session		7:00 PM Impact Sr. High Youth 7:00 PM Women's Reflections Small Group	NO Choir Rehearsal 6:45 PM AWANA 6:45 PM JAM Jr. High 7:00 PM Bible Study	6:30 PM Women's Crafts and Scrapbooking		8:00 AM Prayer Gathering 9:15 AM "Being a Contagious Christian"
30	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="margin: 0;">"The 7 Laws of the Teacher" Sunday, April 23, 12:30 p.m. Lunch - Video - Discussion</p> </div>					 <p style="text-align: center;"> Grace Bible College April 27, 28, 29 Contact Pastor Dwight for more information. </p>
9:30 AM SS & Adult Classes 10:25 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:50 AM Worship Service						

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15033 Hwy. 13 South
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Rejoice at
EASTER

Non-Profit Organization
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Celebrate the Miracle Of Easter
Renew Your Faith this Holiday Season

Palm Sunday

April 9, 10:50 a.m.

Good Friday

April 14, 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 16

- 6:30 a.m.** *Outdoor Sunrise Service at Lakefront Park*
5000 Kop Parkway SE, Prior Lake
Pastor Dwight Anderson
- 8:30 a.m.** *Easter Breakfast at Bethesda Church*
Prepared by the Berean Class
- 9:30 a.m.** Sunday School & Adult Classes
- 10:30 a.m.** Coffee Fellowship
- 10:50 a.m.** **Easter Morning Worship Service**
Pastor Mark Matychuk

"Understanding Your Bible"
Conference 
May 6, 2006

Bethesda Church, 15033 Hwy. 13 S., Prior
Lake, MN

Featuring: Les Feldick
"Through the Bible" program heard on radio
& TV.

Sat., May 6, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Refreshments will be provided for morning and afternoon
breaks. Free will offering will be taken. Bring your own
lunch or local restaurants are available. Les Feldick will
also be speaking on Sun., May 7 at 9:30 a.m. and at 10:50
a.m. during our Worship Service.